

## 301 Task A Develop a Health Management Plan for a Group of Animals

### Page 1 - Animal Information

Include:

- name
- date of birth
- species
- breed
- age
- sex
- identification details
- passport details for a horse

Here is an example of a table you could create for your front page:

NAME OF HORSE	
PASSPORT NUMBER	
NAME ON PASSPORT	
DATE OF BIRTH	
FREEZEMARK NUMBER	
TATTOO NUMBER	
MICROCHIP NUMBER	
BREED	
COLOUR	
MARKINGS	
HEIGHT	
FACIAL MARKINGS	
HAIR PATTERNS	
SCARS OR OLD INJURIES	

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### Page 2. Health Status

Explain:

- what healthy animals should look like
- normal temperature, pulse and respiration
- signs of good health
- signs of poor health or illness to monitor

Add a table which shows you are monitoring their health over a period of time. Here is an example:

HEALTH CHECK	NORMAL RANGE	DATE: _____
TEMPERATURE	37.5°C – 38.5°C)	
HEART RATE	28 – 44 beats per minute at rest	
RESPIRATORY RATE	8 – 14 breaths per minute at rest	
HOOF TEMPERATURE	88 - 90 degrees	
HOOF & SHOE CHECK	Hoof free from sores, abscesses, splits. Shoes secure, nails in place.	
APPETITE	Regular grazing on grass / hay Shows interest in concentrated feed	
DROPPINGS	Moist with clearly formed balls that break apart slightly when hitting the ground. Green/brown in colour depending on grass/ hay diet	
WATER INTAKE	20-40 litres per day	
URINATION	Every 4-5 hours Cloudy, foamy, yellow in colour	
GENERAL Demeanour	From alert to relaxed No signs of colic i.e. rolling, unable to get up	
EYES	Clear, no mucous or signs of redness or irritation	
SKIN	No cuts, bumps, lumps, abrasions to the skin. No fur missing or bites present.	

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### Page 3. Feeding Plan

Include:

- diet
- feeding times
- quantities
- supplements
- access to water

Explain why the diet is suitable.

Here is an example of a feeding plan:

FEED	DETAILS	DATE: _____
<b>GRAZING IN Paddock</b>	<p>WINTER: 7:00am - 5:00pm 10 hours per day</p> <p>SUMMER: 3:00pm - 9:00am 18 hours per day</p>	
<b>HAY</b>	<p>Horses and ponies should not receive less than 1.5% of their body weight on a dry matter basis as forage, this can come from grass, hay or short chop fibre.</p> <p><i>For a 500kg horse - <math>(1.5 \times 500\text{kg})/100 = 7.5\text{kg}</math> of forage to be fed on a daily basis</i></p> <p><i>For a 250kg pony - <math>(1.5 \times 250\text{kg})/100 = 3.75\text{kg}</math> of forage to be fed on a daily basis</i></p>	
<b>CONCENTRATED FEED</b>	<p>Concentrates should be fed at as low a level as possible with forage making up the major portion of the diet. Concentrates should be fed at less than 50% of the diet with a 20 – 30 % concentrate level more desirable. This would mean that a 1000 lb mature horse being fed at 2% of its body weight or 20 lbs of feed per day, would receive approximately 14-16 lbs of hay and 4 – 6 lbs of concentrate.</p>	<p>FEED 1:</p> <p>BRAND:</p> <p>AMOUNT:</p> <p>FEED 2:</p> <p>BRAND:</p> <p>AMOUNT:</p> <p>FEED 3:</p> <p>BRAND:</p> <p>AMOUNT:</p>
<b>SUPPLEMENTS</b>	<p>Vitamin E: supports a healthy immune system. It may also increase circulation, decrease inflammation and renew keratin.</p> <p>Biotin: important for hoof health. It can also help improve the quality of your horse or pony's coat.</p> <p>Omega-3 fatty acids: joint health &amp; can also help reduce inflammation.</p> <p>Magnesium: vital for muscle function and can also help prevent cramping.</p> <p>Probiotics: can help improve digestion and gut health. They may also help reduce stress levels, acting as calming supplements.</p> <p>Vitamin C: necessary for immunity and can also help reduce inflammation.</p> <p>Electrolytes: must have electrolyte supplements when sweating profusely.</p> <p>Iodine: contributes to hoof quality and a healthy coat.</p> <p>Vitamin A: stabled horses may need a Vitamin A supplement to maintain a good immune system and healthy skin.</p> <p>Zinc: immune function, coat health, and hoof strength.</p>	<p>SUPPLEMENT 1:</p> <p>BRAND:</p> <p>AMOUNT:</p> <p>SUPPLEMENT 2:</p> <p>BRAND:</p> <p>AMOUNT:</p> <p>SUPPLEMENT 3:</p> <p>BRAND:</p> <p>AMOUNT:</p>

