

**iPET Network**  
**Level 3 Diploma in Canine**  
**Nutrition**  
**Qualification Number - 603/7213/8**  
**Qualification Guide**



## **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 3 Diploma in Canine Nutrition is designed to explore the most up to date research and practice permeating the canine nutrition arena. It is aimed at Candidates who see and experience how nutrition affects the canine and subsequently want to develop their learning and understanding to inform their own development or professional practice. It is designed to be flexible to meet the real life needs of those who are currently working in the industry. Candidates must demonstrate knowledge of canine welfare and be committed to developing their personal and professional development.

Leading industry experts Lisa Hannaby, Jacqui Byrne and Caroline Griffith have helped write and review this qualification to ensure the outcome is appropriate for the Canine Nutrition industry and the continued growth and development of the sector.

### Objectives of the qualification

This qualification is aimed to lead Candidates into being able to develop a knowledge and understanding to a superior and professional level. Depending on the needs of the individual Candidate, the qualification can:

- prepare individuals to progress within their current role
- prepare Candidates for career development
- support a role in the workplace
- support continuous professional standards
- encourage engagement in learning.

This qualification has been designed to enable Candidates to:

- access flexible, distance learning
- work within in the pet food, canine health, and welfare industry to a professional standard
- understand the principles of canine nutrition and changes at different life stages
- gain knowledge and understanding of canine anatomy and physiology and the impact of canine evolution
- carry out research and compile a literature review of their findings
- understand the history and development of the pet food industry
- understand the importance of the microbiome and behaviour

Suggested progression following completion of qualification:

- higher qualification in similar subject area
- gain employment within pet food/nutrition industry
- gain employment within the animal care industry

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

The iPET Network Level 3 Diploma in Canine Nutrition 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 3 Diploma in Canine Nutrition**

GLH (Guided Learning Hours): 75

TQT (Total Qualification Time): 380

#### **Qualification Delivery Requirements**

The Summative Formal Assessment may take place either remotely or in-person and may be pre-recorded.

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

Level 2 or Equivalent in Animal Care (or related)

or

Demonstrate knowledge and experience within canine care and welfare for a minimum of 5 years

### Minimum age

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

Training Providers ought to satisfy themselves that Candidates have a level of maturity appropriate for units included in the courses that they offer. If in doubt, please contact iPET Network for advice.

### Reasonable Adjustment and Special Considerations

Assessment within the iPET Network Level 3 Diploma in Canine Nutrition training is designed to be accessible and inclusive. The assessment methodology is appropriate and rigorous for individuals or groups of Candidates.

If you have Candidates with identified learning needs you should refer to the Reasonable Adjustment and Special Considerations Policy, available from iPET Network. This 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 at iPET Network.

## 3. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Exemption (also known as 'Recognition of Prior Certificated Learning) - 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 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,
- Support and guidance, they may need when working towards their qualification,
- The appropriate 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., contract.

## 5. Achieving the qualification

### Credits

To be awarded the iPET Network Level 3 Diploma in Canine Nutrition, Candidates must achieve 38 credits.

### Unit achievement

All of the assessment criteria in a 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 Candidates achievement of each unit on an appropriate form(s) or electronic system. Training Providers should record the Candidates achievement against the specific unit assessment criteria evidenced by the task.

### Authentication of the Candidates' work

Tutors must demonstrate that the Candidates work is authentic. This can be done through using iPET Network's E-portfolio system which provides secure access to each Candidate or an alternative E-portfolio system. If a Training Provider is using paper portfolio, then they must demonstrate authentic work and 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 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 **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.

