



Level 6 Diploma in Veterinary Physiotherapy with Hydrotherapy

Qualification Number: 603/7725/2





Mission Statement

Our mission is simple, to release the potential of learners by validating their achievements with nationally and internationally recognised qualifications and services. We value our partnership with every organisation that delivers our qualifications and we will prioritise support for Education and Training Providers in everything we do, helping to transform the lives of ever increasing numbers of learners.

Our Vision

Creating and awarding exceptional qualifications that change lives.

Our Values

- **Integrity** – committed to ethical and sustainable business practices;
- **Clarity** – a clear qualification offer supported by transparent processes;
- **Collaboration** – working with customers and other stakeholders;
- **Aspiration** – supporting individuals to fulfil their potential and progress;
- **Excellence** – committed to high quality;
- **Innovation** – creating opportunities for learners, employers and communities;
- **Inclusion** – celebrating diversity and respecting individuality.

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Qualification summary – key facts

Title:	Open College Network West Midlands Level 6 Diploma in Veterinary Physiotherapy with Hydrotherapy
Qualification Number:	603/7725/2
Level:	6
Credit Value:	458 credits
Guided Learning Hours:	1879 hours
Total Qualification Time:	4541 hours
Qualification Objective:	<p>The aim of this qualification is to provide learners with a higher-level knowledge of small animal hydrotherapy and physiotherapy, and to qualify as a small animal physiotherapist. Practical training and assessment is underpinned throughout a lot of the topics within this course. Learners will explore topics such as advanced neuro physiotherapy, understanding pain, physiotherapy techniques, professional skill, exercise prescription and rehabilitation. Clinical reasoning and case reporting is also examined within this qualification.</p> <p>Learners will be required to complete 800 clinical practice hours as part of this qualification.</p>
Progression Routes:	<p>On successful completion of this qualification, learners can work as a veterinary physiotherapist and hydrotherapists, treating animals both in and out of the water, and join membership organisations such as the Register of Animal Musculoskeletal Practitioners (RAMP). Further study at a higher level is also a progression option following completion of this course.</p>
Entry requirements:	<p>The minimum age to access this qualification is 18.</p> <p>Learners must have a Level 3 Diploma in Hydrotherapy (including treadmill unit – with either ABC/SEG, Open College Network West Midlands or OCN London) and prior experience within the industry.</p> <p>Learners must be able to access veterinary physiotherapy clinics to complete 800 hours of clinical practice.</p>
Assessment method(s):	Portfolio of Evidence

How is the qualification assessed?

The assessment process is as follows:

Internal Assessment by Portfolio of Evidence

Where the assessment method for the qualification is by internally set assessments (Portfolio of Evidence), then centres are free to devise their own assessments for the qualification/unit.

- All assessments should be designed in such a way as to minimise the requirement for Reasonable Adjustments to be made.
- Centre devised assessments must allow learners to meet all of the requirements of the assessment criteria for each unit. Assessments must not require learners to produce evidence above and beyond that stipulated in the Assessment Criteria.
- Centres must then have these assessments approved by their IQA.

When devising assessments, centres may choose from a range of assessment methods but where assessment guidance is provided within a unit this must be adhered to unless otherwise agreed with the External Quality Assurer (EQA).

Assessment methods must be valid, fair, reliable and safe leading to authentic, sufficient and current evidence produced by the candidate.

Holistic assessment is good practice wherever possible and permitted by the assessment strategy for the qualification if this exists.

Further guidance on assessment can be found in the [Centre Handbook](#) and the [Assessment Methods](#) publication. These provide guidance on the range of assessment methods available and the types of evidence appropriate for each.

Other guidance and sample documentation is available to recognised centres covering: planning assessment; recording achievement; planning, carrying out and documenting IQA.

Reasonable Adjustment and Special Considerations

Reasonable adjustments and Special Considerations are available for all assessments, irrespective of whether they are internally or externally set.

Where a learner or group of learners may not be able to access the assessment without Reasonable Adjustments, centres should ensure that they apply in good time for relevant reasonable adjustments to be made, using the Open College Network West Midlands [Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations Policy 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.

