



iPET Network
Level 4 Diploma in Canine
Clinical Hydrotherapy
Qualification Number - 610/4107/5
Qualification Specification



iPET Network

LED BY INDUSTRY EXPERTS.

DRIVEN BY PASSION.

BOUND BY ANIMALS.

GUIDED BY CANDIDATES.

UNITED BY iPET NETWORK.

Our Mission

EDUCATION FOR PEOPLE, FOR PETS, FOR THE FUTURE

To be the Awarding Organisation of choice for Training Providers, Employers and Learners in the Animal Care and Veterinary Science Sector.

We demand the highest standard of practice to ensure our suite of qualifications work: they work for pets who deserve the best care; they work for learners giving valuable skills, and they work for Training Providers with strong market appeal.

Leading the way:

iPET Network is an Awarding Organisation regulated by Ofqual, CCEA Regulation and Qualifications Wales, specialising in qualifications in the Animal Care and Veterinary Science sector. iPET Network is a sector-specific Awarding Organisation and are constantly developing innovative animal care and veterinary science qualifications in the industry. We are unique in our approach to development, design and awarding of qualifications through the range of services and support we offer. Additionally, iPET Network is an End-point Assessment Awarding Organisation (EPAO) for English Apprenticeship standards and offers Professional Development Recognition (PDR) of unregulated educational courses.

Our approved Training Providers have exclusive access to our portfolio of qualifications, courses, learning materials and assessment strategies. We offer an inclusive opportunity to join a diverse network of forward-thinking professionals across the UK, Ireland, Europe and internationally.

We do the hard work for you – fast, flexible and straightforward:

We have developed robust systems at the forefront of technology that include extensive resources, quality learning materials and varied assessment methods. Our centralised platform makes it simple for Training Providers and their teams to deliver, manage, mark and quality assure all in one place. We provide access to training and updates through standardisation to uphold modern best practice.

Organisations of many different types, who want to deliver education, can join iPET Network, taking advantage of becoming a direct approved Training Provider. With transparent fees and packages to suit every size of organisation from sole traders to limited companies, colleges and large employers.

An exciting and supportive community:

We practice what we preach - the iPET Network team has extensive experience and knowledge of working in the animal care, veterinary science and education sector. We provide support, advice and Continual Professional Development to help Training Providers offer the best standard of education and to inspire the future generation of the industry. We believe in removing learning barriers and working with Candidates of all abilities to help them reach their full potential.

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1. About This Qualification

The **iPET Network Level 4 Diploma in Canine Clinical Hydrotherapy** qualification offers a structured pathway for individuals pursuing a career as a Canine Clinical Hydrotherapist, or for established professionals in the canine healthcare field seeking to advance their skill set.

This qualification is designed to accommodate those already practising at a level 3 standard in canine hydrotherapy, as it facilitates progression in line with recent advancements in canine clinical hydrotherapy

This qualification is highly beneficial for Veterinary Physiotherapists aiming for formal recognition through a regulated qualification to provide integrated practice, optimising the outcomes for the dogs in their professional care.

This qualification encompasses a comprehensive curriculum of theoretical concepts linked to the acquisition of a range of clinical skills essential for safe and effective practice in Canine Clinical Hydrotherapy. It contributes to raising standards of clinical practice in canine clinical hydrotherapy, ensuring optimal treatment for each dog is attained and providing a comprehensive approach to the health and wellbeing of each dog, as well as supporting the owner.

Upon successful completion of the **iPET Network Level 4 Diploma in Canine Clinical Hydrotherapy**, candidates are able to gain membership of IRVAP – ICH and continue on their pathway to providing excellence for dogs receiving clinical hydrotherapy as part of their overall healthcare plan.

Institute of Registered Veterinary and Animal Physiotherapists (IRVAP)



IRVAP

The **iPET Network Level 4 Diploma in Canine Clinical Hydrotherapy** has gained full endorsement from the Institute of Registered Veterinary and Animal Physiotherapists (IRVAP) and its sub group the Institute of Canine Hydrotherapists (ICH). As the largest Professional Association in the UK, Institute of Registered Veterinary Animal Physiotherapist diligently upholds a focus on raising standards in Canine Clinical Hydrotherapy, to ensure that each dog and owner receive the best therapeutic treatment available. It supports both its members and those working within this sector by providing Guidelines, free CPD and resources. As a Professional Association it fosters a proactive forum for professional discussion and networking.

Operating under the Institute of Registered Veterinary Animal Physiotherapist, the Institute of Canine Hydrotherapists (ICH) establishes benchmarks for professionalism and clinical excellence in Canine Clinical Hydrotherapy. This new professional qualification has been meticulously designed to align seamlessly with membership entry prerequisites stipulated by the Institute of Registered Veterinary Animal Physiotherapist - Institute of Canine Hydrotherapists. This is to ensure therapists undergo rigorous training and adhere to the exacting standards set by the Institute of Canine Hydrotherapists requirements.

Achieving the iPET Network Level 4 Diploma in Canine Clinical Hydrotherapy fulfils an important component of their membership requirements and will shape the future of the industry. Any mentions of industry trade associations within the qualification guide pertain to this recognised and esteemed Professional Association.

Register of Animal Musculoskeletal Practitioners (RAMP)

RAMP welcomes applications from approved Training Providers for the Ofqual regulated iPET Network Level 4 Diploma in Canine Clinical Hydrotherapy, as a potential Recognised Education Provider (REP). If RAMP recognition is achieved for a specific Training Provider, graduates could use either some or all of the credits to combine with other relevant academic achievements to support their RAMP entry criteria.

In addition, graduates can use the 70 practical education hours to top up existing submissions that are short of practical hours in their submissions.

National Association of Registered Canine Hydrotherapists (NARCH)



The iPET Network Level 4 Diploma in Canine Clinical Hydrotherapy has gained approval from NARCH.

