



iPET Network

Level 4 Diploma in Animal Sports Massage

Qualification Number - 610/4035/6

Qualification Specification



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 4 Diploma in Animal Sports Massage** qualification has been designed to cater to individuals aspiring to become Animal Sports Massage Therapists and/or progress towards becoming Veterinary Physiotherapists. The qualification is also suitable for those currently working as an Animal Sports Massage Therapist or Veterinary Physiotherapist seeking formal recognition through a regulated qualification. This comprehensive qualification covers theoretical learning across a variety of animal species, with the practical elements focusing on the two main species of canines and equines.

Upon completion of the iPET Network Level 4 Diploma in Animal Sports Massage, Candidates are eligible to register for the iPET Network Level 5 Diploma in Animal Sports Massage and Rehabilitation. Subsequent successful completion of the Level 5 allows Candidates to study the iPET Network Level 6 Diploma in Veterinary Physiotherapy, which will allow Candidates to qualify as a Veterinary Physiotherapist.

The qualification comprises of a balance of theoretical and practical learning to ensure Candidates have the knowledge and practical skills required to provide animal sports massage. Candidates will develop study skills, engage in reflective practice, and acquire knowledge in personal and professional development areas such as mental health, self-care, time management, communication skills, personal branding, CV creation and basic business management skills.

The qualification introduces physiotherapy principles and the ethical, professional and legal standards, alongside health and safety standards and regulations, relevant to animal sports massage. Candidates will gain an understanding of animal welfare, health and behaviour including relevant legislation. Fundamentals of anatomy and musculoskeletal anatomy are covered extensively to provide a solid foundation for understanding structure and function.

Practical training is a significant component of the qualification, with Candidates completing a minimum of 200 hours of practical training to develop the required skills and clinical competence as Animal Sports Massage Therapists. This practical experience creates a strong foundation for further study as an Animal Sports Massage and Rehabilitation Therapist and eventual progression, if desired, as a Veterinary Physiotherapist.

The qualification has been developed under the guidance of industry experts, to ensure the outcome is appropriate for the animal massage and physiotherapy industry and sets high standards of education within the sector.

iPET Network believes that this qualification has been designed to align with criteria set by the voluntary industry regulator, the Register of Animal Musculoskeletal Practitioners (RAMP). iPET Network has gained consultation from RAMP during the development phase of the suite of qualifications, which includes the Level 4 Diploma in Animal Sports Massage, Level 5 Diploma in Animal Sports Massage and Rehabilitation, and Level 6 Diploma in Veterinary Physiotherapy.

The suite of qualifications is listed on the Ofqual register of regulated qualifications and we believe they will satisfy the requirements set by RAMP. One of the requirements being that for RAMP to consider an AEP/REP application for a qualification(s), the qualification(s) must possess a verified academic learning level.

Training Providers delivering this qualification will then be able to apply to RAMP for assessment, if desired, to attain Recognised Educational Providers (REP) status for their delivery of the Level 4 Diploma in Animal Sports Massage.

On successful completion of the qualification, Candidates can work as a Veterinary Physiotherapist and subject to requirements and successful application, join membership organisations. Further study at a higher level is also a progression option following completion of this qualification.

Objectives of the Qualification

This qualification has been designed to enable Candidates to:

- Develop study skills and engage in reflective practice
- Understand personal and professional development
- Understand the legal, ethical, professional and health and safety standards required in the field of Veterinary Physiotherapy
- Understand animal legislation and the principles of animal health, welfare and behaviour
- Understand safe animal handling and first aid principles
- Understand animal anatomy and physiology and key anatomical terminology
- Understand musculoskeletal anatomy, including tendons, ligaments, fascia and soft tissue pathologies
- Understand musculoskeletal anatomy including structure and function, and comparative anatomy
- Understand the applications of animal sports massage and the main techniques used
- Be able to work safely with animals, considering biosecurity, health, safety and welfare
- Demonstrate taking client history and signalment
- Demonstrate static, dynamic and physical assessment of canines and equines
- Demonstrate identification of soft tissue pathologies and the application of appropriate soft tissue techniques
- Complete clinical practice and demonstrate the ability to work with the Multidisciplinary Team

Depending on the needs of the Candidate, the qualification can:

- Prepare individuals to progress to another qualification in the same subject area, studying at a higher level or a qualification requiring more specific knowledge, skills and understanding.
- Improve employability skills.
- Encourage engagement in learning.

Suggested progression following completion of the qualification:

- iPET Network Level 5 Diploma in Animal Sports Massage and Rehabilitation
- iPET Network Level 6 Diploma in Veterinary Physiotherapy

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

The iPET Network Level 4 Diploma in Animal Sports Massage 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 4 Diploma in Animal Sports Massage:

GLH (Guided Learning Hours): 212 hours

TQT (Total Qualification Time): 1170 hours

Qualification Delivery Requirements

This qualification requires all Candidates to complete 200 hours of practical training which is required to be logged/evidenced. This will involve: face-to-face clinical tuition, clinical practice, working with other qualified and regulated (where appropriate) professionals and other evidenced practical hours. Depending on the nature of the practical training, hours completed will contribute to the Guided Learning Hours and/or Total Qualification Time for the qualification. The areas counted towards the GLH are listed below.

