

Job Profiles

Horse Care Worker

The Work

People who work with horses are often known as grooms, sometimes stable lads/girls, stable hands and may then progress onto riding instructors, head girls/lads, sole charge grooms and yard owners. There are many different jobs within this diverse industry.

As somebody who works with horses you would be expected to;

- Provide food and water for horses
- Replace bedding
- Cleaning and maintenance of equipment such as saddles and bridles (tack)
- Clean, brush, trim and sometimes clip horses coats
- Muck out stables
- Check for changes in horses condition and report problems
- Treat minor wounds, change dressings and give medication
- Follow instructions from vet when treatment is needed
- You may have to liaise with the general public, farrier, feed merchants & clients

If you work with competition horses you may need to prepare them for events and possibly accompany them. In studs and breeding yards you would work with stallions, mares and foals and help vets/stud managers to deliver foals. In riding schools you may greet clients, lead riders out on foot and accompany them on horseback.

Hours and Environment

You would usually work 40 hours a week, including early mornings, late nights and weekends. You may be asked to do overtime and there may be part-time or casual work. As horses need to be looked after seven days a week around the clock, long days can often be expected. You would also need to be prepared to work in cold, wet and muddy conditions and would need to wear protective clothing and footwear.

Working with horses is rewarding but it involves physical hard work so a passion for horses is a must!

You may be provided with accommodation – this could be quite basic and you may have to share.

Some employers **may** provide food, accommodation, free stabling for your own horse and riding lessons as part of their package to employees.

Skills and Interests

- Good observational skills
- Patience and willingness to do routine tasks
- Awareness of Health & Safety
- The ability to work alone or as part of a team
- Good communication skills
- For some jobs being able to ride competently
- Experience of looking after horses (you may not need this for all jobs)
- Stamina and physical fitness
- A passion for horses
- The ability to cope with upsetting situations such as working with horses who have been ill treated or injured

Getting into the Industry

Generally to be employed you must be at least 16 and some jobs may have weight restrictions. Although you do not always need formal qualifications to work with horses please see below for qualifications that are available and may be requested by employers:

Horse Care qualifications, further information & useful contacts

Please note KEITS does not take responsibility for the content of external sites.

- 1) Apprenticeship & Advanced Apprenticeship in Horse Care www.keits.co.uk
- 2) B-Tec First Diploma and Diploma in Horse Care please look on www.lantra.co.uk for further information
- 3) B-Tec National Diploma in Horse Care as above
- 4) British Horse Society Exam www.bhs.org.uk
- 5) Association of British Riding Shools (ABRS) www.abrs-info.org

Further information and contact details

- 1) Lantra, Lantra House, Stoneleigh Park, Nr Coventry, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG
[Tel:0845 707 8007](tel:08457078007), www.lantra.co.uk
- 2) KEITS, Unit C, Houndswood Gate, Harper Lane, Radlett, Herts, WD7 7HU,
[Tel:01923 854586](tel:01923854586) www.keits.co.uk
- 3) Northern Racing College, The Stables, Rossington Hall, Great North Road, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN11 0HN, [Tel:01302 861000](tel:01302861000) www.northernracingcollege.co.uk
- 4) ABRS, Queens Chambers, 38-40 Queen Street, Penzance, Cornwall, TR18 4BH, [Tel:01736 369440](tel:01736369440),
www.abrs-info.org
- 5) BHS, Stoneleigh Deer Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2XZ, [Tel:01736 369440](tel:01736369440), www.bhs.org.uk
- 6) www.ajobin.com
- 7) www.afuturein.com
- 8) British Horseracing Board, 151 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8AL,
[Tel:0207 152 0000](tel:02071520000), www.careersinracing.com