Standardisation

Standardisation is a process that promotes consistency in the understanding and application of assessment practice. Full details on Open College Network West Midlands standardisation practices can be found in our [Centre Handbook](#).

Outcomes from standardisation events will be disseminated to Centres by Open College Network West Midlands.

Qualification size

About the RQF

The Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) provides a single, simple system for cataloguing all qualifications regulated by Ofqual. Qualifications are indexed by their level and size.

Levels indicate the difficulty and complexity of the knowledge and skills associated with any qualification. There are eight levels supported by three “entry levels”.

Size refers to the estimated total amount of time it could typically take to study and be assessed for a qualification. Size is expressed in term of Total Qualification Time (TQT). The part of the TQT spent being taught or supervised is known as Guided Learning Hours (GLH).

Guided Learning Hours (GLH)

GLH are defined as the time a learner spends being taught or instructed by – or otherwise participating in education or training under the immediate guidance or supervision of – a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training. This includes guidance or supervision time:

- a) With the simultaneous physical presence of the learner and that person, or
- b) Remotely by means of simultaneous electronic communication.

It does not include the number of hours a learner spends in preparation, study or any other form of participation in education or training, including assessment, which takes place as directed by – but not under the immediate guidance or supervision of – a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training.

Total Qualification Time (TQT)

TQT is comprised of the following two elements:

- a) The number of hours which an awarding organisation has assigned to a qualification for Guided Learning, and
- b) An estimate of the number of hours a learner will reasonably be likely to spend in preparation, study or other form of participation in education or training, including assessment, which takes place as directed by – but unlike Guided Learning, not under the immediate guidance or supervision of – a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training.

Rules of Combination and level for this qualification

To achieve the Open College Network West Midlands Level 6 Diploma in Veterinary Physiotherapy with Hydrotherapy, learners must achieve the 458 credits from the units in Mandatory Unit Groups A, B and C. There are no Optional Units in this qualification.

Mandatory Group A – Level 4 units

Title	Level	Credit	GLH	TQT	Unit code	Unit reference number
Advanced Pool and Treadmill Techniques	4	4	30	40	SN2/4/NQ/001	A/617/6316
Business Management in Small Animal Hydrotherapy	4	5	40	50	AE5/4/NQ/001	F/617/6317
Canine Nutrition	4	4	30	40	SH2/4/NQ/001	L/617/6319
Conditions and Surgical Procedures in Small Animals	4	5	45	50	PC8/4/NQ/001	F/617/6320
Feline Behaviour, Nutrition and Handling	4	5	45	50	SP5/4/NQ/001	J/617/6321
Higher Anatomy and Physiology	4	5	45	50	RH1/4/NQ/001	L/617/6322
Introduction to Canine Laser Therapy	4	5	40	50	SN2/4/NQ/002	R/617/6323
Introduction to Small Animal Physiotherapy	4	4	35	40	PC8/4/NQ/002	Y/617/6324
Land Based Exercise for Small Animals	4	4	35	40	SH2/4/NQ/002	D/617/6325
Pool and Treadmill Operations and Water Management	4	8	60	80	SH2/4/NQ/003	H/617/6326
Practical Skills in Small Animal Hydrotherapy	4	6	45	60	SN2/4/NQ/003	K/617/6327

Professional Practice in a Hydrotherapy Centre	4	5	45	50	GB8/4/NQ/001	M/617/6328
Small Animal Massage Therapy	4	4	30	40	HK4/4/NQ/001	T/617/6329
Stress and Small Animal Hydrotherapy	4	4	35	40	SH2/4/NQ/004	K/617/6630