The NARCH Education Committee have issued the following statement:

“The NARCH education committee would like to congratulate you on this new exciting qualification that looks to raise standards within the industry and are happy to approve this qualification. NARCH can confirm that students awarded this qualification will meet the registration requirements for NARCH. For all details of registration requirements with NARCH, please see:

<https://www.narch.org.uk/utilities/liveedit/ResourceLibrary>”

Objectives of the Qualification

This qualification has been designed to enable Candidates to:

- Develop study skills and engage in reflective practice
- Develop clinical reasoning and critical thinking skills
- Understand the importance of professional development and working within their scope of practice
- Understand the legal, ethical and professional standards, obligations and accountability required of a professional
- Understand the optimum design of the hydrotherapy suite and sustainable practice models
- Understand the current health and safety standards required in the field of Canine Clinical Hydrotherapy
- Understand canine behaviour is contextual and working with each dog’s consent is an ethical responsibility
- Understand that therapeutic handling is an essential part of being a clinical hydrotherapist, as general animal handling or social handling skills are not appropriate in this speciality

- Understand canine functional anatomy and biomechanics linked to canine functional abilities, gait and movement
- Understand the pathophysiology of common canine conditions and problems relate this to breed biology
- Demonstrate clinical risk assessment skills in context of a hydrotherapy environment, Risk Rating skills and health monitoring skills and emergency canine first aid skills and knowledge
- Demonstrate assessment process and clinical reasoning skills
- Demonstrate advanced treatment techniques in hydrotherapy and the use of outcome measures
- Demonstrate evaluation and analysis skills for canine hydrotherapy water management

Depending on the needs of the Candidate, the qualification can:

- Prepare individuals to progress to another qualification in the same subject area, studying at a higher level or a qualification requiring more specific knowledge, skills and understanding.
- Improve employability skills.
- Encourage engagement in learning.

Suggested progression following completion of the qualification:

- iPET Network Level 4 Diploma in Animal Sports Massage

Candidates who successfully complete the Level 4 Diploma in Canine Clinical Hydrotherapy will be able to continue in further education and training related to this area of expertise.

It is a requirement that assessment of this qualification is conducted in English.

The iPET Network Level 4 Diploma in Canine Clinical Hydrotherapy is a regulated qualification.

Guided Learning Hours (GLH)

Guided Learning Hours (GLH) are defined by the [Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act, 2009](#) as the number of hours the Candidate spends:

- Being taught or given instruction by a lecturer, tutor, supervisor or other appropriate provider of education or training, or
- Otherwise participating in education or training under the immediate guidance or supervision of such a person.

GLH does not include time spent on unsupervised preparation or study, whether at home or otherwise.

iPET Network has calculated the GLH for this qualification representing an estimate of the amount of actual guided learning which could reasonably be expected to be required to achieve the standard required to obtain the qualification.

Estimated GLH will be stated for each unit which should be used by Training Providers as a guide for devising teaching and learning plans. GLH may be recorded within the e-portfolio (if being used) or within the Candidate Hours Log (if the e-portfolio is not used).

Total Qualification Time (TQT)

Total qualification time is defined as the number of Guided Learning Hours (GLH) **plus** the time taken by the Candidate for independent, unsupervised study. Individual Learners' requirements and individual teaching styles mean there will be variation in the actual time taken to complete a qualification. Values for Total Qualification Time are estimates as some Candidates will be able to achieve units and qualifications within a shorter time than indicated. Others, for example those with additional support requirements, may need longer.

Guided Learning Hours and Total Qualification Time for this qualification are:

iPET Network Level 4 Diploma in Canine Clinical Hydrotherapy:

GLH (Guided Learning Hours): 220 hours

TQT (Total Qualification Time): 456 hours

Qualification Delivery Requirements

A minimum of **70** hours face-to-face, in-person practical teaching must be completed as part of this qualification's delivery strategy.

The remainder of the qualification may be delivered as the Training Provider sees fit, ensuring that Guided Learning Hours requirements are met. As part of the application to deliver, Training Providers must be able to evidence how they intend to deliver the qualification, including the methods by which they will achieve the estimated GLH and TQT.

2. Candidate Requirements

Entry Requirements

All Candidates must meet the following criteria:

<p>1. Minimum Age and Requirements</p> <p>Candidates must possess all of the following:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimum age of 18 years• Be capable of working at a Level 4 or above

All Candidates will be screened via an initial assessment with the Training Provider to ensure their suitability for the registration on the qualification. Whilst the above criteria form the basis of eligibility, Candidates may be registered at the Training Provider's discretion.

Minimum Age

The minimum age for access to this qualification is 18 years.

Reasonable Adjustment and Special Considerations

Assessment within this qualification is designed to be accessible and inclusive. The assessment methodology is appropriate and rigorous for individuals or groups of Candidates.

iPET Network is an inclusive organisation and operates in line with legislation set out in the Equality Act, 2010. It should be noted that any Candidate registering for an iPET Network qualification, must be able to meet the assessment criteria (theoretical and practical), with appropriate reasonable adjustment where required, in order to be certificated.

Those Candidates with additional educational or physical needs, should discuss their support requirements with their Training Provider. Training Providers should refer to the **Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations Policy** which gives clear guidance on the reasonable adjustments and arrangements that take account of disability or learning difficulty without compromising the achievement of the assessment criteria.

Further guidance and support can be accessed by contacting iPET Network on info@ipetnetwork.co.uk

3. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Recognition of Prior Learning (also known as Exemption) - is the facility for a Candidate to claim exemption from some of the achievement requirements of an iPET Network qualification using certificated evidence, for example certificated National Qualifications Framework (NQF) achievement. This must be of an equivalent or higher value to an iPET Network unit but may not share the exact assessment criteria or learning aims.

Training Providers wishing to obtain further details regarding awarding of RPL should refer to the iPET Network **Recognition of Prior Learning Policy**.

4. Induction / Initial Assessment

An initial assessment of each Candidate should be made before the start of their programme to identify:

- If the Candidate has any specific learning or training needs
- The support and guidance they may need when working towards their qualification
- The Candidate's suitability for the type and level of qualification

Each Training Provider must carry out an induction so that Candidates fully understand the requirements of the qualification, their responsibilities as a Candidate, and the responsibilities of the Training Provider. This information will need to be recorded e.g., within a contract.