## 6. Qualification structure


### Units

iPET Network Reference No.	Title	Level	Credit	GLH	TQT	Unit Reference number
410	Principles of Canine Nutrition	4	8	30	80	K/618/6582
320	Canine Digestive Anatomy and Physiology	3	3	10	30	M/618/6583
321	Life Stage Canine Nutrition	3	3	5	30	T/618/6584
322	Canine Evolution	3	3	5	30	A/618/6585
323	Pet Food	3	7	10	70	F/618/6586
411	Canine Microbiome, Immunity and Behaviour	4	7	10	70	J/618/6587
412	Research in Canine Nutrition	4	7	5	70	L/618/6588

### Level descriptor

Level	Knowledge Descriptor (the holder...)	Skills Descriptor (the holder can...)
Level 3	Has factual, procedural and theoretical knowledge and understanding of a subject or field of work to complete tasks that while well-defined, may be complex and non-routine. Can interpret and evaluate relevant information and ideas. Is aware of the nature of the area of study or work. Is aware of different perspectives or approaches within the area of study or work.	Identify, select and use appropriate cognitive and practical skills, methods and procedures to address problems that while well-defined, may be complex and non-routine. Use appropriate investigation to inform actions. Review how effective methods and actions have been.
Level 4	Has practical, theoretical or technical knowledge and	Identify, adapt and use appropriate cognitive and



	<p>understanding of a subject or field of work to address problems that are well defined but complex and non-routine. Can analyse, interpret and evaluate relevant information and ideas. Is aware of the nature of approximate scope of the area of study or work. Has an informed awareness of different perspectives or approaches within the area of study or work.</p>	<p>practical skills to inform actions and address problems that are complex and non-routine while normally fairly well-defined. 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 iPET Network and provided to the Training Provider or assessments may be devised 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.

### Marking

These assessments are graded as pass or fail and the Assessors decision is final. \*

\*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 the instructions on their rights to appeal. All Training Providers must have an up-to-date appeals procedure.

## 8. Offering the Qualification

Training Providers wishing to deliver this qualification will need to demonstrate the ability to adhere to quality assurance and assessment regulations.

All procedures for the use of this qualification or units of this qualification, including approval, registration of Candidates, quality assurance process and certification will be completed through iPET Network, who will have an allocated member of the Quality Team to support the Training Provider. Any queries or difficulties should be directed to the allocated Team member or if they are not available, via the iPET Network office on 0800 433 4700.

### Approval to offer the qualification

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

To offer this qualification, potential Training Providers must apply for Training Provider approval with iPET Network. Applications can be made via email [info@ipetnetwork.co.uk](mailto:info@ipetnetwork.co.uk) or by calling 0800 433 4700.

In addition, to gain approval to offer the qualification, Training Providers must apply by submitting an iPET Network **Qualification Form** which can be downloaded from the website.

For more information, visit our website [www.ipetnetwork.co.uk](http://www.ipetnetwork.co.uk).

### 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 Handbook.

### **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.

## **9. Requirements to Offer This Qualification**

To offer this qualification, Training Providers must ensure that Tutors delivering this qualification have one of the following recognised professional qualifications:

- A Level 3 or above Qualification involving Canine Nutrition (examples detailed below);
  - iPET Network Level 3 Diploma in Canine Nutrition
  - City and Guilds Level 3 Diploma in Animal Care and Welfare (where Canine Nutrition has been covered)
  - SEG Awards Certa Level 4 Certificate in Canine and Feline Veterinary Health Nutrition

Or

Other qualifications that may be considered along with a CV demonstrating knowledge, skills and experience in canine nutrition are:

- Level 3 or equivalent in Biochemistry
- A Levels to include Biology
- BTEC Applied Science
- Undergraduate Science Based Degree

Or

Demonstrate a CV / career profile of skills, knowledge, experience and achievements. This will be accepted at the discretion of the Awarding Organisation.

And

holds a teaching certificate (examples detailed below) and / or can demonstrate teaching experience:

- the iPET Network Level Award for Educators in the Canine and Feline Sector; or
- the Level 3 Award in Education and Training; or
- the 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.