As part of the 200 hours, a minimum of **40 hours** face-to-face, in-person practical **clinical tuition** time must be completed as part of this qualification's delivery strategy.

As part of the 200 hours, a minimum of **50 hours** face-to-face, in-person practical **clinical practice** must be completed as part of this qualification's delivery strategy.

As part of the 200 hours, face-to-face, in person **work experience** must be completed working with qualified and regulated (where appropriate) professionals, up to a **maximum of 30 hours**, as part of this qualification's delivery strategy.

Due to the practical nature of this qualification, the **Formal Summative Practical Examinations** must take place **face-to-face, in person**.

The Professional Discussion must be conducted **face-to-face** and **in-person** or **remotely via a video call**, but **live in real-time**.

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

All Candidates must meet the following criteria:

1. General Requirements		2. Subject-specific Qualifications / Relevant Experience		3. First Aid Qualification	4. Desirable
Candidates must possess all of the following:		Candidates must possess at least one of the following:		Candidates must possess one of the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum age of 18 years Be capable of working at a Level 4 standard or above (equivalent to 1st year degree / Foundation degree level) Have completed 100 hours of evidenced animal handling experience to include large and small animals. Own animal ownership/pet ownership is not sufficient to meet this requirement 	AND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold a regulated qualification Level 3 or above in a relevant subject area <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a minimum of 12 months (full-time equivalent) demonstrable evidenced relevant animal handling experience 	AND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holds, maintains* or is working towards ** a relevant regulated Level 3 or above animal first aid qualification <p>*Maintenance of animal first aid qualifications - refers to keeping them current and valid. Some may require renewal at specified intervals. **If no first aid qualification is held prior to registration, it will be a requirement that it is achieved prior to the completion of this</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCSEs A*-C/Grade 4 or above to include Mathematics, English Language and Science or equivalent

			qualification and maintained throughout the duration.	
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All Candidates will be screened via an initial assessment with the Training Provider to ensure their suitability for the registration on the qualification. Whilst the above criteria form the basis of eligibility, Candidates may be registered at the Training Provider's discretion.

Minimum Age

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

Reasonable Adjustment and Special Considerations

Assessment within this qualification is designed to be accessible and inclusive. The assessment methodology is appropriate and rigorous for individuals or groups of Candidates.

iPET Network is an inclusive organisation and operates in line with legislation set out in the Equality Act, 2010. It should be noted that any Candidate registering for an iPET Network qualification, must be able to meet the assessment criteria (theoretical and practical), with appropriate reasonable adjustment where required, in order to be certificated.

Those Candidates with additional educational or physical needs, should discuss their support requirements with their Training Provider. Training Providers should refer to the **Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations Policy** which 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 by contacting iPET Network on info@ipetnetwork.co.uk

3. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Recognition of Prior Learning (also known as Exemption) - 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 National Qualifications Framework (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
- The support and guidance they may need when working towards their qualification

- The Candidate's suitability for the type and level of qualification
- The Candidate's access to clinical placement/work experience

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., within a contract.

During the induction, Candidates must be made aware of academic malpractice and the consequences of committing malpractice such as plagiarism or cheating. Please see iPET Network's **Malpractice and Maladministration Policy and Procedure (including sanctions)** for details of indicative sanctions against Candidates.

5. Achieving the Qualification

Credits

To be awarded the iPET Network qualification title, Candidates must achieve 117 credits.

Unit Achievement

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

Authentication of the Candidate's Work

Tutors must demonstrate that the Candidate's work is authentic. This can be done through using iPET Network's e-portfolio system which provides secure access to each Candidate or through use of an alternative e-portfolio system. If a Training Provider is using paper-based portfolio, they must be able to demonstrate authenticity of the work and must provide 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 maximum period of 36 months. Failure of the Candidate to complete the qualification during this timeframe will incur an additional charge for re-registration. Please refer to your **iPET Network 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.

iPET Network sets a registration period for each qualification. However, the time period for delivery and completion of the qualification is agreed upon between the Training Provider and the Candidate. This is a separate contractual agreement which iPET Network is not responsible for including any associated costs.



6. Qualification Structure

Units

iPET Network Reference No.	Title	Level	Credit	GLH	TQT	Unit Reference number
425	Study Skills and Reflective Practice	4	2	5	20	M/651/1163
426	Personal and Professional Development	4	10	16	100	R/651/1164
427	Professional Practice in the Animal Physiotherapy Sector	4	20	19	200	T/651/1165
428	Animal Health, Welfare and Behaviour	4	20	11	200	Y/651/1166
429	Anatomy and Physiology of Animals	4	15	11	150	A/651/1167
430	Musculoskeletal Anatomy	4	20	28	200	D/651/1168
431	Animal Sports Massage Clinical Competency and Practice	4	30	122	300	F/651/1169
TOTALS			117	212	1170	

Level Descriptor

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</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>

	<p>approximate scope of the area of study or work.</p> <p>Has an informed awareness of different perspectives or approaches within the area of study or work.</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.

Assessment Method

Assessment is through a Portfolio of Evidence, 1 x Formal Professional Discussion, 2 x Formal Summative Practical Examinations (1x Canine and 1x Equine).