During the induction, Candidates must be made aware of academic malpractice and the consequences of committing malpractice such as plagiarism or cheating. Please see iPET Network's ***Malpractice and Maladministration Policy and Procedure (including sanctions)*** for details of indicative sanctions against Candidates.

5. Achieving the Qualification

Credits

To be awarded the iPET Network Level 4 Diploma in Canine Clinical Hydrotherapy, Candidates must achieve 46 credits.

Registration

Standalone unit registration is not accepted for this qualification.

Unit Achievement

All assessment criteria in each unit must be met before the unit is deemed to be achieved. The unit achievement is not graded: units are either achieved or not achieved.

Recording Achievement

Training Providers must record the Candidate's achievement of the unit on an appropriate form(s) or electronic system. Training Providers should record the Candidate's achievement against the specific unit assessment criteria evidenced by the task.

Authentication of the Candidate's Work

Tutors must demonstrate that the Candidate's work is authentic. This can be done through using iPET Network's e-portfolio system which provides secure access to each Candidate or through use of an alternative e-portfolio system. If a Training Provider is using paper-based portfolio, they must be able to demonstrate authenticity of the work and must provide transparent feedback from marking to internal quality assurance.

Assessments must demonstrate authenticity please refer to assessment methods in this Qualification Handbook.

Duration of Registration

All Candidates will be registered with iPET Network for a maximum period of 24 months. Failure of the Candidate



to complete the qualification during this timeframe will incur an additional charge for re-registration. Please refer to your **iPET Network Terms and Conditions** for further details. Extension to registration may be obtained with written permission under specific extenuating circumstances. Please contact iPET Network for advice regarding extensions to registration.

iPET Network sets a registration period for each qualification. However, the time period for delivery and completion of the qualification is agreed upon between the Training Provider and the Candidate. This is a separate contractual agreement which iPET Network is not responsible for including any associated costs.

6. Qualification Structure

Units

iPET Network Reference No.	Title	Level	Credit	GLH	TQT	Unit Reference number
432	Clinical Risk Assessment, Health Monitoring and First Aid	4	4	16	38	R/651/1236
433	Canine Behaviour and Enrichment Techniques within the Clinical Setting	4	4	20	38	T/651/1237
434	Canine Functional Anatomy and Biomechanics	4	8	35	82	Y/651/1238
435	Breed Biology and Common Conditions	4	4	20	37	A/651/1239
436	Hydrotherapy Water Management and Sustainable Practice	4	4	20	37	H/651/1240
437	Professionalism, Ethics and Legalities for Therapists	4	3	9	30	J/651/1241
438	Canine Assessment Processes and Clinical Reasoning	4	5	30	54	L/651/1243
439	Canine Advanced Hydrotherapy Pool Techniques	4	7	35	70	L/651/1252
440	Canine Advanced Aquatic Treadmill Techniques	4	7	35	70	T/651/1255
TOTALS			46	220	456	

Level Descriptor

Level	Knowledge Descriptor (the holder...)	Skills Descriptor (the holder can...)
Level 4	Has practical, theoretical or technical knowledge and understanding of a subject or field of work to address problems that are well defined but complex and non-routine.	Identify, adapt and use appropriate cognitive and practical skills to inform actions and address problems that are complex and non-routine while normally fairly well-defined.

	<p>Can analyse, interpret and evaluate relevant information and ideas.</p> <p>Is aware of the nature of approximate scope of the area of study or work.</p> <p>Has an informed awareness of different perspectives or approaches within the area of study or work.</p>	<p>Review the effectiveness and appropriateness of methods, actions and results.</p>
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7. Assessment

This qualification requires achievement of the specified units and summative assessments. The assessment process is as follows:

1. Assessments are developed by the Training Provider and approved by iPET Network in advance
2. The assessment is then delivered and implemented by the relevant iPET Network approved Training Provider
3. All Tutors involved in the assessment process must have been approved by iPET Network, on an individual basis, in advance of any assessments being carried out
4. Compiled portfolios of assessed evidence are internally quality assured by an iPET Network approved Internal Quality Assurer (IQA) via remote sampling.
5. Completed portfolios of assessed evidence are then quality assured by an External Quality Assurer (EQA) approved by iPET Network.

Assessment Method

Assessment is through a Portfolio of Evidence, Workbook and Practical Portfolio.

Specimen Assessment Materials

Specimen assessment materials are not available for this qualification.

Marking

These assessments are pass or fail and the Assessor's decision is final. The use of artificial intelligence for sole marking of any candidate's work is strictly prohibited. Please contact iPET Network to discuss the use of AI for marking.

*Please note re-assessments are permitted.

Qualification Grading

This qualification is graded pass or fail and the Assessor's decision is final.

Appeals

To ensure a fair assessment procedure is carried out, the Candidate must be fully briefed on the assessment requirements and given instructions on their right to appeal an assessment decision. All Training Providers must have an up-to-date appeals procedure.

What Constitutes a Fail?

It is at the Tutor's professional discretion if they pass or fail the Candidate. It is recommended that all elements of each assessment criteria are met and that all knowledge activities are completed.

Examples of what may constitute a fail (theory)(list is not exhaustive):

- Plagiarism
- Irrelevant content
- Incomplete knowledge
- Incomplete coverage of an assessment criterion

Examples of what may constitute a fail (practical) (list is not exhaustive):

- Failure to address one or more of the assessment criteria
- Unsafe practice or behaviour
- Practice of behaviour that compromises animal welfare
- Failure to address key safety points and measures
- Poor standard of delivery
- Lack of appropriate equipment
- Excessively long or short duration of assessment

When making an assessment decision it is important that all evidence and feedback is documented to support the assessment decision whether it is a pass or fail. If the decision is a fail, then the Candidate must be provided with support and the opportunity to re-sit the assessment once they are ready.