Mandatory Group B – Level 5 units

Title	Level	Credit	GLH	TQT	Unit code	Unit reference number
Advanced Gait Assessment	5	4	21	39	SN3/5/NQ/001	Y/618/7940
Advanced Massage Techniques	5	3	17	31	SN3/5/NQ/002	D/618/7941
Advanced Canine Nutrition	5	3	19	27	SP5/5/NQ/001	H/618/7942
Analysis of Sporting Activities	5	4	26	42	SH7/5/NQ/001	K/618/7943
Application of Electrophysical Agents	5	7	41	66	SN3/5/NQ/003	T/618/7945
Business Management for Small Animal Rehabilitation Practitioners	5	4	22	35	SN3/5/NQ/004	A/618/7946
Customer Service for Small Animal Rehabilitation Practitioners	5	4	24	40	SN3/5/NQ/005	F/618/7947
Hydrotherapy and Physiotherapy Programmes for the Canine Athlete	5	5	30	50	SN3/5/NQ/006	J/618/7948

Injury and Tissue Repair	5	5	31	50	SP2/5/NQ/001	L/618/7949
Lifelong Learning Skills and Understanding	5	10	50	100	SN3/5/NQ/007	J/618/7951
Mechanical Locomotion and Kinesiology	5	4	26	38	SN5/5/NQ/001	L/618/7952
Multidisciplinary Teamworking	5	10	40	100	SN3/5/NQ/008	R/618/7953
Practical Application of Strength and Conditioning Exercises	5	5	28	50	SP1/5/NQ/001	D/618/7955
Principles of Electrophysical Agents	5	4	23	35	SN3/5/NQ/009	H/618/7956
Principles of Strength Training and Cardiovascular Conditioning	5	4	24	40	SP1/5/NQ/002	K/618/7957
Rehabilitation of the Geriatric Patient	5	4	29	40	SP5/5/NQ/002	K/618/7960
Research Methodology	5	4	20	40	SN3/5/NQ/010	M/618/7961
Small Animal Welfare	5	10	40	100	SN3/5/NQ/011	J/618/7965
Tissue Response to Exercise and Training	5	4	28	38	SN5/5/NQ/002	A/618/7963

Mandatory Group C – Level 6 units

Title	Level	Credit	GLH	TQT	Unit code	Unit reference number
Advanced Anatomy and Physiology	6	10	45	60	SN3/6/NQ/009	M/618/7944
Advanced Canine and Feline Behaviour	6	12	50	120	SP2/6/NQ/001	F/618/7933
Advanced Neuro Physiotherapy	6	18	50	180	SN3/6/NQ/005	L/618/7935
Clinical Practice	6	80	0	800	SN3/6/NQ/010	F/618/7950
Clinical Reasoning	6	12	50	120	SN5/6/NQ/001	A/618/7932
Hydrotherapy and Physiotherapy Programmes for Rehabilitation of the Injured Patient	6	13	40	130	SN3/6/NQ/007	R/618/7936
Pathology	6	8	50	80	SN5/6/NQ/002	Y/618/7954
Physiotherapy Exercise Prescription	6	12	40	120	SP2/6/NQ/002	D/618/7938
Physiotherapy Techniques	6	13	50	130	SN3/6/NQ/006	Y/618/7937
Principles and Practice of Rehabilitation	6	12	50	120	SN3/6/NQ/001	A/618/7929
Professional Practice Including Communication and Conduct	6	8	50	100	SN3/6/NQ/011	M/618/7958
Professional Practice for Veterinary Physiotherapists	6	10	50	100	SN3/6/NQ/002	M/618/7930
Professional Project	6	12	10	120	SN3/6/NQ/012	T/618/7959

Professional Skills for Veterinary Physiotherapists	6	18	75	180	SN3/6/NQ/003	T/618/7931
Rehabilitation of the Juvenile Patient	6	12	40	120	SN3/6/NQ/004	J/618/7934
Small Animal Ethics and Legislation	6	10	40	100	SP1/6/NQ/001	T/618/7962
Treatment Case Study	6	20	50	200	SN3/6/NQ/013	F/618/7964
Understanding Pain	6	12	40	120	SN3/6/NQ/008	H/618/7939

Level Descriptors

Units are assigned a level based on current RQF guidance issued by Ofqual.

