



# ESNZ Introductory Equine Management

## Program Outline

### MODULE 1 - Physical and Behavioural Characteristics

- The points of the horse
- Identifying traits
- Horse behaviour and safety
- Safe methods for handling horses

### MODULE 2 - Horse Facilities

- Minimum paddock requirements for grazing horses
- Fencing suitable for horses
- Yards and stables suitable for horses
- Risk management and safety issues in and around the stables
- Stable bedding and maintenance

### MODULE 3 - Feeding

- Attributes of pasture and basic management
- Poisonous weeds and symptoms of poisoning
- Common horse feeds and basic nutritional properties
- Water requirements of horses
- Minimum standards of nutrition and body condition scoring
- General rules of feeding
- Correct storage of feed
- Poor quality or spoiled feed

### MODULE 4 - Horse Health and Care

- Signs of good health
- Bacterial infections strangles and tetanus
- Internal parasites and worming routine
- Skin conditions
- Lameness and swelling in the legs and joints
- Symptoms of laminitis/founder
- Symptoms of colic
- Symptoms of tying up/azoturia
- Hoof care
- Care of the horse's teeth
- When to call the vet

### MODULE 5 - Grooming, Saddlery & Transport

- Grooming
- Snaffle bridles
- Saddles
- Fitting common tack
- Fitting a saddlecloth
- Types of boots
- Types of covers, fittings and materials
- Cleaning and storage of tack and other equipment
- Preparation for transport by road

### MODULE 6 - Working with Horses, Lungeing & Legislation

- Working with Horses
- Lungeing
- Legislation – the Animal Welfare Act

**Care of the horse's teeth**

**Extract: CoRMS**

**Care of teeth**

Horses with worn or abnormal teeth are unable to chew their food properly, resulting in poor digestion. Common signs of this are:

- half-chewed food dropping out of the mouth
- poor condition and lack of energy
- whole grains, such as oats, in the droppings
- avoidance behaviour, associated with the bit, and failing to respond to pressure on the reins.

In the mature horse, sharp and uneven edges may develop on the outer edges of the upper teeth and on the inner edges of the lower molars. These should be evenly filed by a veterinary surgeon.

In younger horses, the primary or milk teeth are sometimes not shed and this interferes with the digestive process. A competent horse dentist or veterinary surgeon can easily remove these crowns.

The horse's teeth should be examined at least annually for conditions that may cause unnecessary pain or interference with normal feeding and digestion. The period should be reduced to 6 months when concentrates or grains are being fed regularly as a large portion of the ration.

**Right above and below:** Dental care is important as a horse's teeth grow throughout its entire life.

**Usually teeth wear against each other and are ground down.** However where teeth do not meet well, the growth causes various problems in the soft tissues of the mouth and tongue and also can cause problems with the other teeth on the bones of the skull.

**The skull at the top illustrates a healthy set of even teeth.** The skull at the bottom shows the sort of malformation that can occur. The top teeth have grown very long and at the same time, they have become angled and are grinding the lower teeth unevenly. This could have been rectified by a dentist or vet.

**Activity**

Describe two signs that a horse's teeth are causing it discomfort, requiring further investigation:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Poisonous weeds and symptoms of poisoning**

**Common weeds in your area and the symptoms of poisoning**

Speak with local land-owners, local farm consultants, or your local council to find out the names and identifying features of the most common poisonous weeds in your area and the best means of removal. Be familiar with the symptoms of poisoning from local poisonous plants so quick action can be taken if poisoning occurs.

**Left:** Seek advice from farm consultants about the best pastures for horses suited to the area. Take special care that some grasses are grown selectively for cattle production that are not well suited for horses. Rye grass hosts a toxic fungus or "microbe" that causes staggers. The toxins affect the central nervous system leading to trembling and uncoordinated, and even death. Whilst there are some feed additives that can "top up" the toxins from the systems of horses with light exposure to rye grass endophytes, the best solution is to remove the horse from the pasture and rescue with more horse-friendly species.

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