

# Qualification Guide

**OCNLR Level 4 Certificate in Canine  
Hydrotherapy for Veterinary Physiotherapists**

## OCN London Qualification Guide

OCNLR Level 4 Certificate in Canine Hydrotherapy for Veterinary Physiotherapists

Qualification No: 603/7547/4

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

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This qualification guide contains details of everything you need to know about the **OCNLR Level 4 Certificate in Canine Hydrotherapy for Veterinary Physiotherapists**. It makes reference to the curriculum areas covered and identifies the learners for whom the qualification has been developed. The guide also covers important aspects of assessment and moderation that are particular to the qualification. The guide should be used by all involved in the delivery and assessment of the qualification. The Account Manager for your Centre will provide support and advice on how to seek approval to offer the qualification.

If you are not yet an OCN London Approved Centre but wish to use this qualification, then please contact us on [enquiries@ocnlondon.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ocnlondon.org.uk) for details of the Centre Approval application process.

## Qualification Overview

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The **OCNLR Level 4 Certificate in Canine Hydrotherapy for Veterinary Physiotherapists** qualification is aimed at helping veterinary physiotherapists to advance their skills and knowledge in canine hydrotherapy thereby ensuring high standards of care. The qualification focuses on both hydrotherapy theory and the advanced 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 Certificate in Canine Hydrotherapy for Veterinary Physiotherapists** qualification is regulated by Ofqual, the qualifications regulator for England, and are registered on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF). It is not a licence to practise.

### Qualification details

This Qualification is available at this level only.

### Level 4 Certificate

- Qualification Number: 603/7547/4
- Qualification credit value: 30
- Operational start date: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021
- Review date: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2027
- Total Qualification Time (TQT): 300 hours
- Guided Learning Hours (GLH): 96
- Assessment requirements: internally assessed, internally and externally moderated

### Purpose of the qualification

The purpose of the **OCNLR Level 4 Certificate in Canine Hydrotherapy for Veterinary Physiotherapists** qualification is to help learners gain the advanced knowledge and skills required to practice canine hydrotherapy. Skills learnt may broaden their scope of practice to include canine hydrotherapy.

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

### Who the qualification is for

The **OCNLR Level 4 Certificate in Canine Hydrotherapy for Veterinary Physiotherapists** qualification is suitable for veterinary physiotherapists who wish to improve their skills in canine hydrotherapy.

## 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, at least 25 hours of practical application of hydrotherapy treatment including 10 hours for 'Applied Water Treadmill Techniques for Canine Hydrotherapy'.

## Entry guidance

The minimum age for access to the qualification is 19+ 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:

- Degree in Veterinary Physiotherapy;
- PGDip in Veterinary Physiotherapy;
- MSc in Veterinary Physiotherapy;
- CCRP;
- CCRT.

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 Certificate in Canine Hydrotherapy for Veterinary Physiotherapists will enable learners to build on their experience as veterinary physiotherapists and advance their skills and knowledge as canine hydrotherapists.

## Structure of the qualification

### Rules of combination for achievement

The OCNLR Level 4 Certificate in Canine Hydrotherapy for Veterinary Physiotherapists qualification comprises seven mandatory units. Learners must achieve 30 credits in total, i.e., seven units.

### Qualification units

Ofqual Unit Reference Number	OCNLR Unit Code	Unit Title	Level	Credit Value	GLH
<b>Mandatory</b>					
<a href="#">K/617/1595</a>	SP2/4/LQ/006	Applied Water Treadmill Techniques for Canine Hydrotherapy	4	6	16
<a href="#">R/618/7225</a>	SP2/4/LQ/010	Canine Hydrotherapy Theory for Veterinary Physiotherapists	4	6	24
<a href="#">K/617/1578</a>	SP2/3/LQ/002	First Aid for Canine Hydrotherapy	3	3	8
<a href="#">M/617/1579</a>	SP2/3/LQ/003	Observed Practice for Canine Hydrotherapy	3	6	24
<a href="#">Y/618/7226</a>	SP2/4/LQ/011	Orthopaedic Referrals for Canine Hydrotherapy	4	3	8
<a href="#">D/618/7227</a>	SP2/4/LQ/012	Spinal and Neurological Referrals for Canine Hydrotherapy	4	3	8
<a href="#">L/617/1587</a>	SP2/3/LQ/007	Water Management for Hydrotherapy Pools and Water Treadmills	3	3	8

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

## Assessment and Moderation

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### 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 information on the types of assessment activities that can (indicated as 'Optional' or 'O') and/or must (indicated as 'Prescribed' or 'P') be used to assess learners against the unit. Tutor assessors must always refer to this page before devising assessment tasks.

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.

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 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 of 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 this 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 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 can be found on our website at: [Access to Fair Assessment Policy and Procedure](#) and 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**

#### **To be sufficiently competent**

In addition to being qualified to make assessment decisions, each 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 assessor.

#### **To be sufficiently knowledgeable**

Each 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)
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 2 years sector experience
Canine Hydrotherapy Theory for Veterinary Physiotherapists	1 from Group B or C 1 from Group D 1 from Group E Minimum of 2 years sector experience
First Aid for Canine Hydrotherapy	MRCVS, DVM, RVN from Group A 1 from Group E
Observed Practice for Canine Hydrotherapy	1 from Group B or C 1 from Group D 1 from Group E Minimum of 2 years sector experience
Orthopaedic Referrals for Canine Hydrotherapy	1 from Group A 1 from Group B or C 1 from Group E Minimum of 2 years sector experience
Neurological Referrals for Canine Hydrotherapy	1 from Group A 1 from Group B or C 1 from Group E Minimum of 2 years sector experience
Water Management for Hydrotherapy Pools and Water Treadmills	1 from Group B, C or a Water Management Qualification 1 from Group E Minimum of 2 years sector experience in either canine hydrotherapy or pool water management

**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 25 hours of practical application of hydrotherapy treatment including 10 hours for ‘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.



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