8. Offering the Qualification

Training Providers wishing to deliver this qualification must apply by submitting an iPET Network **Qualification Approval Form** which can be downloaded from the website. The Training Provider must provide supporting information and documents to demonstrate their ability to deliver this qualification and adhere to quality assurance and assessment regulations.

Applications can be made via email info@ipetnetwork.co.uk or if there are any queries call the iPET Network team on 0800 433 4700.

Training Providers wishing to offer this qualification must note the requirements stipulated in Appendix A.

Standardisation

Standardisation is a process that promotes consistency in the understanding and application of standards.

Standardisation:

- Establishes statements on the standard of evidence required to meet the assessment criteria for the units in iPET Network Qualifications
- Makes recommendations on assessment practice
- Produces advice and guidance for the assessment of units
- Identifies good practice in assessment.

It is a requirement of the Training Provider approval process that each Training Provider offering units from iPET Network qualifications must provide assessment materials and Candidate evidence for standardisation if requested.

iPET Network will notify Training Providers of the required sample(s) for standardisation purposes. Assessment materials, Candidate evidence and Tutor feedback must be sent to iPET Network by Training Providers.

Outcomes from standardisation will be available to Training Providers through iPET Network.

Support for Training Providers

iPET Network provides all Training Providers with on-going support and advice on the use of iPET Network units and qualifications, including the requirements for assessment.

If Training Providers who are approved to offer iPET Network units and qualifications have obtained a UKPRN (UK Provider Reference Number) from the UKRLP (UK Register of Learning Providers), this will be used as the Training Provider's reference number. If a Training Provider has not obtained a UKPRN they will be issued with a unique iPET Network Training Provider number.

Information about obtaining a Unique Learner Number (ULN) on behalf of the Candidates is included in the ***iPET Network Training Provider Manual***.

Training Provider Responsibilities

Each Training Provider should identify a named contact person who will be responsible for any iPET Network provision within the Training Provider organisation.

The Training Provider contact must ensure all procedures relating to the delivery of the qualification operate effectively in the centre.

The Training Provider contact is the person responsible for confirming and ensuring that the Training Provider meets all the iPET Network requirements for Training Provider recognition.

The Training Provider contact is responsible for ensuring all relevant iPET Network documentation is distributed as required within the Training Provider and that the security requirements for external assessment are adhered to, where applicable.

Minimum Equipment Requirements

Minimum equipment requirement to deliver the Level 4 Diploma in Canine Clinical Hydrotherapy:

- Personal Protective Equipment
- Aquatic Treadmill – needs to be large enough to contain dog and Candidate within it
- Pool – needs to be large enough to contain Tutor, Candidate and dog
- Ramps – to ensure safe entry and exit in main equipment
- Showering facilities
- Plant equipment
- Appropriate harnesses, leads and collars
- Non slip flooring
- Chemicalisation station and eyes wash station
- First Aid Kit – Canines and Humans
- Emergency Evacuation Procedure
- Separate locked area for water treatment chemicals
- All appropriate Health and Safety policies and procedures
- Risk assessment complete for all activities carried out on site
- Fire Safety
 - Signs
 - Appropriate fire extinguisher(s)
 - Fire procedure
- Student toilet and changing area

9. Appendix A – Requirements to Offer This Qualification

To offer this qualification, Training Providers must ensure that Tutors involved in delivery and assessment are professionally competent to do so. This means Training Providers must ensure that Tutors have the following qualifications/experience:

1. Subject-specific Qualifications		2. Relevant Experience		3. Teaching Qualification
Tutors must possess both of the following:		Tutors must possess both of the following:		Tutors must possess at least one of the following:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold a regulated Level 4 or above in Canine Hydrotherapy qualification or equivalent 	OR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CV / career profile demonstrating relevant industry/subject-specific skills, knowledge, experience and achievements. Have a minimum of 3 years' (full-time equivalent) demonstrable experience of working as Canine Hydrotherapist. <p>(This will be accepted at the discretion of the Awarding Organisation)</p>	AND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iPET Network Level 3 Award in Education and Training for Animal and Veterinary Professionals iPET Network Level 3 Award for Educators in the Canine and Feline Sector Level 3 Award in Education and Training; or Level 4 Certificate in Education and Training; or Level 3 or 4 PTLLS (or equivalent).

If no formal teaching qualification is held, it will be a requirement that a teaching qualification is achieved within 12 months of approval.

Evidence of qualifications and experience must be provided in the form of original certificates, detailed CV and employer references. iPET Network reserves the right to request additional information in support of Training Provider/Tutor applications e.g., client reviews.

Training Providers must also ensure that they have in place an Internal Quality Assurer who:

- Holds or is working towards a Level 4 Award in Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practices or its equivalent
- Has substantial experience of working in or assessing in dog behaviour and training
- Is familiar with the assessment requirements of the qualification for which they are the Internal Quality Assurer

Or,

Gold package registrations are used with iPET Network (**Refer to Training Provider Fees**)

10. Qualification Unit Breakdown and Assessor Guidance

Unit title:	Clinical Risk Assessment, Health Monitoring and First Aid
Level:	4
Credit value:	4
GLH:	16
TQT:	38
Unit code:	432
Unit reference number:	R/651/1236
Unit aim:	The aim of this unit is to provide Candidates with an understanding of Clinical Risk Assessment (CRA), health monitoring, appropriate health checks and canine emergency first aid to maintain the health status and welfare of each canine client receiving clinical hydrotherapy. Candidates will be able to effectively risk assess and optimise safety within a canine clinical hydrotherapy environment, as well as justify the use of this treatment modality. Candidates will need to be able to recognise and manage canine health challenges and first aid emergencies, plus abide by their professional obligation to work within their scope of practice.
Number of learning outcomes	9