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### Page 4. Routine Healthcare

Include:

- vaccinations
- worming
- parasite control
- grooming
- hoof/claw care
- dental care

Here is an example of a record for healthcare:

#### VETERINARY

**NAME OF VET:**

**ADDRESS:**

**CONTACT NUMBER:**

	VACCINATIONS	Date of Vaccination	Date of Next vaccination
<b>TETANUS</b>	All horses are at risk of development of tetanus, an often-fatal disease caused by a potent neurotoxin elaborated by the anaerobic, spore-forming bacterium <i>Clostridium tetani</i> . Tetanus toxoid is a core equine vaccine and should be included in equine immunisation programs for every horse annually to 2 years.		
<b>EQUINE INFLUENZA</b>	Equine influenza is caused by an Orthomyxo virus (H3N8). The virus is very intelligent, changing its immunogenic appearance (antigenic drift), which means that it can be hard for the immune system to consistently recognise the virus. Proper vaccination is essential in preventing equine influenza infection in your horse.		

#### FAECAL EGG WORM COUNT (FWEC)

Faecal worm egg counts detect eggs of strongyle type worms such as large redworms, small redworms and roundworms, but not tapeworms.

Regular faecal worm egg counts throughout the grazing season will help to assess whether your horse needs to be wormed. By only worming your horse when you need to will help to reduce resistance to the drugs used in wormers and is better for your horse. We need to do all we can to reduce resistance to wormers as, if we do not take these steps, wormers will cease to work effectively in the future. It is generally recommended that you worm your horse if the result is 200 eggs per gram or above. Your vet will be able to give you advice on a suitable wormer. If the result is under 200 eggs per gram, you will probably not need to worm your horse.

- <200 EPG – negative or very low worm burden – no need to worm
- 200-1200 EPG – moderate worm burden – suggest horses in this category are wormed
- >1200 EPG – high worm burden – this level of worm burden will require a vet to discuss your worming programme and make changes/treat accordingly.

DATE OF FWEC	RESULT	NAME OF WORMER GIVEN IF NECESSARY



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### Page 5. Non-Routine Healthcare

Explain what would happen if:

- an animal became ill
- an animal became injured
- abnormal behaviour was noticed

Include:

- isolation procedures
- veterinary involvement
- monitoring and recording

**Here are some ideas you can use:**

#### **If an animal became ill**

- Observe the animal carefully and identify signs of illness such as loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhoea, coughing, discharge, lethargy, weight loss or changes in behaviour.
- Report concerns immediately to a supervisor or responsible person.
- Isolate the animal if the illness could spread to other animals. This helps prevent cross infection.
- Use separate feeding bowls, equipment and PPE when caring for the isolated animal.
- Contact a veterinarian for advice, diagnosis and treatment if required.
- Follow the veterinary treatment plan carefully, including medication dosage and timings.
- Monitor the animal regularly for changes in condition, eating, drinking, temperature and behaviour.
- Record all observations, treatments, medication given and veterinary instructions accurately.
- Maintain high standards of hygiene and disinfect equipment and accommodation.

#### **If an animal became injured**

- Stay calm and approach the animal carefully to avoid causing further stress or injury.
- Assess the severity of the injury and provide basic first aid if trained to do so.
- Prevent the animal from moving too much if movement could worsen the injury.
- Isolate the animal from others if necessary for safety and recovery.
- Contact a veterinarian immediately for serious injuries such as fractures, heavy bleeding, breathing difficulties or deep wounds.
- Monitor the animal for signs of pain, shock or deterioration.
- Keep the animal warm, comfortable and quiet while waiting for treatment.
- Record details of the injury, time it happened, treatment given and veterinary advice.
- Review how the injury occurred to help prevent future accidents.

