

# OCN LONDON

## QUALIFICATION GUIDE

### Level 4 Diploma in Canine Hydrotherapy



# OCN London Qualification Guide

OCNLR Level 4 Diploma in Canine Hydrotherapy  
Qualification No: 603/3467/8

OCN London aims to support learning and widening opportunities by recognising achievement through credit-based courses and qualifications, promoting high standards of excellence and inclusiveness.

We are proud of our long-term role and unique history in providing, innovative learning solutions for a wide range of learners and particularly those who have not previously benefitted from education.

At the heart of what OCN London offers is:

- a commitment to inclusive credit-based learning;
- the creative use of credit with responsive, demand-led qualification development;
- high quality service and support;
- respect for and encouragement of diversity – in learners and learning approaches, partners and settings;
- the development of people, capacity and resources that will ensure effective business partnerships.

### **To navigate within this Qualification Guide**

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## General Information

This qualification guide contains details of everything you need to know about the [OCNLR Level 4 Diploma in Canine Hydrotherapy](#). It makes reference to the curriculum areas covered, identifies the learners for whom the qualification has been developed and specifies the rules of combination for achievement of the qualification. The guide also covers important aspects of assessment and moderation that are particular to this qualification. The guide should be used by all involved in the delivery and assessment of the qualification.

The Curriculum and Relationship Development Manager (CRDM) for your Centre will provide support and advice on how to seek approval to offer this qualification. Please contact the main switchboard for the name of your CRDM if you do not already know it. If you are not yet an OCN London Approved Centre but wish to use this qualification, please contact the administrative team at OCN London for details of the Centre Approval application process.

## Qualification Overview

The [OCNLR Level 4 Diploma in Canine Hydrotherapy](#) is aimed at helping people to advance their skills and knowledge as canine hydrotherapists thereby ensuring high standards of care. The qualification focuses on both hydrotherapy theory and the practical application of skills and knowledge.

Learners will benefit by gaining an insight into how they might ethically and responsibly treat animals with hydrotherapy.

The [OCNLR Level 4 Diploma in Canine Hydrotherapy](#) is regulated by Ofqual, the qualifications regulator for England, and is registered on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF).

### Qualification details

The [OCNLR Level 4 Diploma in Canine Hydrotherapy](#) is available at Level 4 and there is also an Award at Level 4. *(There is a Level 3 Certificate in Canine Hydrotherapy and a Level 2 Award for Canine Hydrotherapists. See separate Qualification Guides for these related qualifications.)*

#### Level 4 Diploma

- Qualification Number: 603/3467/8
- Qualification credit value: 37
- Operational start date: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018
- Review date: 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023
- Guided Learning Hours (GLH): 88
- Total Qualification Time (TQT): 370 hours
- Assessment requirements: internally assessed, internally and externally moderated.

### Purpose of the qualification

The purpose of the qualification is to help learners gain the knowledge and skills required to obtain employment in the canine hydrotherapy sector. Skills learnt may aid their continued study, for example in higher education, and / or help with employment related skills, whether in a related vocation or more generally.

This qualification has been developed in partnership with *Greyfriars Veterinary Rehabilitation and Hydrotherapy Referrals*.

### Who the qualification is for

The [OCNLR Level 4 Diploma in Canine Hydrotherapy](#) is suitable for adults who are working, or want to work, in the canine hydrotherapy sector.

### Requirements for delivering the qualification

Please refer to the sections on [tutor/assessor requirements for specific units](#) and [facility requirements](#) before applying to deliver this qualification. It should be noted that Centres

delivering this qualification need to ensure learners have access to the facilities and equipment needed for them to carry out, and provide evidence of, 20 hours of practical activity (4 hours for 'Gait Analysis for Canine Hydrotherapy', 6 hours for 'Massage for Canine Hydrotherapy' and 10 hours for either 'Applied Hydrotherapy Pool Techniques for Canine Hydrotherapy' or 'Applied Water Treadmill Techniques for Canine Hydrotherapy').

## Entry guidance

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

Learners must have competent language skills in both spoken and written English.