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will:	The learner can:
1. Understand Clinical Risk Assessment (CRA) responsibilities in clinical hydrotherapy practice	1.1. Evaluate the two essential methods of risk assessment for safe practice 1.2. Describe the process of Risk Rating of the dog in a clinical setting
2. Be able to carry out Clinical Risk Assessment (CRA) to ensure safe practice	2.1. Demonstrate Risk Rating of the dog in a clinical situation 2.2. Demonstrate the use of a muzzle in a clinical situation 2.3. Demonstrate Clinical Risk Assessment for hydrotherapy practice
3. Understand precautions and contraindications for safe clinical hydrotherapy practice	3.1. Explain the difference between a clinical precaution and contraindication 3.2. Evaluate precautions and contraindications for clinical hydrotherapy
4. Understand health monitoring of the dog's health status in a clinical environment	4.1. Describe the different health monitoring strategies for dogs 4.2. Explain the health monitoring strategies for canine hydrotherapy practice
5. Be able to carry out health monitoring and checks for dogs in a clinical setting	5.1. Demonstrate behaviour observations in a clinical environment 5.2. Demonstrate health checks in a clinical environment
6. Understand the key principles of canine first aid relevant to clinical hydrotherapy practice	6.1. Describe the key aims and rules of canine first aid 6.2. Evaluate current legalities and ethical limitations on the therapist in a canine clinical emergency

7. Understand canine emergency categories relevant to clinical practice	7.1. Explain the different emergency categories that may occur in clinical hydrotherapy practice
	7.2. Describe different water exit strategies from the main hydrotherapy equipment
	7.3. Evaluate emergency water exit protocols in hydrotherapy practice
8. Understand how to assess and action canine clinical emergency situations	8.1. Devise a clinical procedure for three different emergency situations
	8.2. List the contents of a canine first aid kit suitable for clinical practice
	8.3. Evaluate how to manage a canine first kit in the clinic
	8.4. Evaluate how to manage emergency situations in a clinical setting
9. Be able to apply first aid in canine clinical emergency situations	9.1. Demonstrate the canine resuscitation procedure for a clinical emergency situation
	9.2. Demonstrate a range of bandaging techniques for different canine emergency situations

Unit title:	Canine Behaviour and Enrichment Techniques within the Clinical Setting
Level:	4
Credit value:	4
GLH:	20
TQT:	38
Unit code:	433
Unit reference number:	T/651/1237
Unit aim:	The aim of this unit is to provide Candidates with the knowledge and understanding of canine behaviours in the context of the hydrotherapy environment. Candidates will develop skills to evaluate and manage the different behaviours observed by developing and using canine Therapeutic Handling techniques and Clinic Enrichment techniques. This unit does not mean the Candidate is a canine behaviourist.
Number of learning outcomes	5

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will:	The learner can:
1. Know the key methods of canine communication	1.1. Describe the key methods that dogs use to communicate 1.2. Interpret positive and negative canine feedback signals observed in clinical environment
2. Know canine behaviour patterns in a clinical setting	2.1. Describe different canine behaviour patterns observed in the clinical environment 2.2. Identify factors that may influence canine behaviour patterns in the clinical environment 2.3. Summarise how the therapist and owner can influence canine behaviour patterns in the clinical environment
3. Be able to apply Clinic Enrichment techniques to positively impact canine behaviour in the clinical setting	3.1. Discuss a range of Clinic Enrichment techniques to positively influence the dog's behaviour in the clinic 3.2. Demonstrate a range of canine Clinic Enrichment techniques for clinical practice
4. Be able to apply Therapeutic Handling techniques to positively impact canine behaviour in the clinical environment	4.1. Discuss a range of Therapeutic Handling techniques to positively influence the dog's behaviour in the clinic 4.2. Demonstrate a range of Therapeutic Handling techniques for clinical practice
5. Understand optimal enrichment for each dog during a clinical session	5.1. Evaluate the importance of accurate interpretation of canine behaviour patterns for safe practice 5.2. Evaluate the importance of using enrichment strategies to achieve safe practice

Unit title:	Canine Functional Anatomy and Biomechanics
Level:	4
Credit value:	8
GLH:	35
TQT:	82
Unit code:	434
Unit reference number:	Y/651/1238
Unit aim:	The aim of this unit is to provide Candidates with the understanding of canine functional anatomy and biomechanics essential for therapists to be able to complete a reliable assessment and administer effective clinical hydrotherapy treatment. This knowledge and understanding is pivotal to identifying and improving musculoskeletal (MSK) problems and movement dysfunction.
Number of learning outcomes	8

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will:	The learner can:
1. Understand functional anatomy of the canine nervous system	1.1. Describe the functional role of the main peripheral nerves in the dog 1.2. Evaluate the integrated function of the proprioceptive system
2. Understand functional anatomy of the canine muscular system	2.1. Describe the four main types of movement 2.2. Describe the major skeletal muscles in the dog 2.3. Explain canine movement sequences relevant to balance, functional activities and gait 2.4. Evaluate the role of canine postural muscle tone relevant to balance and movement
3. Be able to therapeutically palpate and locate major skeletal muscles	3.1. Demonstrate the use of therapeutic palpation techniques 3.2. Demonstrate with accuracy the location of the major skeletal muscles
4. Understand functional anatomy of the canine skeletal and joint systems	4.1. Describe the purpose of the skeleton and joints relevant to canine movement 4.2. Describe the canine functional design of the skeleton and ligaments relevant to balance and movement
5. Be able to therapeutically palpate and locate major bones and joints	5.1. Demonstrate with accuracy the location of the major bones 5.2. Demonstrate with accuracy the location of the major joints
6. Understand the integrated functional anatomy of the canine respiratory and cardiovascular systems	6.1. Explain the integrated canine respiratory and cardiovascular systems
7. Understand the canine lymphatic and fascial systems	7.1. Explain the purpose of the canine lymphatic system 7.2. Explain the purpose of the canine fascial system

