

GROOM, STABLE HAND & WORK RIDER

BACKGROUND

Grooms, Stable Hands and Work Riders generally undertake daily duties that include mucking out, exercising, grooming, feeding, watering, rugging up and bedding down of horses.

Grooms duties can also include –

- Leading horses from their stables to the fields and back
- Preparing them for riding, competitions and shows
- Tacking up the horses (Putting on saddles and bridles) and un-tacking them after riding
- Checking the tack
- Treating minor wounds, record and provide basic health information and administer medical care from vet's instructions

Work Riders duties can also include –

- Riding the horses in order to exercise them, without injury or undue stress, to ensure their top physical condition prior to racing
- Work riders normally have a similar physical build to the jockeys who race horses, so that the horse is exercised under conditions comparable to racing. This is vital as it allows the trainer or owner to judge where and when to race their horse
- They do **not** race horses in competition, only in practice

N.B: Some Work Riders may be employed just to ride horses, with no other duties.

INDUSTRY REQUIREMENTS

There are no minimum entry requirements required to work as a Groom, Stable Hand or Work Rider. National traineeships, modern apprenticeships and NVQs are available.

See [Annex 1](#) and [Annex 2](#) for a list of duties a caseworker would expect to see displayed in a job description for a Groom, Stable Hand or Work Rider working at NVQ Level 3.

REGISTRATION WITH A PROFESSIONAL BODY

All candidates who are employed by licensed racehorse trainers should be registered with the British Horseracing Authority.

Caseworkers can contact the British Horseracing Authority Registration Office on 020 7189 3842.

Furthermore, to enter a racecourse stable a candidate will be required to hold a Racehorse Attendants' Identity Card and a Validity Pass, which can be applied for by a candidate's employer.

CASEWORKER TREATMENT

B&C

The post meets the skills criteria when the duties and responsibilities involved are at a sufficiently advanced level so that three years previous experience working at an NVQ Level 3 standard is required. See [Annex 1](#) and [Annex 2](#) for a list of units covered at NVQ Level 3; subsequently caseworkers would expect to see these skills displayed in the job description.

Grooms and Work Riders should receive a minimum of the industry Grade A salary rate (see the [Salary](#) section below).

Applications for Work Riders to ride horses exclusively may be validated by evidence that the worker is an overseas licensed jockey with at least three years experience. This evidence must be produced to meet the skills criteria.

TWES

Training

This occupation is not suitable for TWES Training.

Work Experience

This occupation is suitable for TWES Work Experience when the work experience being offered is at a level equivalent to, or above, NVQ Level 3, and the TWES Work Experience criteria are satisfied.

DISTINCTION BETWEEN B&C AND SPORTS & ENT'S APPLICATIONS

B&C

Stable Hands, Work Riders and Grooms who are **NOT** travelling with a specific set of horses, rider(s), or entering the country to take part in a particular race, or racing season, should be dealt with under Tier 2.

Sports and Entertainment

Stable Hands, Work Riders and Grooms who **ARE** travelling with a specific set of horses, rider(s), or entering the country to take part in a particular race, or racing season, should be dealt with under the Sports and Entertainment criteria.

When a job description implies that the worker will be required to ride in races or act as a jockey, caseworkers must consult the Sports and Entertainment Team for advice.

SALARY

The agreement between the National Trainers Federation and the National Association of Stable Staff for the period 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008 covers the racing industry minimum rates of pay structure for stable staff.

The consolidated rates of pay shown below are for 40 hours plus time and a half for Saturdays and double time for Sundays worked. It is industry practice for workers to be paid the same wage each week whether working or not and it is also customary for a person to work five hours overtime.

The consolidated wage for a worker at Grade A is £280.35 per week. This is £14,578.20 per year.

To qualify as a Grade A worker, under the consolidated wage, a candidate will have had to –

1. Completed seven years continuous service in racing; or
2. Completed five years continuous service in racing and achieved an NVQ Level 3

Workers will also receive a £15.00 overnight allowance (tax free), a Sunday Racing Payment of £30.00 (£12 of this allowance can be paid tax free) and a Racing Abroad Payment of £27.00 (£21 of this allowance can be paid tax free). Furthermore, workers are entitled to receive 30 days paid holiday per annum. Employers are also required to pay contributions towards a pension scheme.

If Caseworkers are concerned that the rate of pay on offer does not reflect the above agreement, they may contact the National Secretary of the National Association of Stable Staff, or the Chief Executive of the National Trainers Federation for advice (see [Further Information](#)).

If the Work Rider is employed on a basic 40 hour week with no overtime included, and therefore not on the consolidated rate, the salary starts at £252 per week. However, this salary should be the exception rather than the rule, as most resident workers work consolidated hours.

ADVERTISING

Caseworkers should note that Work Rider and Groom posts are sometimes referred to as Stable Hands or Lads/Lasses in job advertisements.

Posts should be advertised in a manner appropriate to the job and which represents a genuine attempt to recruit a suitably qualified person. Adverts may sometimes include weight restrictions in their text.