Specimen Assessment Materials

Specimen assessment materials are not available for this qualification.

Marking

These assessments are pass or fail and the Assessor's decision is final, subject to moderation. Using artificial intelligence for the sole marking of any Candidate's work is strictly prohibited. Please contact iPET Network to discuss the use of AI for marking.

Candidates may undertake the formal assessments for this qualification a maximum of 6 times (per formal assessment).

If a Candidate is required to re-sit any summative formal assessment, then it is expected that additional training/support by the Training Provider is provided to the Candidate to address the areas where improvement is required. There may be underlying reasons why the Candidate has not been able to achieve the required pass mark. It is important that Training Providers have regular sessions with Candidates to identify these issues and put in place any necessary support or access arrangements. The Candidate should only be re-entered for the re-sit attempt when all parties feel they have a realistic chance of achievement.

Re-sits must take place during the qualification registration duration.

Please be aware that Training Providers may charge additional fees for re-sits.

After 6 unsuccessful attempts at an assessment, the Candidate will be withdrawn from the qualification by the Training Provider and the Candidate notified in writing.

External Moderation Strategy

Summative assessments within this qualification may be subject to moderation by an External Moderator provided by the Training Provider and approved by iPET Network. The level of moderation will be agreed with iPET Network but will be at least the square root of the total assessments undertaken by Candidates plus any fails.

For example, if there were 9 Candidates in a cohort sitting the Professional Discussion, 3 assessments total would need to be moderated plus any Candidates that failed.

The External Moderation strategy will include:

- Sampling activity at a minimum the square root of the total assessments undertaken by Candidates plus any fails.
- Feedback with tutors/assessors
- Feedback with candidates as appropriate
- Candidate interviews according to risk rating status
- A point of contact for reassessment/appeals where required.

Evidence of External Moderation must be provided by the Training Provider.

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 instructions on their right to appeal an assessment decision. All Training Providers must have an up-to-date appeals procedure.

What Constitutes a Fail?

It is at the Tutor's professional discretion if they pass or fail the Candidate, subject to moderation. It is recommended that all elements of each assessment criteria are met and that all knowledge activities are completed.

Examples of what may constitute a fail (theory)(list is not exhaustive):

- Plagiarism
- Irrelevant content
- Incomplete knowledge
- Incorrect knowledge
- Incomplete coverage of an assessment criterion

Examples of what may constitute a fail (practical) (list is not exhaustive):

- Failure to address one or more of the assessment criteria
- Unsafe practice or behaviour
- Practice of behaviour that compromises animal welfare
- Failure to address key safety points and measures
- Poor standard of delivery
- Lack of appropriate equipment
- Excessively long or short duration of assessment

When making an assessment decision it is important that all evidence and feedback is documented to support the assessment decision whether it is a pass or fail. If the decision is a fail, then the Candidate must be provided with support and the opportunity to re-sit the assessment once they are ready.

8. Offering the Qualification

Training Providers wishing to deliver this qualification must apply by submitting an iPET Network **Qualification Approval Form** which can be downloaded from the website. The Training Provider must provide supporting information and documents to demonstrate their ability to deliver this qualification and adhere to quality assurance and assessment regulations.

Applications can be made via email info@ipetnetwork.co.uk or if there are any queries call the iPET Network team on 0800 433 4700.

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

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 Manual***.

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. Appendix A – Requirements to Offer This Qualification

To offer this qualification, Training Providers must ensure that Tutors involved in delivery and assessment are professionally competent to do so. This means Training Providers must ensure that Tutors have the following qualifications/experience:

1. Qualifications Tutors must possess one of the following:		2. Relevant Experience Tutors must possess both of the following		3. Teaching Qualification Tutors must possess at least one of the following:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A regulated Level 6 or above qualification in veterinary physiotherapy <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By exception, a relevant regulated qualification at Level 6 or above (This will be accepted at the discretion of the Awarding Organisation) 	AND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CV / career profile demonstrating relevant industry/subject-specific skills, knowledge, experience and achievements. Have a minimum of 5 years' (full-time equivalent) demonstrable professional experience working within the animal/veterinary physiotherapy industry/working as a Veterinary Physiotherapist 	AND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iPET Network Level 3 Award in Education and Training for Animal and Veterinary Professionals iPET Network Level 3 Award for Educators in the Canine and Feline Sector Level 3 Award in Education and Training; or Level 4 Certificate in Education and Training; or Level 7 Veterinary Education Level 4 or above other suitable equivalent qualification

If no formal teaching qualification is held, it will be a requirement that a teaching qualification is achieved within 12 months of approval.

Evidence of qualifications and experience must be provided in the form of original certificates, detailed CV and employer references. iPET Network reserves the right to request additional information in support of Training Provider/Tutor applications e.g., client reviews.