8. Understand canine biomechanics relevant to balance and movement

8.1. Describe the biomechanical design to canine balanced stance and balanced movement

8.2. Describe different canine gait patterns

8.3. Evaluate abnormal gait or lameness on canine balance, abilities and movement

Unit title:	Breed Biology and Common Conditions
Level:	4
Credit value:	4
GLH:	20
TQT:	37
Unit code:	435
Unit reference number:	A/651/1239
Unit aim:	<p>The aim of this unit is to provide Candidates with an understanding of the importance of breed biology and the predisposition of specific breeds to common canine conditions. With this knowledge, the Candidate can use their critical thinking skills to link this to the consequential pathophysiology.</p> <p>Candidates will be able to understand the normal conformation of different breeds and the impact that specific pathophysiology has on balance and movement, for a range of common conditions and musculoskeletal injuries. The Candidate will be able to recognise inefficient secondary patterns and sequences acquired in a number of different cases and the subsequent impact this has on the health and wellbeing of these dogs.</p>
Number of learning outcomes	4

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will:	The learner can:
1. Understand how breed biology can impact the therapy session	1.1. Describe the biological characteristics of common breeds referred for clinical hydrotherapy 1.2. Evaluate the impact of breed biology in the clinical hydrotherapy environment
2. Understand the impact of pathophysiology of medical, orthopaedic and neurological conditions	2.1. Describe the pathophysiology of common canine orthopaedic conditions 2.2. Describe the pathophysiology of common medical conditions 2.3. Describe the pathophysiology of common neurological conditions
3. Understand the healing process and common canine muscle injuries	3.1. Describe the canine healing process 3.2. Describe common canine muscle injuries seen in clinical hydrotherapy
4. Understand the conditioning and fitness requirements of the canine athlete or working dog	4.1. Describe the roles of four different athletic dogs 4.2. Describe the difference between anaerobic and aerobic respiration relevant to athletic dogs 4.3. Evaluate the conditioning and fitness requirements for an athletic dog

Unit title:	Hydrotherapy Water Management and Sustainable Practice
Level:	4
Credit value:	4
GLH:	20
TQT:	37
Unit code:	436
Unit reference number:	H/651/1240
Unit aim:	<p>The aim of this unit is to provide Candidates with the clinical skills linked to the knowledge and understanding of water testing and devising actionable solutions is pivotal to safe practice, which is both a professional and legal obligation.</p> <p>This unit will enable the Candidate to find solutions for water management challenges in the canine clinical hydrotherapy setting and is an important part of successful centre management in offering a quality professional service in canine clinical hydrotherapy. Working within the legal framework and implementing effective policies and protocols for safe a current practice is a requirement for all healthcare professionals.</p>
Number of learning outcomes	6

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will:	The learner can:
1. Understand the legal and professional obligations required for safe canine hydrotherapy water management	1.1. Explain the legal obligations required for safe canine hydrotherapy water management 1.2. Explain the professional obligations required for safe and effective canine hydrotherapy water management
2. Understand efficient plant design requirements for canine hydrotherapy	2.1. Describe the filtration system for clinical hydrotherapy 2.2. Explain the purpose of the filtration system and plant 2.3. Evaluate the back wash procedure to optimise good water quality in clinical hydrotherapy 2.4. Evaluate the essential requirements for an efficient and sustainable plant
3. Be able to operate plant	3.1. Demonstrate a back wash procedure 3.2. Demonstrate other operations of plant
4. Understand the appropriate use of chemicals and products for effective water treatment and clinic biosecurity	4.1. Explain safe and effective use of chemicals in water treatment 4.2. Explain water testing regimes and implementation for safe practice 4.3. Evaluate infection control and cleaning processes for a canine hydrotherapy clinic

5. Be able to carry out water testing	5.1. Demonstrate water testing methods in clinical hydrotherapy
	5.2. Justify action plans for water testing results
	5.3. Discuss water management strategies and solutions in hydrotherapy
6. Understand sustainable and eco-friendly designs and approaches for canine hydrotherapy practice	6.1. Evaluate sustainable and eco-friendly approaches and strategies for the hydrotherapy clinic
	6.2. Evaluate sustainable and eco-friendly approaches and strategies for the hydrotherapy equipment and plant

Unit title:	Professionalism, Ethics and Legalities for Therapists
Level:	4
Credit value:	3
GLH:	9
TQT:	30
Unit code:	437
Unit reference number:	J/651/1241
Unit aim:	<p>The aim of this unit is to provide Candidates with an understanding of the importance of having a comprehensive understanding of professional obligations, duties and accountability as a professional working in canine clinical hydrotherapy. Candidates will discuss and reflect on some of the moral and ethical conflicts that may be encountered in clinical practice when working as a canine healthcare professional. Candidates will know the importance of working within their scope of practice, understand their imitations and abide by the Code of Practice of their Professional Association.</p> <p>This unit empowers professionalism to include appropriate interpersonal skills and effective communication skills required from a canine healthcare professional working cohesively a part of the multidisciplinary team (MDT). Candidates will be able to effectively communicate and act in a professional manner, manage conflict and understand their responsibilities to seek appropriate help and advice.</p>
Number of learning outcomes	4

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will:	The learner can:
1. Understand the legal and ethical duties of the therapist to clients, colleagues and dogs	1.1. Explain the purpose of the Multidisciplinary team (MDT)
	1.2. Explain the function of the Multidisciplinary team (MDT)
	1.3. Describe the principles of Duty of Care in relation to clinical hydrotherapy
	1.4. Analyse ethical issues that may arise with clients, colleagues and dogs in clinical hydrotherapy
	1.5. Review current UK legislation and its impact on clinical hydrotherapy practice
2. Understand the application of ethical principles to clinical hydrotherapy	2.1. Define your practice ethos for canine clinical hydrotherapy
	2.2. Evaluate ethical challenges arising in canine hydrotherapy practice
	2.3. Review canine healthcare and wellbeing strategies using ethical principles.
3. Understand the importance of professional accountability	3.1. Define what is meant by “scope of practice” of a therapist in clinical hydrotherapy
	3.2. Explain the functions of professional regulation