## Educational pre-requisites

This qualification is suitable for learners who have completed the:

- OCNLR Level 3 Certificate in Canine Hydrotherapy;
- OCNLR Level 4 Award in Canine Hydrotherapy;
- ABC Awards Level 3 Certificate in Small Animal Hydrotherapy; or
- ABC Awards Level 3 Diploma in Small Animal Hydrotherapy.

Recognised Prior Learning (RPL) will be considered and assessed on an individual basis. Prior learning and achievement must be current to be used by the learner, which will normally be within the last three years.

## Progression and related qualifications

The [OCNLR Level 4 Diploma in Canine Hydrotherapy](#) will enable learners to build on their experience of canine hydrotherapy and advance their skills and knowledge as canine hydrotherapists. This qualification is a gateway to higher level qualifications in this subject.

## Structure of the Qualification

### Rules of combination for achievement

The **OCNLR Level 4 Diploma in Canine Hydrotherapy** comprises seven mandatory units and two optional units. Learners must achieve 37 credits in total, i.e., eight units.

It is important that 'Gait Analysis for Canine Hydrotherapy' is completed first in the order of study.

### Qualification units

Ofqual Unit Reference Number	OCNLR Unit Code	Unit Title	Level	Credit Value	GLH
<b>Mandatory</b>					
<a href="#">L/617/1590</a>	SP2/4/LQ/001	Gait Analysis for Canine Hydrotherapy	4	3	8
<a href="#">R/617/1591</a>	SP2/4/LQ/002	Canine Behaviour in a Hydrotherapy Setting	4	3	8
<a href="#">K/617/1631</a>	SP2/4/LQ/008	Applied Neurology and Biomechanics for Canine Hydrotherapy	4	6	8
<a href="#">D/617/1593</a>	SP2/4/LQ/004	Applied Anatomy and Physiology for Canine Hydrotherapy	4	6	16
<a href="#">M/617/1632</a>	SP2/4/LQ/009	Applied Orthopaedics for Canine Hydrotherapy	4	6	16
<a href="#">H/617/1630</a>	SP2/4/LQ/007	Applied Neurological and Spinal Conditions for Canine Hydrotherapy	4	4	8
<a href="#">H/617/1594</a>	SP2/4/LQ/005	Massage for Canine Hydrotherapy	4	3	8
<b>Optional</b>					
<a href="#">Y/617/1592</a>	SP2/4/LQ/003	Applied Hydrotherapy Pool Techniques for Canine Hydrotherapy	4	6	16
<a href="#">K/617/1595</a>	SP2/4/LQ/006	Applied Water Treadmill Techniques for Canine Hydrotherapy	4	6	16

*For unit content please click the Ofqual Unit Reference Number*



## Assessment and Moderation

### Assessment process

The assessment process for this qualification is as follows:

- the learners are assessed through activities that are internally set by tutor/assessors;
- the activities must be designed to enable learners to meet the assessment criteria of the unit;
- learners' portfolios of assessed evidence must be internally moderated at the Centre;
- the portfolios of assessed evidence will be externally moderated by an OCN London External Moderator.

There is no additional external assessment for this qualification.

### Devising assessments

Each unit has a supplementary page with suggestions for the types of assessment activities that can be used to assess learners against the unit. Tutor/assessors should refer to this page before devising assessment tasks.

OCN London assessment guidance relevant to the units in the qualification is in the [OCNLR Assessment Guidance and Ofqual Level Descriptors](#) section of this qualification guide. The guidance includes a general description of the activity and the type of evidence that is appropriate. The activity or activities set must enable the learners to meet the standards detailed in the assessment criteria. Please contact OCN London for further guidance on devising appropriate assessments.

Centre-devised assessments should be scrutinised by the Internal Moderator before use to ensure that they are fit for purpose. Centre-devised assessments will be scrutinised by the External Moderator to ensure reliability and validity of assessment.

### Marking assessment activities

Each activity must be marked against the identified assessment criteria in the unit and judged to be either achieved or not achieved.

Tutor/assessors need to ensure that the work in a learner's portfolio is:

- authentic – it is the result of the learner's own performance or activity;
- sufficient – enabling the tutor/assessor to make a consistent and reliable judgement;
- adequate – appropriate to the level.