#### **If abnormal behaviour was noticed**

- Observe and identify unusual behaviours such as aggression, pacing, hiding, excessive vocalisation, self harm, reduced interaction or repetitive movements.
- Report concerns to a supervisor or senior staff member.
- Check for possible causes including illness, pain, stress, fear, poor environment or changes in routine.
- Isolate the animal if the behaviour poses a risk to itself, other animals or staff.
- Monitor behaviour patterns closely and note frequency, triggers and severity.
- Seek veterinary advice if the behaviour could be linked to pain, illness or neurological problems.
- Record all behavioural observations accurately to support ongoing care and assessment.
- Adjust husbandry or enrichment if needed to improve welfare and reduce stress.

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### Page 6. Weight and Condition Monitoring

Include:

- weight checks
- body condition scoring
- how often monitoring takes place

Here is an example of a weight record:

### WEIGHT

*The Henneke BCS identifies six key anatomical points of a horse to be evaluated when assigning a body condition score. These points are the neck, withers, shoulder, ribs, loin, and tailhead. Applying this system includes a visual appraisal as well as physically feeling the individual points to assess the amount of fat cover present. The Henneke system uses a scale of 1-9 to describe each point. An extremely thin point (no fat cover) is assigned a score of 1, while an extremely fat point (lots of fat cover) is assigned a score of 9. The scores are averaged to systematically assign a horse a Body Condition Score (BCS). A score of 4.5 is desirable for most horses taking breed into account.*

Condition	Neck	Withers	Loin	Tailhead	Ribs	Shoulder
1 Poor	Bone structure easily noticeable, animal extremely emaciated, no fatty tissue can be felt	Bone structure easily noticeable	Spinous processes project prominently	Tailhead, (pinbone) and hook bones project prominently	No fat cover over ribs.	Bone structure easily noticeable
2 Very Thin	Fairly discernable, animal emaciated	Faintly discernable	Slight fat covering over base of spinous process. Transvers processes of lumbar vertebrae feel rounded. Spinous processes are prominent	Tailhead prominent	Slight fat cover over ribs. Ribs easily discernable.	Shoulder accentuated
3 Thin	Neck accentuated	Wither accentuated	Fat buildup halfway on spinous processes but easily discernable. Transverse processes cannot be felt	Tailhead prominent but individual vertebrae cannot be visually identified. Hook bones appear rounded but are still easily discernable. Pin bones not distinguishable	Slight fat cover over ribs. Ribs easily discernable.	Shoulder accentuated
4 Moderately Thin	Neck not obviously thin	Withers not obviously thin	Negative crease along back	Prominence depends on conformation; fat can be felt. Hook bones not discernable	Faint outline discernable	Shoulder not obviously thin
5 Moderate	Neck blends smoothly into body	Wither rounded over spinous processes	Back level	Fat around tailhead beginning to feel spongy	Ribs cannot be visually distinguished but can be easily felt	Shoulder blends smoothly into body
6 Moderately Fleshy	Fat beginning to be deposited	Fat beginning to be deposited	May have slight positive crease down back	Fat around tailhead feels soft	Fat over ribs feels spongy	Fat beginning to be deposited
7 Fleshy	Fat deposited along neck	Fat deposited along withers	May have positive crease down back	Fat around tailhead is soft	Individual ribs can be felt, but noticeable filling between ribs with fat	Fat deposited behind shoulder
8 Fat	Noticeable thickening of neck	Area along withers filled with fat	Positive crease down back	Tailhead fat very soft. Fat deposited along inner buttocks	Difficult to feel ribs	Area behind shoulder filled flush with body
9 Extremely Fat	Bulging fat	Bulging Fat	Obvious positive crease down back	Building fat around tailhead. Fat along inner buttocks may rub together. Flank filled in flush	Patchy fat appearing over ribs	Bulging fat

DATE	WEIGHT	BODY SCORE	RECOMMENDATIONS

## 301 Task A Develop a Health Management Plan for a Group of Animals

You must ensure you do the following over a 12 month period:

### Record Keeping

You must include examples of:

- health records
- feeding records
- treatment records
- monitoring sheets

### Reviews and Monitoring

You must review your plan regularly and explain:

- what worked well
- any problems identified
- changes made to improve animal welfare

## How to achieve higher grades

### Pass

- Complete a suitable health management plan
- Include appropriate records
- Monitor and report on health and wellbeing

### Merit

- Explain WHY your management plan is effective
- Include detailed and accurate records

### Distinction

- Evaluate the effectiveness of the plan
- Explain the impact the plan had on animal health and welfare
- Review monitoring results and suggest improvements