External Moderator

To offer this qualification, Training Providers must ensure that they have in place External Moderators who are professionally competent to do so. This means Training Providers must ensure that External Moderators have the following qualifications/experience:

1. Qualifications		2. Relevant Subject Experience		3. Education Experience	4. Desirable – Teaching Qualification
Moderators must possess one of the following:		Moderators must possess all of the following		Moderators must possess both of the following:	Moderators ideally will possess one of the following:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A regulated Level 6 qualification in veterinary physiotherapy. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By exception, a relevant regulated qualification at Level 6 or above (This will be accepted at the discretion of the Awarding Organisation) 	AND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CV / career profile demonstrating relevant industry/subject-specific skills, knowledge, experience and achievements. Have a minimum of 5 years' (full-time equivalent) demonstrable professional experience working within the animal/veterinary physiotherapy industry/working as a Veterinary Physiotherapist <p>(This will be accepted at the discretion of the Awarding Organisation)</p>	AND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience of working within another Higher Education provider CV / career profile demonstrating relevant industry/subject-specific skills, knowledge, experience and achievements within the education sector. <p>(This will be accepted at the discretion of the Awarding Organisation)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iPET Network Level 3 Award in Education and Training for Animal and Veterinary Professionals iPET Network Level 3 Award for Educators in the Canine and Feline Sector Level 3 Award in Education and Training; or Level 4 Certificate in Education and Training; or Level 7 Veterinary Education Level 4 or above other suitable equivalent qualification

External Moderators must complete the **Conflicts of Interest Disclosure Form** on an annual basis, unless any conflicts arise outside of this timeframe. Any conflicts between an External Moderator and a Candidate must be identified and recorded upon registration.

Training Providers must also ensure that they have in place an Internal Quality Assurer 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 in the animal science / veterinary / animal physiotherapy industry (This will be accepted at the discretion of the Awarding Organisation)
- 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. Qualification Unit Breakdown and Assessor Guidance



Unit title:	Study Skills and Reflective Practice
Level:	4
Credit value:	2
GLH:	5
TQT:	20
Unit code:	425
Unit reference number:	M/651/1163
Unit aim:	The aim of this unit is to enable the Candidate to develop the knowledge and understanding of study skills to include academic writing and evidence based practices, providing a solid foundation for further study. In addition, this unit will enable the Candidate to develop knowledge of reflective practice which is necessary for a successful career within the Animal Sports Massage and Veterinary Physiotherapy industry.
Number of learning outcomes	7

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will:	The learner can:
1. Understand approaches to study and learning	1.1. Describe various learning styles
	1.2. Evaluate own learning style
	1.3. Describe effective learning habits
	1.4. Discuss different theoretical approaches to study and ways of working
	1.5. Evaluate the effect that personal learning styles have on own approach to learning and development
	1.6. Explain various motivators and demotivators to learning and development
	1.7. Evaluate own motivations to study
2. Understand the concept of science/evidence-based practice	2.1 Describe what is considered to be evidence and what is not
	2.2 Analyse the validity of evidence to formulate an argument
3. Understand the requirements of academic writing	3.1. Describe how to structure an essay
	3.2. Explain various command verbs used in academic questions
	3.3. Explain a Referencing System and how to use it
	3.4. Define the term plagiarism
	3.5. Explain the consequences of plagiarism
4. Be able to form an essay	4.1. Demonstrate the process of forming an essay
5. Understand presentation skills	5.1 Implement accessibility guidelines
	5.2 Explain how to structure a presentation
	5.3 Evaluate what makes a good presentation
6. Be able to create an effective presentation	6.1. Create an effective presentation
	6.2. Evaluate a presentation

7. Understand reflective practice	7.1. Define reflective practice
	7.2. Describe the reasons for and benefits of reflective practice both during study and for their future career
	7.3. Explain various models of Reflection
	7.4. Create a reflective diary and complete the first entries



Unit title:	Personal and Professional Development
Level:	4
Credit value:	10
GLH:	16
TQT:	100
Unit code:	426
Unit reference number:	R/651/1164
Unit aim:	The aim of this unit is to provide the knowledge and understanding in supporting the personal development of the Animal Sports Massage Therapist an ultimately the Veterinary Physiotherapist, preparing them for a career within the industry. The Candidate will cover mental health management, time management, organisation, communication skills and the concept of a personal brand.
Number of learning outcomes	8

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will:	The learner can:
1. Understand the importance of well-being and good mental health hygiene and management	1.1. Define mental health
	1.2. Discuss the value of mental health
	1.3. Explain the concept of the mental health continuum
	1.4. Define personal wellbeing
	1.5. Explain the concept of self-care
2. Be able to demonstrate methods of self-care and good practice for mental health	2.1. Apply the concept of self-care to themselves and develop a self-care plan
	2.2. Provide three different sources of advice and support for people experiencing emotional distress or poor mental health
3. Know and understand the concepts of time management and organisational skills	3.1. Define good time management
	3.2. Explain the importance of good time management and organisational skills both in relation to their studies and for their future career as an Animal Musculoskeletal Therapist
	3.3. Research and describe time management techniques
	3.4. Explain what it means to manage our time and energy effectively and how time and energy management links to mental health and wellbeing
	3.5. Explain the concept of personal effectiveness and what it means to be effective in the different aspects of their role
	3.6. Critically evaluate how their preferences will impact on their approach to time and energy management and well-being
	4.1. Set a personal wellbeing goal

