

Qualification Guide

OCNLR Level 6 Diploma in Clinical Canine Behaviour: Theory, Practice and Application

OCN London Qualification Guide

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Qualification No: 610/5661/3

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 6 Diploma in Clinical Canine Behaviour: Theory, Practice and Application**. 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.

Qualification Overview

The **OCNLR Level 6 Diploma in Clinical Canine Behaviour: Theory, Practice and Application** qualification has been developed to equip learners with advanced, practice-oriented knowledge and skills in the field of clinical canine behaviour. The qualification focuses on the direct application of behavioural theory and evidence-based methodologies to real-life scenarios, with a particular emphasis on inclusive learning and relevance to contemporary practice.

Unlike more traditional academic routes into behaviour study, this diploma has been specifically designed to remove barriers to entry and ensure learners can engage with high-level concepts through applied, accessible means. Learners will explore behavioural science and canine neuroscience and psychology while developing a professional approach to assessment, case management and behaviour modification that prepares them for real-world roles.

The **OCNLR Level 6 Diploma in Clinical Canine Behaviour: Theory, Practice and Application** qualification is regulated by Ofqual, the qualifications regulator for England, and is 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 6 Diploma

- Qualification Number: 610/5661/3
- Qualification credit value: 120
- Operational start date: 01/05/2025
- Review date: 01/05/2027
- Total Qualification Time (TQT): 1200
- Guided Learning Hours (GLH): 660
- Assessment requirements: internally assessed, internally and externally moderated

Purpose of the qualification

The purpose of the **OCNLR Level 6 Diploma in Clinical Canine Behaviour: Theory, Practice and Application** qualification is to develop competent, capable, qualified and ethically-aware clinical canine behaviour practitioners who are prepared to meet the demands of contemporary professional practice in the canine behaviour sector. This qualification enables learners to gain a high level of theoretical understanding while placing a strong emphasis on the practical application of knowledge.

This qualification prepares learners for employment, self-employment or progression in the canine behaviour industry by supporting them to acquire both the technical and professional

skills required for clinical practice. The diploma also provides a foundation for further study in higher education or specialist training pathways within veterinary or animal behaviour disciplines.

This qualification has been developed with Behavet and The Canine Behaviour College and is restricted in use to The Canine Behaviour College.

Who the qualification is for

The **OCNLR Level 6 Diploma in Clinical Canine Behaviour: Theory, Practice and Application** qualification is suitable for adult learners who are currently working with dogs, have aspirations to enter the canine behaviour field or wish to formalise and extend their understanding of canine behaviour in a professional context.

It is particularly suitable for individuals looking to become clinical canine behaviourists, including those seeking to transition into a new career, upskill from existing canine roles or pursue a structured pathway toward advanced study or professional recognition. The qualification is accessible to learners without prior formal qualifications or experience, provided they meet the entry guidance below.

Entry guidance

This qualification is suitable for learners aged 18+. To undertake this qualification, learners must have competent language skills in both spoken and written English, sufficient to engage with the course content and complete assessments.

There are no specific *prior* qualifications required for entry onto this qualification, and learners are not expected to have academic experience in the subject prior to enrolment. The course is designed to be inclusive and supportive of a wide range of learners, including those who may have previously felt excluded by traditional academic pathways.

To complete certain components of the qualification, learners will require access to at least one dog. This access is essential to fulfil some of the practical assessment elements. The learner's pet dog can be used for this purpose.

The Canine Behaviour College aims to recruit with integrity and ensure learners are capable of successfully engaging with and completing the demands of the qualification. Support is built into the course through guided learning and structured content delivery.

Progression and related qualifications

Following successful completion of this qualification, learners may progress into employment or self-employment as clinical canine behaviourists and may apply to professional membership bodies, depending on the requirements of industry organisations and employers.

The qualification also provides a strong foundation for further study, including higher education in animal behaviour, specialist clinical training routes and further continuing professional development (CPD).

The applied nature of this qualification means that learners will be well-positioned to contribute meaningfully to professional practice and to support the well-being of dogs and their owners through ethical, evidence-based behavioural interventions.

Guidance on delivering this qualification

At least one person in the delivery team must have, as a minimum (or equivalent), a:

- Level 6 Diploma in Canine Behaviour
- BSc in Animal Behaviour
- MSc in Animal Behaviour
- VetMB, BVetMed, BVM BVS BVMedSci, BVM&S, BVMS, BVMSci, BVSc (MRCVS) or DVM

Please contact OCN London for decisions on particular qualifications if in doubt.

Structure of the qualification

Rules of combination for achievement

The OCNLR Level 6 Diploma in Clinical Canine Behaviour: Theory, Practice and Application comprises 8 mandatory units. Learners must achieve 120 credits in total.

Qualification units

Ofqual Unit Reference Number	OCNLR Unit Code	Unit Title	Level	Credit Value	GLH
L/651/5961	SP5/6/LQ/001	Advanced Canine Behaviour Principles	6	10	55
M/651/5962	SP2/6/LQ/001	Brain Health	6	6	33
R/651/5963	SP2/6/LQ/002	Canine Behaviour Principles	6	20	110
T/651/5964	SP2/6/LQ/003	Canine Behaviour Problems	6	42	231
Y/651/5965	SP2/6/LQ/004	Ethology and Evolution	6	6	33
A/651/5966	SP2/6/LQ/005	Lifestages, Breed and Behaviour	6	16	88
D/651/5967	SP2/6/LQ/006	The Canine Body and Behaviour	6	12	66
F/651/5968	SP2/6/LQ/007	The Consultation Process	6	8	44

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 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

Assessors of this qualification are expected to have, as a minimum, a:

- Level 6 Diploma in Canine Behaviour
 - BSc in Animal Behaviour
 - MSc in Animal Behaviour
 - VetMB, BVetMed, BVM BVS BVMedSci, BVM&S, BVMS, BVMSci, BVSc (MRCVS) or DVM
 - Or be a Registered Veterinary Nurse
- or equivalent to the above.

(Contact OCN London for decisions on particular qualifications if in doubt.)

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



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