

Horse Care IHM Assessment Slip 3 – Competency Rubric with Descriptions

Part A – Health and Fitness

Criteria	Competent	Developing	Limited	Not Yet Competent
Identification of Skin Conditions (ringworm, greasy heel, lice, rain scald, sunburn)	Accurately identifies symptoms for each condition with specific details (location, appearance, signs of irritation or discomfort).	Identifies some symptoms but lacks detail or misses one condition.	Provides vague or partially incorrect information; lacks specifics.	Fails to identify correct symptoms or lacks detail. Omits conditions or provides vague/general information.
Assessment of Horse's Stride for Unsoundness	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.	Mentions some indicators but explanation lacks clarity or completeness.	Only gives minimal or incomplete reference to soundness indicators.	Assessment method is incomplete, vague, or incorrect. Key indicators are missing.
Inspection of Legs for Heat or Swelling	Demonstrates proper technique for checking all parts of the leg and hoof. Accurately explains how to detect abnormal heat, swelling, tenderness, and digital pulse.	Explains some checks but misses details or key areas.	Technique is vague and lacks sufficient explanation.	Method is incorrect or incomplete. Lacks awareness of signs of inflammation or improper technique described.

Part B – Feeding

Criteria	Competent	Developing	Limited	Not Yet Competent
Identification of Feeds (with photos)	Correctly identifies and describes grass, grass hay, lucerne hay, lucerne chaff, oats, barley, bran, pellets/mixes. Includes clear photos of each item, or can identify it when shown.	Identifies most feeds but misses some details or confuses a type.	Only partially recognises feeds or gives vague descriptions.	Incorrect or missing identifications. Photos are missing or unclear. Descriptions are vague or inaccurate.
Storage and Inspection for Mould	Describes correct storage practices and signs of mould/spoilage (smell, dampness, visible mould, condition of storage).	Mentions some storage or mould signs but not fully correct.	Description vague or incomplete, only minimal detail.	Fails to identify proper storage or signs of mould. Lacks important safety details.
Hay Quality and Faults	Accurately describes how to evaluate hay (colour, smell, texture, presence of dust/mould/weeds).	Identifies some hay qualities but not full detail.	Provides vague or partial description missing key elements.	Description is vague or inaccurate. Key points like mould, weeds, or odour are missing.
Weed Identification in Paddock	Identifies at least two local weeds by name and describes their appearance clearly. Explains how to identify weeds in the paddock.	Identifies one weed with some description.	Provides vague or incomplete weed recognition.	Fails to correctly name weeds or provide clear descriptions. Weed inspection method unclear or missing.

Part C – Hoof Care, Grooming and Travelling

Criteria	Competent	Developing	Limited	Not Yet Competent
Hoof Care	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.	Explains technique but with small errors or misses some hoof parts.	Technique vague and missing key steps.	Unsafe or incorrect technique. Missing or incorrect identification of hoof parts.
Grooming	Clearly explains and demonstrates full grooming process including body washing, face, sheath cleaning, and correct use of combs and scissors.	Explains grooming but misses some key areas or techniques.	Provides incomplete or vague grooming process.	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.
Use of Sponges/Cloths for Eyes, Nose, Dock	Demonstrates correct order and hygiene practices, including sponge disposal and sanitation.	Mentions hygiene practices but order or clarity missing.	Provides vague description of sponge use.	Order or hygiene is incorrect. Risk of contamination not addressed.
Travelling Preparation (Float Boots & Tail Bandage)	Accurately describes correct placement, safety, and secure fastening. Notes time limit for tail bandage use.	Explains preparation but with missing detail on safety or time.	Provides vague or incomplete travel preparation.	Incorrect fitting technique (tightness and position) or unsafe method. Omits important safety notes.