

## Stallion Handler

Breeding & Bloodstock

### Job Summary

A stallion handler is responsible for the day to day care of elite stallions. Working at a stud you will be a specialist in handling stallions around the yard and during the breeding process. There is significant responsibility of looking after these highly valued thoroughbreds and seeing the safe practices of covering broodmares during the breeding season.



### Main Duties

- Control stallions during the mating of mares;
- Control mares during the mating process;
- Prepare and present stallions to clients at stud stallion parades;
- Put stallions on exercise walker and/or hand walk;
- Draft or review H&S risk assessments prior to commencement of work to ensure all work is carried out in accordance with safety rules and health and safety legislation;

### Job Level

Skilled Operator Role

### Typical Employer

Stud Farms;

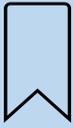


### Case Study

#### *Breeding & Bloodstock*

*Ireland is one of the leading bloodstock producing nations in the world. It is the third biggest producer of foals, and Irish vendors are, by value, estimated to have been the second biggest sellers of bloodstock by public auctions in 2016 after the USA. There are over 6,500 breeders in Ireland with over 60 farms standing stallions. Irish breeders cover a broad range of operations – from some of the biggest global bloodstock operations with many of the world’s top stallions, to smaller breeders – 92% of the 6,777 registered breeders having fewer than five thoroughbred broodmares.*

*[Source: Economic Impact of Irish breeding and racing 2017]*



## Competencies (Behavioural)

- A love for horses or horse racing is the No. 1 motivating factor why people work within the horse racing industry (HRI Education & Training Survey 2020);
- Intrapersonal skills (perseverance; initiative; self-motivation), Critical thinking skills (problem solving), Interpersonal skills (communication; teamwork);

## Knowledge & Skills

### Equine Knowledge & Skills

Breeding operations & pedigrees;  
Stallion management;  
Horse care & welfare;  
Equine transportation;  
Equine nutrition, anatomy & physiology;  
Horsemanship skills;

### People Knowledge & Skills

Communication skills;  
Health & safety regulations;  
Health & safety risk assessments;  
Self development;

### Racing Knowledge & Skills

Racing industry knowledge;  
Racing rules & regulations;  
Integrity of the sport;

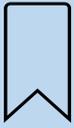
### Business Knowledge & Skills

I.T. / digital Skills;  
Media & communication skills;

## Education

While no specific qualification or training is required to begin a career as a Stallion Handler, many new entrants to the industry have a qualification in Level 5 Horsemanship (Course Code: 5M3371) or Equine Breeding (Course Code: 6M3507). See [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie) for further information.

CPD: The Irish Thoroughbred Breeders Association (I.T.B.A.) provides members with the opportunity to continue their professional development through a calendar of training and seminar activities on an ongoing basis. See [www.itba.ie](http://www.itba.ie) for further information.



## Career Path (Alternative Careers)

Head Groom  
Travelling Head Groom  
Stud Manager

## Experience

The role of stallion handler is generally progressed from that of Stud Groom.

## Job Availability

Job availability is limited. Follow [www.equip.ie](http://www.equip.ie) for information on job opportunities within the breeding, racing and racing administration.



## Certification

No certification is required.

## Working Conditions

This role is primarily outdoors based.

## Pay & Benefits

Generally, the amount of pay you receive for working is a matter of agreement between you and your employer. These negotiations normally occur when you receive a job offer.