Level	Knowledge Descriptor (the holder...)	Skills Descriptor (the holder can...)
Level 4	<p>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.</p> <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>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> <p>Review the effectiveness and appropriateness of methods, actions and results.</p>

Level	Knowledge Descriptor (the holder...)	Skills Descriptor (the holder can...)
Level 5	<p>Has practical, theoretical or technological knowledge and understanding of a subject or field of work to find ways forward in broadly defined, complex contexts.</p> <p>Can analyse, interpret and evaluate relevant information, concepts and ideas.</p> <p>Is aware of the nature and scope of the area of study or work.</p> <p>Understands different perspectives, approaches or schools of thought and the reasoning behind them.</p>	<p>Determine, adapt and use appropriate methods, cognitive and practical skills to address broadly defined, complex problems.</p> <p>Use relevant research or development to inform actions.</p> <p>Evaluate actions, methods and results.</p>

Level	Knowledge Descriptor (the holder...)	Skills Descriptor (the holder can...)
Level 6	<p>Has advanced practical, conceptual or technological knowledge and understanding of a subject or field of work to create ways forward in contexts where there are many interacting factors.</p> <p>Understands different perspectives, approaches or schools of thought and the theories that underpin them.</p> <p>Can critically analyse, interpret and evaluate complex information, concepts and ideas.</p>	<p>Determine, refine, adapt and use appropriate methods and advanced cognitive and practical skills to address problems that have limited definition and involve many interacting factors.</p> <p>Use and, where appropriate, design relevant research and development to inform actions.</p> <p>Evaluate actions, methods and results and their implications.</p>

Extracted from 'After the QCF A New Qualification Framework' October 2015

Requirements to deliver the qualification

To offer this qualification, centres must ensure that tutors hold or are working towards:

- Level 3 Education and Training (including assessing) or equivalent teaching qualification.
- **Hold** a Level 6 in Veterinary Physiotherapy/Small Animal Rehabilitation.
- **Hold** a Level 3 Animal Hydrotherapy qualification.
- Have at least 3 years' experience within small animal rehabilitation is necessary to tutor this course.

Centres 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 Veterinary Physiotherapy/Small Animal Rehabilitation and is familiar with the assessment requirements of the qualification for which they are the Internal Quality Assurer.

To gain approval to offer the qualification, centres must submit a [Qualification Approval Form \(QAF\)](#).

If you are not an Open College Network West Midlands Recognised Centre and you wish to offer the qualification, you will need to apply for Centre Recognition with us. To start the application process please email enquiries@opencollnet.org.uk or telephone 01902 624 239.

For more information visit [Becoming a Centre](#) on our website.

Support for centres

Open College Network West Midlands provide all of our centres with on-going support and advice on the use of Open College Network West Midlands units and qualifications, including the requirements for assessment.

Information about the following can be found in our [Centre Handbook](#):


- obtaining a Unique Learner Number (ULN) on behalf of the learners
- UKPRN (UK Provider Reference Number)

Centre responsibilities

Each centre should identify a centre contact who will be responsible for:

- ensuring that the centre meets all the Open College Network West Midlands requirements for centre recognition and adheres to all [policies and procedures](#).
- Open College Network West Midlands provision within the centre
- ensuring all procedures relating to the delivery of the qualification operate effectively in the centre
- ensuring all relevant Open College Network West Midlands documentation is distributed as required within the centre and that the security requirements for external assessment are adhered to, where applicable.

The information provided in this qualification guide is accurate at the time of publication but is subject to change. Open College Network West Midlands will occasionally update qualification information, so please refer to the 'Open College Network West Midlands Qualifications' page of our website to view any updates, including qualification end dates and the latest versions of our qualification guides.



Open College Network West Midlands
Aldersley House
Overstrand
Pendeford Business Park
Wolverhampton
WV9 5HA

Tel: (01902) 624230

Fax: (01902) 624231

Email: wolverhampton@opencollnet.org.uk

Web: www.opencollnet.org.uk

Office Hours:

Monday to Thursday - 9.00 am to 5.00 pm

Friday - 9.00 am to 4.00 pm

www.opencollnet.org.uk

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