



Introductory Horse Management Competency Standards

Horse Care IHM Assessment Slip 2 – Competency Rubric with Descriptions

Part A – Horsemanship

Task	Competent (C)	Not Yet Competent (NYC)
Approach a horse in paddock	Demonstrates calm approach with halter ready, enters safely, checks for hazards, horse is aware, greets and approaches on left side	Halter is tangled/unprepared, fails to check hazards, horse is startled, approaches incorrectly
Catch the horse with halter	Rope around neck, halter placed and secured correctly, checks fit	Misses key steps, poor placement, halter insecure
Lead horse to yard/stable	Leads calmly on left side, proper gate handling, safe entry and exit, halter removed properly	Leads from wrong side, gate navigation unsafe, halter removed unsafely
Tie up horse safely	Ties to twine, face horse to post, uses quick-release knot, correct slack	Not tied to twine, incorrect knot, too much/little slack
Identify horse's colour, sex, markings	Correctly states brown, gelding, markings and brands	Incorrect identification
Measure temperature, pulse, breathing	Accurately records 38.2°C, 32 bpm, 7 breaths/min and states all are normal	Inaccurate readings or incorrect interpretation



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Part B – Saddlery

Task	Competent (C)	Not Yet Competent (NYC)
Disassemble, clean, and reassemble bridle	Identifies all parts, cleans noseband, reassembles correctly	Parts missed, incorrect assembly
Identify parts of a saddle	Correctly identifies cantle, skirt, gullet, pommel, seat	Misidentifies parts
Secure horse for saddling	Correct quick release knot	Unsafe tie or insecure
Groom horse pre-ride	Brushes saddle area, mane, picks feet, uses sponges correctly	Misses areas, unsafe grooming
Fit saddle and saddle cloth	Saddle and cloth placed correctly, clean, fits well	Poor placement or dirty/unfit gear
Fit bridle and check bit size	Bridle fitted properly, bit size correct	Bit ill-fitting, incorrect fitting
Fit cavesson and drop nosebands	Fits as described, allows comfort and control	Incorrect placement or tension
Fit running martingale	Adjusted properly, reins slide freely, stoppers used	Too tight/loose, missing safety elements
Fit brushing and bell boots	Placed, fitted and fastened correctly	Incorrect position or fastening
Adjust for safe leading	Stirrups secured, reins positioned safely	Loose stirrups, unsafe rein use
Lead horse with saddle/bridle	Leads on left, clears gate, holds reins safely	Unsafe rein handling, knocks gear
Secure for unsaddling	Halter on, tied with quick release knot	Unsafe tie or misses step



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Unsaddle and store gear	Saddle/cloth removed, cleaned and stored properly	Gear left insecure or incorrectly
Post-ride grooming	Wash or brush depending on weather, dries and comforts horse	Misses sweat areas, poor technique
Rug horse correctly	Rug fits, straps done correctly, safety considered	Rug misaligned, unsafe strap work

Part C – Paddock Safety

Task	Competent (C)	Not Yet Competent (NYC)
Identify and maintain bedding	EG: Identifies shavings, explains daily mucking and replacement	Incorrect bedding or poor maintenance description
Describe fencing	EG: States electric wire on capped pickets, outlines pros/cons	Missing info or safety risks unacknowledged
Design of feed/water points	Describes safe water/feed setup, spacing, drainage	Dangerous setup or unclear description
Identify paddock hazards	EG: States wombat hole and tree branches, actions taken	Misses key hazards or lacks mitigation
Identify gates/doors types	Identifies correct gates and sizes for each area	Incorrect or missing info
Fire safety features	Describes safe fuel/hay storage, pickup of debris	Misses major fire hazards
Horse vs pedestrian/traffic safety	Fenced separation, gates in place, signage	No clear separation or unsafe layout
Yard equipment storage	Describes safe, accessible storage	Unsafe access or poor storage