4. Be able to effectively plan and manage personal and professional development	4.2. Demonstrate time management planning techniques
	4.3. Use psychological preference tools to understand their strengths and personal preferences
	4.4. Reflect on findings from undertaking personality/type profiles/tests
5. Understand the importance of good communication skills	5.1. Explain the importance of good communication, including written, verbal and non-verbal, formal and informal communication
	5.2. Define active listening
	5.3. Evaluate the importance of questioning and listening skills
	5.4. Explain different communication styles
	5.5. Evaluate the importance of verbal and non-verbal communication
	5.6. Analyse own communication style
	5.7. Explain how you might identify someone else's communication style
	5.8. Evaluate how different communication styles might interact
6. Understand the importance of personal brand	6.1. Define the concept of personal brand
	6.2. Explain what factors might contribute to personal brand
	6.3. Evaluate the importance of personal brand for the role of an Animal Musculoskeletal Therapist
	6.4. Consider and discuss factors outside of control that may influence other peoples' perceptions
	6.5. Consider and describe own Personal Brand
7. Understand personal development	7.1. Summarise the importance of ongoing Personal Development and Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
	7.2. Research the CPD requirements for the Animal Massage and Veterinary Physiotherapy industry
	7.3. Undertake a Personal SWOT
	7.4. Define own personal career goals
8. Be able to develop a personal development plan and CV	8.1. Develop a Personal Development Plan
	8.2. Develop a CPD log and identify short, medium and long term development opportunities
	8.3. Develop a Personal Statement and CV

Unit title:	Professional Practice in the Animal Physiotherapy Sector
Level:	4
Credit value:	20
GLH:	19
TQT:	200
Unit code:	427
Unit reference number:	T/651/1165
Unit aim:	The aim of this unit is to provide the knowledge and understanding of professional practice in the Animal Musculoskeletal Therapy and Veterinary Physiotherapy sector including the legal, ethical and professional standards required and the importance of health and safety frameworks and standards. This unit covers the key concepts of massage, rehabilitation and physiotherapy and their benefits.
Number of learning outcomes	8

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will:	The learner can:
1. Understand the concepts of massage, rehabilitation and physiotherapy	1.1. Define massage and explain the benefits
	1.2. Define rehabilitation and explain the benefits
	1.3. Define physiotherapy and explain the benefits
	1.4. Define and explain the categories of animals treated
	1.5. Define scope of practice
	1.6. Compare and contrast the scope of practice of massage, rehabilitation and physiotherapy and any limitations to that scope
	1.7. Describe the concept of evidence-based practice and evaluate how it is relevant to their role
	1.8. Assess the practice of animal sports massage and veterinary physiotherapy in line with the principles of evidence-based practice
	1.9. Define other similar professions operating within the industry
2. Understand the concept of the Multi-Disciplinary Team	2.1. Describe the concept of the vet lead multi-disciplinary team
	2.2. Identify the main roles in the multi-disciplinary team for both canines and equines
	2.3. Reflect on the benefits of the multi-disciplinary team
3. Know and understand the legalities of practising as an Animal Sports Massage Therapist or Veterinary Physiotherapist	3.1. Explain the Veterinary Surgeons Act as it relates to the treatment of animals
	3.2. Describe the key points of the Veterinary Surgeons (Exemption) Order
	3.3. Understand the use of the terms “Physiotherapy” and “Musculoskeletal

	Therapist” in the Veterinary Surgeons Act, and related RCVS guidance
	3.4. Explain what the Exemption order means in practical terms for the Animal Musculoskeletal Therapist and what steps they might take in order to ensure compliance
	3.5. Define what is meant by informed consent
	3.6. Define protected titles and explain their use
	3.7. Outline the requirements of GDPR legislation and record keeping in relation to the role of an Animal Musculoskeletal Therapist
	3.8. Explain requirements for documentation, records and reports
4. Understand the role of the RCVS, Registers and Professional Associations	4.1. Describe the current guidelines from the RCVS relating to the treatment of animals by Paraprofessionals
	4.2. Describe the role of the RCVS, Registers and Professional Associations, their role within the industry, their main purpose and how they differ
	4.3. Describe the purpose of Codes of Conduct
	4.4. Compare the Codes of Practice for the RCVS, RAMP/AHPR and one Professional Association
	4.5. Evaluate the complaints procedure and disciplinary procedures of one register and one association
5. Know and understand health and safety legislation in relation to the role of an Animal Sports Massage Therapist and Veterinary Physiotherapist	5.1. Describe key points of relevant Health and Safety Legislation
	5.2. Evaluate the responsibilities of an Animal Musculoskeletal Therapist under health and safety legislation
	5.3. Describe responsibilities under risk assessment
	5.4. Define key terminology within risk assessment
	5.5. Describe the process of designing and conducting a risk assessment
6. Understand the meaning of professionalism and ethics within the context of Veterinary Physiotherapy	6.1. Explain what is meant by the term professionalism
	6.2. Describe the factors that are considered to contribute to professionalism
	6.3. Describe the concept of a Code of Ethics
	6.4. Evaluate both the economic and emotional context within which the Animal Musculoskeletal Therapist operates
	6.5. Describe ethical considerations that practising Musculoskeletal Therapist may encounter and potential resolutions
7. Understand the importance of professional communication	7.1. Explain the importance of communication with clients
	7.2. Explain the importance of communication across the multi-disciplinary team

