

Module code: MOD010965	Version: 2 Date Amended: 18/Aug/2026
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1. Module Title
Equine Therapy Assessment: Principles and Practice

2a. Module Leader
Rosemary Lawrence

2b. School
Writtle School of Agriculture, Animal and Environmental Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Science and Engineering

3a. Level
4

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
30

4b. Study Hours
300

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	BSc Equine Therapy, rehabilitation and performance, BSc Animal Therapy, rehabilitation and performance, BSc Canine Therapy rehabilitation and performance. MVetphys Veterinary Physiotherapy, Canine and Equine.		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description
In this module, you'll learn the essential skills for safely handling equines during various assessments and explore how to adapt this based on their environment. An emphasis will be placed on you implementing health and safety protocols within our equine practical environments. You'll learn the clinical assessment process, which involves collecting comprehensive case information and conducting both static and dynamic evaluations of horses. These foundational skills will be progressively developed throughout the course. You'll gain an understanding of different horse breeds and types, focusing on how conformation and movement impact performance and health, as well as the associated risks of poor conformation. Through practical sessions and group activities you'll foster teamwork and gain respect for differing opinions and be encouraged to take the initiative. You'll be expected to adapt to changing scenarios and negotiate solutions while working on developing interdisciplinary skills, which are crucial skills in equine therapeutic practice. Reflective learning will play a key role, prompting you to assess your own proficiency and competency, thus enhancing self-confidence, promoting independence, and improving your ability to work effectively with clients. Additionally, the module will provide an overview of the equine therapy industry, emphasising the importance of operating within one's professional scope, collaborating with equine paraprofessionals and seeking membership in relevant professional associations.

6b. Outline Content

PRACTICAL EQUINE HANDLING SKILLS

- Develop safe handling of horses in various clinical settings, developing personal postural awareness.
- Develop a thorough understanding of health and safety protocols in equine environments, implementing measures to minimise risk.

EQUINE THERAPEUTIC ASSESSMENT SKILLS

- Collect and document detailed case history information before assessing the horse
- Conduct static assessments of horses, including evaluations of conformation and posture
- Understand and analyse correct gait patterns specific to horses
- Perform dynamic assessments of horses, including basic lameness evaluations
- Comprehend the risks associated with poor equine conformation
- Identify conformation differences among horse breeds and understand their implications for assessment
- Begin learning palpation techniques tailored to horses, focusing on developing an understanding of muscle tone and texture in a larger species.
- Improve skills in identifying surface anatomy and major equine muscle groups

Initiate gait assessment practice under the guidance of a tutor to begin developing personal autonomy in observational skills. Develop personal awareness and ability to evaluate complex tasks to formulate solutions within animal therapy.

ROLE WITHIN THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM

- Understand and respect the boundaries of one's scope of practice with the equine sector
- Collaborate effectively with paraprofessionals, such as veterinarians and farriers
- Gain knowledge of key professional associations relevant to the equine therapy industry
- Understand the legal framework that governs equine therapeutic practice

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

Access to yard facilities and horses

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Use safe and effective handling skills
2	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Demonstrate observational clinical assessment skill
3	Knowledge and Understanding	Describe the role of the Animal Therapist within the animal industry

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	24	1-3	Theory-based lectures and video content
Other teacher managed learning	48	1-3	Clinical hours - Practical sessions involving the development of equine handling skills, observational assessment skills and anatomical palpation.
Student managed learning	228	1-3	Set reading, background reading, practising skills, visits in own time, study for seminar preparation and assignments. Students will be expected to carry out additional reading, some of which will be set. They will also be expected to practice and upgrade their skills.
TOTAL:	300		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Practical	1-3	40 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Compilation of in class assessments (Word Equiv. 1500 words)

Assessment components for Element 010

Component No.	Assessment Title	Submission Method	Weighting (%)	Components needed for Mark Calculation?
010/1	Dynamic Assessment and Handling Video Quiz	Scheduled Activity: Timetabled assessment task	50 (%)	All
010/2	Observed Structured Practical Exam (OSPE)	Scheduled Activity: Timetabled assessment task	50 (%)	

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Coursework	2-3	60 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

15-min Vodcast / Podcast upload (word equiv. 2000 words)

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:

- (a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
- (b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]