

PR 809

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RECOGNISED TRAINING STANDARDS NEEDED FOR PARAPROFESSIONALS

The first ever UK-wide survey of Equine Barefoot Trimmers and Equine Dental Technicians, highlights the urgency for recognised training standards to be set.

A report produced by Lantra, together with partners from the Equine and Professions Allied to Veterinary Science (PAVS) Industry Groups, gives an insight into the two groups of paraprofessionals. Highlighted in the report is the need to develop standards of training, whilst reviewing the industry's current and future skills requirements.

Lantra's Industry Partnership Manager, Lisa Jarvis, said: "The report highlights how the development of different training options and qualifications may lead to confusion within the veterinary profession and the wider equine world as to the experience and competency of those undertaking the work. Lantra can now work with professional organisations to seek greater clarity and transparency to clearly identify how, where, what and when training is accessed and undertaken as well as review the current provision to determine if it meets the current and future skills requirements of those working within the industry and whether there are any gaps."

Lisa continues: "This report is key in allowing Lantra to work in partnership with professional organisations and Defra to develop and agree industry-wide national occupational standards for the training, skill development and qualifications required by paraprofessionals. This will ensure that people undertaking the work are suitably experienced and competent to do their job, which is key if demand for these jobs continues to rise."

Another topic for debate, drawn from the report, is that of the title of Barefoot Trimmer. Lisa adds: "The title of Barefoot Trimmer does not appear to be an appropriate job title as significant variation is visible in the range of job titles used by the people undertaking this work to describe themselves. Lantra has begun work with these professionals to reach an agreement on one job title that reflects their work. It is important we receive your feedback on this issue, as it will provide a clear outline of the role for future industry entrants."

For a copy of the report or for more information contact Lantra on 0845 707 8007 or email connect@lantra.co.uk. You can also download a copy of the report and comment on the recommendations by visiting: www.lantra.co.uk/research

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

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