Where a series of activities are set, learners must demonstrate the achievement of the required standard identified in the assessment criteria in all activities. All the assessment criteria in a unit must be met before the unit is deemed achieved.

The unit achievement is not graded. Units are either achieved or not achieved.

## Standardisation

Standardisation is a process that promotes consistency in the understanding and application of standards in relation to assessment. It:

- compares assessment judgements from different tutor/assessors;
- promotes consistent judgements by different tutor/assessors;
- identifies good practice in assessment;
- promotes the sharing of good practice in assessment between Centre staff.

Standardisation events should be held periodically within Centres to ensure consistent and effective assessment practice. Standardisation events may also be held by OCN London and it is a requirement that each Centre offering units from the qualification must contribute assessment materials and learners' evidence for standardisation, if requested.

OCN London will notify Centres of the required sample for standardisation purposes and assessment materials, learners' evidence and tutor/assessor feedback may be collected by External Moderators.

## Learners with particular requirements

If learners have particular requirements the Centre should refer to the [Access to Fair Assessment Policy and Procedure](#) which gives clear guidance on the reasonable adjustments and arrangements that can be made to take account of disability or learning difficulty, without compromising the achievement of the assessment criteria.

## Requirements for tutor/assessors and internal moderators

### To be sufficiently competent

In addition to being qualified to make assessment decisions, each tutor/assessor must be capable of carrying out the full requirements within the competency of the units they are assessing. This competence should be maintained annually through clearly demonstrable continuing learning and professional development.

Expert witnesses can be used where they have suitable expertise for specialist areas. The use of expert witnesses should be determined and agreed by the tutor/assessor.

### To be sufficiently knowledgeable

Each tutor/assessor should possess relevant knowledge and understanding of the subject and so be able to make robust and reliable assessment decisions in relation to the subject.

### Requirements for tutor/assessors to deliver specific units and facility requirements

Requirements for tutor/assessors to deliver specific units, and facility requirements are set out in the following sections (see [Table 1](#) and [Table 2](#) below).

### Requirements for internal moderators

Internal moderators must hold an internal quality assurance qualification and one qualification from Group B or C in [Table 2](#).

## Tutor/assessor requirements for specific units

Tutors/assessors must be qualified and experienced as indicated in Table 1 in order to be eligible to teach/assess the specific units identified. Qualifications in the groups referred to are listed in [Table 2](#), over the page.

**Table 1: Tutor/assessor requirements**

Unit	Tutor/Assessor Requirements (see Table 2 for Group definitions)
Gait Analysis for Canine Hydrotherapy	MRCVS or DVM or Veterinary Physiotherapist 1 from Group E
Canine Behaviour in a Hydrotherapy Setting	Canine Behaviour qualification at Level 6 or 7 1 from Group B or C 1 from Group E
Applied Neurology and Biomechanics for Canine Hydrotherapy	MRCVS, DVM or Veterinary Physiotherapist 1 from Group E
Applied Anatomy and Physiology for Canine Hydrotherapy	MRCVS, DVM or Veterinary Physiotherapist 1 from Group E
Applied Orthopaedics for Canine Hydrotherapy	MRCVS, DVM, CCRP, CCRT or Veterinary Physiotherapist 1 from Group E
Applied Neurological and Spinal Conditions for Canine Hydrotherapy	MRCVS, DVM, CCRP, CCRT or Veterinary Physiotherapist 1 from Group E
Massage for Canine Hydrotherapy	Veterinary Physiotherapist or recognised qualification in Canine Massage 1 from Group E Minimum of 2 years sector experience
Applied Hydrotherapy Pool Techniques for Canine Hydrotherapy	Relevant Level 6 qualification 1 from Group B or C 1 from Group D 1 from Group E Minimum of 5 years sector experience
Applied Water Treadmill Techniques for Canine Hydrotherapy	Relevant Level 6 qualification 1 from Group B or C (must include Advanced Water Treadmill training) 1 from Group D 1 from Group E Minimum of 5 years sector experience

