



## Introductory Horse Management Competency Standards

### Horse Care IHM Assessment Slip 3 – Competency Rubric with Descriptions

#### Part A – Health and Fitness

Criteria	Competent	Not Yet Competent
<b>Identification of Skin Conditions</b> (ringworm, greasy heel, lice, rain scald, sunburn)	Accurately identifies symptoms for each condition with specific details (location, appearance, signs of irritation or discomfort).	Fails to identify correct symptoms or lacks detail. Omits conditions or provides vague/general information.
<b>Assessment of Horse's Stride for Unsoundness</b>	Provides a clear, step-by-step explanation of how to assess soundness at walk and trot. Mentions stride, head/tail movement, attitude, and specific indicators of lameness.	Assessment method is incomplete, vague, or incorrect. Key indicators are missing.
<b>Inspection of Legs for Heat or Swelling</b>	Demonstrates proper technique for checking all parts of the leg and hoof. Accurately explains how to detect abnormal heat, swelling, tenderness, and digital pulse.	Method is incorrect or incomplete. Lacks awareness of signs of inflammation or improper technique described.

#### Part B – Feeding

Criteria	Competent	Not Yet Competent
<b>Identification of Feeds (with photos)</b>	Correctly identifies and describes grass, grass hay, lucerne hay, lucerne chaff, oats, barley, bran, pellets/mixes. <b>Includes clear photos</b> of each item, or can identify it when shown.	Incorrect or missing identifications. <b>Photos are missing or unclear.</b> Descriptions are vague or inaccurate.
<b>Storage and Inspection for Mould</b>	Describes correct storage practices and signs of mould/spoilage (smell, dampness, visible mould, condition of storage).	Fails to identify proper storage or signs of mould. Lacks important safety details.
<b>Hay Quality and Faults</b>	Accurately describes how to evaluate hay (colour, smell, texture, presence of dust/mould/weeds).	Description is vague or inaccurate. Key points like mould, weeds, or odour are missing.



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<b>Weed Identification in Paddock</b>	Identifies at least two local weeds by name and describes their appearance clearly. Explains how to identify weeds in the paddock.	Fails to correctly name weeds or provide clear descriptions. Weed inspection method unclear or missing.
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### Part C – Hoof Care, Grooming and Travelling

Criteria	Competent	Not Yet Competent
<b>Hoof Care</b>	Demonstrates correct and safe technique for picking up hooves. Describes hoof pick use and hoof dressing clearly. Correctly identifies all hoof parts using a labelled diagram, labelled photo or physical identification.	Unsafe or incorrect technique. Missing or incorrect identification of hoof parts.
<b>Grooming</b>	Clearly explains and demonstrates full grooming process including body washing, face, sheath cleaning, and correct use of combs and scissors.	Fail to secure the horse safely or prepare appropriate equipment. They may wash the horse incorrectly—such as using cold water abruptly, scrubbing roughly, missing key areas, or failing to rinse shampoo thoroughly—causing discomfort or skin irritation.
<b>Use of Sponges/Cloths for Eyes, Nose, Dock</b>	Demonstrates correct order and hygiene practices, including sponge disposal and sanitation.	Order or hygiene is incorrect. Risk of contamination not addressed.
<b>Travelling Preparation (Float Boots &amp; Tail Bandage)</b>	Accurately describes correct placement, safety, and secure fastening. Notes time limit for tail bandage use.	Incorrect fitting technique (tightness and position) or unsafe method. Omits important safety notes.