	3.3. Interpret a code of conduct and guidelines relevant to canine hydrotherapy
	3.4. Evaluate professional report writing in clinical hydrotherapy practice
4. Understand the principles of consent for hydrotherapy treatment	4.1. Evaluate the legal and professional requirements for consent to treat
	4.2. Evaluate barriers to informed consent in hydrotherapy practice

Unit title:	Canine Assessment Processes and Clinical Reasoning
Level:	4
Credit value:	5
GLH:	30
TQT:	55
Unit code:	438
Unit reference number:	L/651/1243
Unit aim:	<p>The aim of this unit is to gain the understanding and skills of the canine assessment processes linked to a clinical reasoned pathway, to ensure accurate and valid assessment findings are achieved. Hydrotherapists need to be able to assess risk effectively, to include evaluating the canine patient's suitability for hydrotherapy, as well as collecting data and information and understanding the clinical reasoned pathway to process this information.</p> <p>This unit provides the clinical basis of decision making and selection of appropriate techniques to offer the individual dog a safe and a beneficial treatment plan using relevant risk assessment skills. This unit will enable the Candidate to understand the assessment process for safe practice. It is imperative that at all times Candidates act within their area of professional competencies and understand their scope of practice.</p>
Number of learning outcomes	5

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will:	The learner can:
1. Understand the different components of the canine assessment process for clinical hydrotherapy	1.1. Identify the different components of an assessment for clinical hydrotherapy
	1.2. Describe the elements of the history component as part of the subjective assessment
	1.3. Describe the elements of the observation component of canine assessment
	1.4. Describe the elements of the hands-on examination, of the objective part of the canine assessment
	1.5. Devise a problem list from the history data for specific cases
	1.6. Devise SMART Goals from the problem list for specific cases
	1.7. Evaluate the selection of treatment technique(s) to meet the SMART Goals, for specific cases
2. Understand clinical reasoning as part of the assessment process in clinical hydrotherapy	2.1. Describe clinical reasoning relevant to hydrotherapy practice
	2.2. Evaluate a clinical reasoned pathway as part of the assessment process in hydrotherapy

3. Be able to apply a clinical reasoned pathway to the assessment process	3.1. Demonstrate a clinical reasoned pathway of the assessment process in hydrotherapy
4. Understand re-assessments and outcome measures in clinical hydrotherapy	4.1. Describe the use of canine outcome measures prior to administering the treatment plan
	4.2. Describe the use of canine outcome measures once the treatment plan has commenced
	4.3. Explain the purpose of re-assessment in canine clinical hydrotherapy
	4.4. Explain the differences in accuracy, reliability and validity in canine clinical assessment processes
5. Understand effective communication skills between therapist, dog and owner in clinical hydrotherapy	5.1. Evaluate strategies for effective communication with the dog in clinical practice
	5.2. Evaluate strategies for effective communication with the owner in clinical practice

Unit title:	Canine Advanced Hydrotherapy Pool Techniques
Level:	4
Credit value:	7
GLH:	35
TQT:	70
Unit code:	439
Unit reference number:	L/651/1252
Unit aim:	<p>The aim of this unit is to progress the Candidate's clinical competencies and proprioceptive enriched treatment techniques when using a hydrotherapy pool, to achieve positive outcomes for each canine client.</p> <p>Candidates will link knowledge and understanding of canine assessment processes, canine behaviour, functional anatomy, breed biology and the pathophysiology of underlying issues to their clinically reasoned selection of aquatic treatment techniques. This unit is clinically and practically enriched to ensure candidates can devise a specific treatment plan to meet each dog's functional and mobility needs.</p>
Number of learning outcomes	16

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will:	The learner can:
1. Be able to conduct therapeutic preparation for canine cases using a hydrotherapy pool	1.1. Demonstrate preparation of the clinical environment for the safe application of hydrotherapy treatment 1.2. Demonstrate selection and fitting of canine equipment for the safe application of hydrotherapy treatment 1.3. Demonstrate Therapeutic Handling techniques to interact and direct the canine patient in the clinical environment
2. Understand how to conduct therapeutic showering techniques	2.1. Explain the use of a range of Therapeutic Showering techniques as part of a treatment for specific cases
3. Be able to conduct therapeutic showering techniques	3.1. Demonstrate the use of a range of Therapeutic Showering techniques as part of a treatment
4. Understand how to conduct safe entry and exit techniques for hydrotherapy pool access	4.1. Explain how to use entry and exit techniques for hydrotherapy pool access for specific cases
5. Be able to conduct safe entry and exit techniques for hydrotherapy pool access	5.1. Demonstrate entry and exit techniques as part of the hydrotherapy treatment
6. Understand how to conduct health monitoring during the application of hydrotherapy treatments	6.1. Explain different monitoring methods and health checks for specific cases

7. Be able to conduct health monitoring during the application of hydrotherapy treatments	7.1. Demonstrate monitoring methods and health checks
8. Understand how to conduct manual therapeutic techniques as part of hydrotherapy treatments	8.1. Explain a range of manual techniques
9. Be able to conduct manual therapeutic techniques as part of hydrotherapy treatments	9.1. Demonstrate a range of manual techniques
10. Understand how to conduct Therapeutic Movement Shaping techniques as part of hydrotherapy treatments	10.1. Explain the use of Therapeutic Movement Shaping techniques
11. Be able to conduct Therapeutic Movement Shaping techniques as part of hydrotherapy treatments	11.1. Demonstrate Therapeutic Movement Shaping techniques
12. Understand how to conduct Therapeutic Exercise as part of hydrotherapy treatments	12.1. Explain static and dynamic Therapeutic Exercise techniques
13. Be able to conduct Therapeutic Exercise as part of hydrotherapy treatments	13.1. Demonstrate static and dynamic Therapeutic Exercise techniques
14. Understand how to conduct appropriate aftercare following clinical hydrotherapy treatments	14.1. Explain aftercare following clinical hydrotherapy treatment
15. Be able to conduct appropriate aftercare following clinical hydrotherapy treatments	15.1. Carry out aftercare following the application of clinical hydrotherapy treatment
16. Understand how to review the efficacy of hydrotherapy treatment techniques	16.1. Reflect on your selection of clinical treatment techniques for specific cases
	16.2. Reflect on your performance during the clinical hydrotherapy session for specific cases
	16.3. Reflect on canine responses and outcomes of a clinical hydrotherapy treatment