Examples of suitable places to advertise posts include the following:

Racing Post
1 Canada Square,
Canary Wharf
London
E14 5AP

Tel: 0207 293 3291
Fax: 0207 293 3758
Website: www.racingpost.co.uk
E-mail: editor@racingpost.co.uk

Horse and Hound

9th Floor
Blue Fin Building
110 Southwark Street
London
SE1 0SU
Tel: 020 3148 4562
Fax: 020 3148 8128
Website: www.horseandhound.co.uk
E-mail: lucy_higgins@ipcmedia.com

The Stable Lads Association **does not** recognise advertisements placed on the www.careergrooms.com website.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The British Horseracing Authority

151 Shaftesbury Avenue
London
WC2H 8AL
Tel: 020 7152 0000
Fax: 0207 189 3801
Website: www.britishhorseracing.com
E-mail: info@britishhorseracing.com

National Trainers Federation

9 High Street
Lambourn
Hungerford
Berkshire
RG17 8XN
Tel: 01488 71719
Fax: 01488 73005
Website: www.racehorsetrainers.org
E-mail: info@racehorsetrainers.org

The National Association of Stable Staff

74 High Street
Swadlincote
Derbyshire
DE11 8HS
Tel: 01283 211522
E-mail: stableladsasoc@tiscali.co.uk

British Horseracing Education and Standards Trust

Suite 16, Unit 8, Kings Court
Willie Snaith Road
Newmarket
Suffolk
CB8 7SG
Tel: 01638 560743
Website: www.bhtb.co.uk
E-mail: gill@bhest.co.uk

The Jockey Club of Great Britain
101 High Street
Newmarket
Suffolk
CB8 8JL
Tel: 01638 664151
Fax: 01638 662490
Email info@thejockeyclub.co.uk
Website: www.thejockeyclub.co.uk

Archived

Annex 1

NPTC Level 3 NVQ in Horse Care and Management

NPTC = National Agriculture Centre

Candidates must complete all units in Group A, Mandatory Units. Candidates must also follow one route from Groups B-K, and complete all units in that Group. Additional units may be completed but these are not a requirement for the award.

Group A – Mandatory Units

- Plan and Monitor Routine Care
- Plan and Maintain the Health and Well-Being of Horses
- Prepare Horses for Work
- Maintain the Health and Well-Being of Horses During Transportation
- Maintain Activities to Meet Requirements
- Ensure Your Own Reduce Risks to Health and Safety

Group B – Exercising

- Contribute to the Design and Implementation of a Work Programme for Horses
- Work Horses to Improve Fitness

Group C – Schooling

- Contribute to the Design and Implementation of a Work Programme for Horses
- Exercise Schooled Horses to Maintain Training

Group D – Light Horse Driving

- Prepare Driving Horses and Vehicles for Use and Contribute to the Daily Exercise Programmes for Driving Horses
- Drive Horses on the Road

Group E – Heavy Horses

- Contribute to the Design and Implementation of a Work Programme for Horses
- Work Heavy Horses

Group F – Trekking

- Contribute to the Design and Implementation of a Work Programme for Horses
- Provide Trekking Opportunities

Group G – Polo

- Contribute to the Design and Implementation of a Work Programme for Horses
- Contribute to the Training of Polo Ponies

Group H – Breaking

- Contribute to the Design and Implementation of a Work Programme for Horses
- Contribute to the Training of Young Horses

Group I – Breeding

- Contribute to getting the Mare in Foal and Maintain Stud Documentation
- Contribute to the Management of Mare and Foal

Group J – Coaching

- Work Horses to Improve Fitness
- Prepare for Coaching Sessions
- Conduct Coaching Sessions

Group K – Competition

- Contribute to the Design and Implementation of a Work Programme for Horses
- Provide Specialist Care to Performance Horses

Group L – Additional Units

- Contribute to the Management of Stallions under Supervision
- Train Ponies to Improve Polocrosse Performance
- Maintain and Repair Structures and Surfaces
- Prepare and Maintain Horses on Grazing Land

Annex 2

BHEST Level 3 NVQ in Racehorse Care and Management

BHEST = British Horseracing Education and Standards Trust

Candidates must complete all units in Group A, Mandatory Units. Candidates must also complete all units required from one of three optional groups. Candidates may also complete additional units but these are not a requirement for the award.

Group A – Mandatory Units

- Ensure Your Own Actions Reduce Risks to Health and Safety
- Plan and Monitor Routine Care
- Promote and Maintain the Health and Well-Being of Horses
- Prepare Horses for Work
- Maintain the Health and Well-Being of Horses During Transportation
- Contribute to the Training of Young Horses

Group B – Optional Units

- Prepare Horses for Racing
- Take Horses Racing

Group C – Optional Units

- Take Horses Racing
- Contribute to the Design and Implementation of Training Programmes for Racehorses
- Contribute to the Evaluation and Modification of Training Programmes for Racehorses

Group D – Optional Units

- Contribute to getting the Mare in Foal and Maintain Stud Documentation
- Contribute to the Management of Mare and Foal
- Prepare and Maintain Horses on Grazing Land

Group E – Additional Units

- Prepare for Coaching Sessions
- Conduct Coaching Sessions
- Contribute to the Management of Stallions Under Supervision
- Maintain and Repair Structures and Surfaces

To find out what other qualifications BHEST awards visit <http://www.bhtb.co.uk/> and go to qualifications.