8. Know key business considerations	8.1. Describe the different types of business ownership
	8.2. Describe the requirements of different types of business ownership
	8.3. Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of different operating models
	8.4. Explain the importance of insurance for professional practice
	8.5. Discuss the purpose of marketing
	8.6. Describe approaches to market analysis
	8.7. Evaluate traditional and modern advertising options



Unit title:	Animal Health, Welfare and Behaviour
Level:	4
Credit value:	20
GLH:	11
TQT:	200
Unit code:	428
Unit reference number:	Y/651/1166
Unit aim:	The aim of this unit is to provide the knowledge and understanding to uphold the highest standards of animal welfare, promote good animal health and husbandry and understand animal behaviour. This unit introduces Candidates to key concepts and legislation relating to animal health, behaviour and welfare.
Number of learning outcomes	14

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will:	The learner can:
1. Understand animal welfare legislation	1.1. Evaluate the purpose and responsibilities of relevant animal welfare legislation
	1.2. Explain the concept of duty of care as outlined in The Animal Welfare Act
	1.3. Evaluate how the duty of care is relevant to the role of an Animal Musculoskeletal Therapist
	1.4. Evaluate the purpose of the Codes of Practice
	1.5. Evaluate how codes of practice are relevant to the role of an Animal Musculoskeletal Therapist
	1.6. Describe the process for reporting concerns about animal welfare
2. Understand the requirements of implementing high standards of animal husbandry	2.1. Explain what is meant by animal husbandry
	2.2. Explain the "Five Freedoms"
	2.3. Evaluate common methods of keeping canines and equines in relation to the Five Freedoms
	2.4. Define animal stereotypes
	2.5. Explain the causes of stereotypical behaviour
	2.6. Describe an example of a stereotypy in an animal
	2.7. Evaluate the role of the Animal Musculoskeletal Therapist in relation to stereotypical behaviour
3. Know and understand relevant legislation relating to animal health and disease	3.1. Explain the purpose and content of The Animal Health Act
	3.2. Define zoonotic disease
	3.3. Define notifiable disease
	3.4. Explain why some diseases are notifiable
	3.5. Describe the steps that should be taken for reporting notifiable diseases
	3.6. List notifiable diseases in equines and explain their main clinical signs

	3.7. List notifiable diseases in canines and explain their main clinical signs
	3.8. List notifiable diseases in farm animals and explain their clinical signs
	3.9. List key non-notifiable diseases affecting canines and equines and explain their main clinical signs
	3.10. Define biosecurity
	3.11. Describe appropriate biosecurity measures relevant to the Animal Musculoskeletal Therapist
	3.12. Evaluate the importance of biosecurity for the Animal Musculoskeletal Therapist
4. Know signs of health and signs of illness and disease in animals	4.1. Describe signs of health and ill-health in animals
	4.2. List the vital signs of cow, horse, dog, cat and rabbit
	4.3. Describe how to measure the vital signs of a horse and dog
5. Understand signs of discomfort, pain and distress in animals	5.1. Describe signs of discomfort, pain and distress in animals
	5.2. Describe systems (ethograms) for assessing pain
	5.3. Evaluate the use and effectiveness of pain scales
	5.4. Evaluate the reasons why pain might not be seen in animals
	5.5. Evaluate the relationship between pain and diagnostic imaging
	5.6. Evaluate the suggestion that animals can fake pain
	5.7. Evaluate the importance of assessing pain in the role of an Animal Musculoskeletal Therapist
6. Know signs of fear, anxiety and aggression in animals	6.1. Describe the signs of fear, anxiety and aggression in canines
	6.2. Describe the signs of fear, anxiety and aggression in equines
	6.3. Describe the general signs of fear, anxiety and aggression in farm animals
	6.4. Describe the general signs of fear, anxiety and aggression in small companion animals
	6.5. Evaluate the importance of recognising signs of fear, anxiety and aggression for the role of an Animal Musculoskeletal Therapist
7. Know and understand the key principles of animal behaviour	7.1. Define the term ethology
	7.2. Identify four types of behaviour
	7.3. Describe what is meant by instinct and innate behaviours
	7.4. Evaluate the role of evolution in animal behaviour

8. Understand the fundamentals of canine and equine behaviour	8.1. Compare the natural feeding habits of canines and equines
	8.2. Compare the exercise needs of canines and equines
	8.3. Compare normal reproductive behaviours of canines and equines
	8.4. Evaluate the effects of neutering on behaviour
	8.5. Critically evaluate the benefits and issues associated with neutering
	8.6. Compare canine and equine behaviours in relation to social structures
	8.7. Compare natural communication in canines and equines
	8.8. Analyse body language signals in canines and equines
	8.9. Compare the natural behaviour in relation to territory of canines and equines
	8.10. Evaluate the influence of breed on behavioural characteristics and traits in both canines and equines
	8.11. Evaluate the influences of Nature or Nurture on the behaviour of canines and equines
	8.12. Explain the nature of the human bond for both canines and equines
	8.13. Evaluate the importance of the human bond in relation to training both canines and equines
	8.14. Evaluate the importance of the owner/handler relationship with the animal in relation to veterinary physiotherapy
	8.15. Evaluate the importance of individual personality when working with canine and equines
9. Understand large/farm animal and small companion animal behaviour	9.1. Explain the key aspects of small animal behaviour
	9.2. Explain the key aspects of large/farm animal behaviour
10. Understand the effects of selective breeding on animal welfare	10.1. Evaluate the effects of selective breeding in canines and equines
	10.2. Consider the relevance of selective breeding to the role of an Animal Musculoskeletal Therapist
11. Understand ethical considerations of the use of animals in sport, industry and society	11.1. Discuss key areas for consideration in relation to the use of animals in sport
	11.2. Define Social Licence
	11.3. Evaluate the concept of social licence in either equestrian or canine sport
	11.4. Evaluate the implications of social licence for the Animal Musculoskeletal Therapist
12. Understand a theoretical approach to animal handling	12.1. Explain the principles of safe animal handling
	12.2. Describe approaches to safe animal handling