Unit title:	Canine Advanced Aquatic Treadmill Techniques
Level:	4
Credit value:	7
GLH:	35
TQT:	70
Unit code:	440
Unit reference number:	T/651/1255
Unit aim:	<p>The aim of this unit is to progress a Candidate's clinical competencies and proprioceptive enriched treatment techniques when using an aquatic treadmill, to achieve positive outcomes for each canine client.</p> <p>Candidates will link knowledge and understanding of canine assessment processes, behaviour, functional anatomy, breed biology and pathophysiology of underlying issues to their clinically reasoned selection of aquatic treatment techniques. This unit is clinically and practically enriched to ensure candidates can devise a specific treatment plan to meet each dog's functional and mobility needs.</p>
Number of learning outcomes	9

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will:	The learner can:
1. Be able to conduct therapeutic preparation for canine cases using an aquatic treadmill	1.1. Demonstrate preparation of the clinical environment for the safe application of hydrotherapy treatment 1.2. Demonstrate selection and fitting of canine equipment for the safe application of hydrotherapy treatment 1.3. Demonstrate Therapeutic Handling techniques to interact and direct with the canine patient in the clinical environment
2. Understand how to conduct therapeutic showering techniques	2.1. Explain the use of a range of Therapeutic Showering techniques as part of a treatment for specific cases
3. Be able to conduct therapeutic showering techniques	3.1. Demonstrate the use of a range of Therapeutic Showering techniques as part of a treatment
4. Understand how to conduct safe entry and exit techniques for aquatic treadmill access	4.1. Explain how to use entry and exit techniques for aquatic treadmill access for specific cases
5. Be able to conduct safe entry and exit techniques for aquatic treadmill access	5.1. Demonstrate entry and exit techniques as part of the hydrotherapy treatment
6. Understand how to conduct health monitoring during the application of hydrotherapy treatments	6.1. Explain different monitoring methods and health checks for specific cases
7. Be able to conduct health monitoring during the application of hydrotherapy treatments	7.1. Demonstrate monitoring methods and health checks

8. Understand how to conduct manual therapeutic techniques as part of hydrotherapy treatments	8.1. Explain a range of manual techniques
9. Be able to conduct manual therapeutic techniques as part of hydrotherapy treatments	9.1. Demonstrate a range of manual techniques
10. Understand how to conduct Therapeutic Movement Shaping techniques as part of hydrotherapy treatments	10.1. Explain the use of Therapeutic Movement Shaping techniques
11. Be able to conduct Therapeutic Movement Shaping techniques as part of hydrotherapy treatments	11.1. Demonstrate Therapeutic Movement Shaping techniques
12. Understand how to conduct Therapeutic Exercise as part of hydrotherapy treatments	12.1. Explain static and dynamic Therapeutic Exercise techniques
13. Be able to conduct Therapeutic Exercise as part of hydrotherapy treatments	13.1. Demonstrate static and dynamic Therapeutic Exercise techniques
14. Understand how to conduct appropriate aftercare following clinical hydrotherapy treatments	14.1. Explain aftercare following clinical hydrotherapy treatment
15. Be able to conduct appropriate aftercare following clinical hydrotherapy treatments	15.1. Carry out aftercare following the application of clinical hydrotherapy treatment
16. Understand how to review the efficacy of hydrotherapy treatment techniques	16.1. Reflect on your selection of clinical treatment techniques for specific cases
	16.2. Reflect on your performance during the clinical hydrotherapy session for specific cases
	16.3. Reflect on canine responses and outcomes of a clinical hydrotherapy treatment

Assessment information

All Assessment Criteria must be evidenced. For guidance on assessment, including principles of assessment and methods which may be used, Training Providers should consult the 'Assessment' section of the iPET Network Qualification Handbook and relevant policies.

Sector Subject Area (SSA)	3.3
Date from which qualification will be available for learners	12/04/2024
Qualification review date	12/04/2026

11. Suggested Learning Resources

Qualification	Suggested Learning Resources
Level 4 Diploma in Canine Clinical Hydrotherapy	<p>Literature</p> <p>Fisher, S., & Miller, M. (2007). <i>Unlock Your Dog's Potential: How to Achieve a Calm and Happy Canine</i>. David & Charles. ISBN-10 : 0715326384 ISBN-13 : 978-0715326381.</p> <p>Platt, S., Oldby, N. and Beltran, E. (2024) <i>BSAVA Manual of Canine and Feline Neurology</i>. 5th ed. British Small Animal Veterinary Association.</p> <p>Gardiner, A (2014). <i>The Dog Anatomy Workbook: A Guide to the Canine Body</i>. J.A. Allen. ISBN-10 : 0851319831 ISBN-13 : 978-0851319834</p> <p>Waining M. Young I. S. Williams S. B. (2011) <i>Evaluation of the status of canine hydrotherapy in the UK</i>. Veterinary Record doi: 10.1136/vr.c6842</p> <p>Websites / Associations</p> <p>https://www.rampregister.org/education https://www.irvap.org.uk/</p>

12. Supporting Documents and General

The following documents contain essential information for Training Providers delivering iPET Network qualifications. They should be referred to in conjunction with this handbook. To download the documents and to find other useful documents, go to www.ipetnetwork.co.uk, the web portal or SharePoint.

iPET Network Training Provider Manual
iPET Network Quality Assurance Requirements
Malpractice and Maladministration Policy and Procedure (including Sanctions)

Document Control

Document Name: Level 4 Diploma in Canine Clinical Hydrotherapy - Qualification Specification

Document Number: Q178

Date of Correction	Version Number	Correction Reason
	1	
16/04/2024	2	Update to assessment section 7 and review date
08/05/2024	3	Updated to include NARCH statement