**Table 2: Qualification/experience groups**

Qualification/experience Groups	Qualification/Experience
<b>Group A</b> Veterinary, physiotherapy and rehabilitation qualifications	Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (MRCVS) Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN) Certified Canine Rehabilitation Practitioner (CCRP) Certified Canine Rehabilitation Therapist (CCRT) Level 6 or 7 Veterinary Physiotherapy qualification
<b>Group B</b> Hydrotherapy qualifications	ABC Awards Level 3 Certificate in Hydrotherapy for Small Animals ABC Awards Level 3 Diploma in Hydrotherapy for Small Animals OCNLR Level 4 Award in Canine Hydrotherapy Aim Awards Level 4 Diploma in Hydrotherapy for Small Animals
<b>Group C</b> Higher level hydrotherapy qualifications	OCNLR Level 4 Award in Canine Hydrotherapy OCNLR Level 4 Diploma in Canine Hydrotherapy ABC Awards QLS Level 5 Diploma in Canine Hydrotherapy
<b>Group D</b>	Membership of the National Association of Registered Canine Hydrotherapists (NARCH), Canine Hydrotherapy Association (CHA), South African Association of Registered Canine Hydrotherapists (SAARCH) or an equivalent recognised professional canine hydrotherapy organisation/regulator
<b>Group E</b>	Certificate in Education Award in Education and Training Certificate in Education and Training Diploma in Education and Training Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (PTLLS) Certificate in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector (CTTLS) Diploma in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector (DTTLS) Teaching Degree Clinical Educator Proof of relevant teaching experience and expertise in the subject matter

## Facility requirements

In addition to having the appropriately qualified trained tutor/assessors, Centres offering this qualification must have the following facilities:

- a hydrotherapy pool that is large enough to allow students to be in the pool with trainer(s) and dog(s);
- the hydrotherapy pool should have safe access for both learners and dogs and be able to accommodate a wide range of patients, including small and large breeds;
- water treadmill – the design/model must allow students to enter the water treadmill and safely gain practical 'hands on' experience with a wide range of patients, including small and large breeds;
- a client base that enables the centre to provide practical training for students, giving experience of a wide range of patients/breeds/conditions;
- classroom facilities or access to classroom facilities.

It should be noted that Centres delivering this qualification need to ensure learners have access to the facilities and equipment needed for them to carry out, and provide evidence of, at least 20 hours of practical activity (4 hours for 'Gait Analysis for Canine Hydrotherapy', 6 hours for 'Massage for Canine Hydrotherapy' and 10 hours for either 'Applied Hydrotherapy Pool Techniques for Canine Hydrotherapy' or 'Applied Water Treadmill Techniques for Canine Hydrotherapy').

Please also note that all Centres applying to deliver this qualification will have to provide evidence that the facility requirements are met, which may include a centre approval visit.

## **OCNLR Assessment Guidance and Ofqual Level Descriptors**

For OCN London's Assessment Guidance and Ofqual's Level Descriptors relevant to this qualification, please click on the link below.

**[Level 4 Assessment Guidance and Ofqual's Level Descriptors](#)**

## About OCN London

OCN London is a well-established national awarding organisation with over 25 years' experience in accrediting learning. We are a not-for-profit organisation with charitable status, dedicated to widening participation in learning and training, social inclusion and employability. We are also a market leader in the recognition of achievement through credit-based units and qualifications. Based in London, we work with Centres both across the UK and abroad, offering national qualifications and accredited programmes.

Our mission is to provide opportunities for people from across society to benefit from learning, particularly those who have not previously benefitted from education.

### Why work with us?

- We are agile and responsive. This means you will get a personal service with direct access to a named contact and a quick turnaround.
- We pride ourselves on our close relationships with Centres. The people we work with see us as a trusted partner, not just a supplier.
- We want to help you secure the best from your learners and employees.
- We have a reputation for high quality. The OCN London brand carries national recognition and kudos.
- We are flexible and recognise the importance of accommodating the needs of different learners and different learning styles.
- We offer exceptional value for money. Just ask the people we work with.
- We are committed to the belief that learning can change lives.

OCN London is regulated by Ofqual and the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

If you would like to deliver this qualification please contact our Curriculum Development Team on **020 7689 5867**.

For further information call **020 7278 5511**. E: [enquiries@ocnlondon.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ocnlondon.org.uk)

Or visit our website: [www.ocnlondon.org.uk](http://www.ocnlondon.org.uk)



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