Training Providers must also ensure that they have in place an Internal Quality Assurance person 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 qualifications in Animal Care
- 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. Suggested learning resources

Qualification	Suggested learning resources
<b>Principles of Canine Nutrition</b>	<p><b>Literature</b></p> <p>Dr. Conor Brady – Feeding Dogs ISBN: 9781916234000</p> <p>Small Animal Clinical Nutrition – Hand, Thatcher, Remillard, Roudebush ISBN-13: 978-0945837053</p> <p>Canine and Feline Nutrition – Case, Daristotle, Hayek, Raasch ISBN-13 : 978-032306619</p> <p>The Best Dog Diet Ever – Caroline Griffith ISBN 0957168306, 9780957168305</p> <p><b>Websites:</b></p> <p><a href="https://veterinary-practice.com/">https://veterinary-practice.com/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.cliniciansbrief.com/">https://www.cliniciansbrief.com/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.bellaandduke.com/podcast-category/podcasts/page/5/">https://www.bellaandduke.com/podcast-category/podcasts/page/5/</a></p>
<b>Canine Anatomy and Physiology</b>	<p><b>Literature</b></p> <p>Canine and Feline Nutrition – Case, Daristotle, Hayek, Raasch ISBN-13 : 978-032306619</p> <p>The Complete Book of Cat and Dog Health – Lise Hansen ISBN 1787114155</p>

<b>Life Stage Nutrition</b>	<b>Literature</b> Canine and Feline Nutrition – Case, Daristotle, Hayek, Raasch ISBN-13 : 978-032306619 The Complete Book of Cat and Dog Health – Lise Hansen ISBN 1787114155
<b>Canine Evolution</b>	<b>Literature</b> The Domestic Dog – James Serpell ISBN: 978-0521425377 Feeding Dr. Conor Brady – Feeding Dogs ISBN: 9781916234000 The Complete Book of Cat and Dog Health – Lise Hansen ISBN 1787114155
<b>Pet Food</b>	<b>Literature</b> Dr. Conor Brady – Feeding Dogs ISBN: 9781916234000 The Best Dog Diet Ever – Caroline Griffith ISBN 0957168306, 9780957168305  <b>Websites</b>  <a href="http://www.pfma.org.uk">www.pfma.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.rfvs.info">www.rfvs.info</a> <a href="https://fediaf.org/self-regulation/nutrition.html#guidelines">https://fediaf.org/self-regulation/nutrition.html#guidelines</a> <a href="https://fediaf.org/prepared-pet-foods/recipes-and-processing.html">https://fediaf.org/prepared-pet-foods/recipes-and-processing.html</a> <a href="https://fediaf.org/self-regulation/legislation.html">https://fediaf.org/self-regulation/legislation.html</a> <a href="https://fediaf.org/-%22/68-dcs-nutrition-fact-sheets%22">https://fediaf.org/-%22/68-dcs-nutrition-fact-sheets%22</a>
<b>The Microbiome, Immunity and Behaviour</b>	<b>Literature</b> Missing Microbes – Martin Blaser ISBN: 978-1250069276 Spoon Fed – Tim Spector ISBN 978-1787332294 Psychobiotic Revolution – Scott Anderson, John F Cryan ISBN: 978-1426219641 10% Human – Alanna Collen ISBN: 978-0007584055 The Gut Stuff – Lisa and Alana Macfarlane ISBN: 978-1911663478 Immunity: The Science of Staying Well – Dr Jenna Macciochi 978-0008370268

<p><b>Research in Canine Nutrition</b></p>	<p><b>Literature</b> Bad Pharma – Ben Goldacre ISBN 000749808X How to Write Your Literature Review Bryan Greetham ISBN: 978-1352011043</p> <p><b>Websites</b> <a href="https://www.sciencedirect.com/">https://www.sciencedirect.com/</a> <a href="https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/">https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/</a> <a href="https://academic.oup.com/jn">https://academic.oup.com/jn</a></p>
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## 11. 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](http://www.ipetnetwork.co.uk) or the web portal.

iPET Network Training Provider Manual

iPET Network Quality Assurance Requirements

iPET Network Assessment Strategy

Malpractice and Maladministration Policy and Procedure (including Sanctions)

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Email: [info@ipetnetwork.co.uk](mailto:info@ipetnetwork.co.uk)

Web: [www.ipetnetwork.co.uk](http://www.ipetnetwork.co.uk)

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