13. Understand the principles of animal first aid	13.1. Define first aid
	13.2. Explain where first aid is appropriate and when it is inappropriate
	13.3. Describe situations that would be considered an emergency
14. Understand the impact of physiotherapy on welfare and behaviour	14.1. Explain the potential effects of massage/physiotherapy on animal welfare and behaviour



Unit title:	Anatomy and Physiology of Animals
Level:	4
Credit value:	15
GLH:	10
TQT:	150
Unit code:	429
Unit reference number:	A/651/1167
Unit aim:	The aim of this unit is for Candidates to develop fundamental underpinning knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of animals, including the main body systems and their respective functions. This unit will also address key veterinary and anatomical terminology.
Number of learning outcomes	16

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will:	The learner can:
1. Understand the structure of cells and the function of their constituent parts	1.1. Compare the structural and functional differences between prokaryotic and eukaryotic cell
	1.2. Name the organelles and describe their individual function
	1.3. Define the extra-cellular matrix and explain its function
2. Understand the various types of tissue, their structure and function	2.1. Identify the four main categories of tissue types
	2.2. Describe the main types, purpose, structure and function of epithelial tissue and its sub-types
	2.3. Describe the purpose, structure and function of connective tissue and its sub-types
	2.4. Describe the purpose, structure and function of muscular tissue and its sub-types
	2.5. Describe the purpose, structure and function of nervous tissue
3. Understand the structure and function of the skeletal system	3.1. Describe the functions of bone
	3.2. Describe the different types of bone marrow and their respective functions
	3.3. Describe the two types of bone and their function
	3.4. Describe the structure of compact bone
	3.5. Describe bone markings and their purpose
	3.6. Explain the various bone shapes and their function
	3.7. Describe the anatomical features of a long bone
	3.8. Define the axial and appendicular skeleton
	3.9. Define types of joints
	3.10. Describe the structure of a synovial joint
	4.1. Define three types of muscle tissue

4. Understand the structure and function of the muscular system	4.2. Explain the functions of muscle
	4.3. Describe the structure of muscle
	4.4. Describe the function and structure of a sarcomere
	4.5. Explain the process of muscle contraction
	4.6. Describe types of muscle contraction
5. Understand the structure and function of the nervous system	5.1. Describe the functions of the nervous system
	5.2. Explain homeostasis
	5.3. Explain the structure of the nervous system
	5.4. Describe the structure of nerves
	5.5. Describe the structure and function of nerves, tracts and bundles
6. Understand the structure and function of the cardiovascular system	6.1. Describe the function of the cardiovascular system
	6.2. Describe the structure of the cardiovascular system
	6.3. Describe the structure of the heart
	6.4. Describe the function of the heart
	6.5. Describe the cardiac cycle
	6.6. Describe the process of heart contraction
	6.7. Define pulse, cardiac output, heart rate, heart rhythm and arrhythmia
	6.8. Describe heart sounds
	6.9. Describe the structure of blood vessels
	6.10. Define the three types of blood vessel and their function
	6.11. Describe the structure and function of blood
	6.12. Describe the pulmonary and systemic circuits
7. Understand the structure and function of the respiratory system	7.1. Describe the function of the respiratory system
	7.2. Define respiration
	7.3. Describe the process of respiration
	7.4. Define aerobic and anaerobic respiration
	7.5. Describe the structure of the respiratory system
8. Understand the structure and function of the integumentary system	8.1. Define the integumentary system
	8.2. Describe the structure of the skin
	8.3. Describe the function of the integumentary system
9. Understand the structure and function of the digestive system	9.1. Describe the structure of the digestive system
	9.2. Explain the role of enzymes
	9.3. Explain the importance of water in digestion
	9.4. Define hunger and appetite
10. Understand the structure and function of the lymphatic system	10.1. Describe the functions of the lymphatic system
	10.2. Describe the structure of the lymphatic system
	10.3. Describe lymphatic circulation
11. Understand the structure and function of the immune system	11.1. Describe the functions of the immune system
	11.2. Define the innate and adaptive immune systems
	11.3. Define inflammation

	11.4. Describe the process of inflammation
	11.5. Evaluate the importance of inflammation
	11.6. Explain the cause and signs of allergies
12. Understand the structure and function of the endocrine system	12.1. Define the endocrine system
	12.2. Describe the functions of the endocrine system
	12.3. Describe the structure of the endocrine system
13. Understand the structure and function of the urinary system	13.1. Describe the functions of the urinary system
	13.2. Describe the structure of the urinary system
14. Understand the structure and function of the reproductive system	14.1. Describe the functions of the reproductive system
	14.2. Describe the structure of the reproductive system
15. Understand anatomical terminology	15.1. Explain directional terminology
	15.2. Explain anatomical planes
	15.3. Explain movement terminology
	15.4. Identify key veterinary terminology and abbreviations used in practice
16. Understand the relevance of anatomy to the practice of animal sports massage, rehabilitation and veterinary physiotherapy	16.1. Reflect on the importance and relevance of an understanding of the fundamentals of anatomy to the practice of animal sports massage, rehabilitation and veterinary physiotherapy

Unit title:	Musculoskeletal Anatomy
Level:	4
Credit value:	20
GLH:	28
TQT:	200
Unit code:	430
Unit reference number:	D/651/1168
Unit aim:	The aim of this unit is to provide the knowledge and understanding of the mammalian musculoskeletal system relevant to the role of Animal Sports Massage Therapist and to build a strong foundation for the further development for the role of Animal Sports Massage and Rehabilitation Therapist and Veterinary Physiotherapist.
Number of learning outcomes	12

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will:	The learner can:
1. Understand conformation and posture in animals	1.1. Explain the concept of conformation
	1.2. Describe how conformation is assessed in the horse and the dog
	1.3. Explain common conformational faults in the canine and equine
	1.4. Describe common faulty gaits that can be caused by poor conformation
	1.5. Evaluate the effects of poor conformation on the animal
	1.6. Explain the concept of posture
	1.7. Explain the concept of postural adaptations
2. Understand the anatomy of the skeletal system in canines and equines	2.1. Identify and name the bones of the canine and equine skeletons
	2.2. Explain the different skull types in canines
	2.3. Evaluate the effects of different skull types on canine health
	2.4. Identify and name the joints of the canine and equine skeletons
3. Understand the anatomy of the muscular system in canines and equines	3.1. Explain muscles of the canine and equine musculoskeletal system, to include origin, insertion, innervation and function
4. Understand the anatomy and physiology of tendons and ligaments	4.1. Explain the function of the major tendons and ligaments of the canine and equine musculoskeletal system
5. Understand the reciprocal apparatus	5.1. Explain the function of the reciprocal apparatus
	5.2. Describe the structures involved in the reciprocal apparatus
6. Understand the stay apparatus in the equine	6.1. Describe the purpose of the stay apparatus in the equine

	6.2. Describe the specific structures involved in the stay apparatus
7. Understand the structure and function of fascia	7.1. Describe the types, structure and function of fascia
	7.2. Evaluate the effects of working on fascia within the body
	7.3. Explain the concept of fascia chains
	7.4. Describe the main fascia chains
8. Understand the concept of biotensegrity	8.1. Evaluate the concept of biotensegrity
9. Understand comparative anatomy, differences and similarities between species	9.1. Describe the vertebral formula of a range of species
	9.2. Explain the differences in the distal limb across species
	9.3. Describe the structure of the equine hoof and the function of the individual parts
	9.4. Evaluate and compare the anatomy of canines and equines based on their diet
10. Understand functional anatomy	10.1. Define activity, postural and stabiliser muscles
	10.2. Define short and long head muscles, explain their function and evaluate their differences
	10.3. Define parallel and pennate muscles, explain their function and evaluate their differences
	10.4. Explain the terms agonist, antagonist and synergistic muscles
	10.5. Define the thoracic sling, its purpose and component parts
	10.6. Compare the importance of the thoracic sling in canines and equines
	10.7. Explain how an understanding of anatomy contributes to patient assessment
	10.8. Evaluate the different requirements of various canine disciplines on the musculoskeletal system
	10.9. Evaluate the different requirements of various equine disciplines on the musculoskeletal system
11. Understand various types of musculoskeletal tissue pathologies	11.1. Define various soft tissue pathologies and their causes
12. Understand the relevance of anatomy to the practice of animal sports massage, rehabilitation and veterinary physiotherapy	12.1. Reflect on the importance and relevance of an understanding of the musculoskeletal anatomy to the practice of animal sports massage, rehabilitation and veterinary physiotherapy

Unit title:	Animal Sports Massage Clinical Competency and Practice
Level:	4
Credit value:	30
GLH:	122
TQT:	300
Unit code:	431
Unit reference number:	F/651/1169
Unit aim:	The aim of this unit is to develop the clinical competence and practical skills required as an Animal Sports Massage Therapist, creating a strong foundation for further study as an Animal Sports Massage and Rehabilitation Therapist and ultimately as a Veterinary Physiotherapist.
Number of learning outcomes	10

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will:	The learner can:
1. Be able to work in a way that maintains health and safety, animal health and biosecurity	1.1. Demonstrate appropriate regard for health and safety when working with animals
	1.2. Demonstrate appropriate regard for animal health and welfare when working with animals
	1.3. Demonstrate appropriate biosecurity when handling animals
2. Be able to handle animals in a safe and effective manner with appropriate regard for welfare	2.1. Demonstrate effective, appropriate and safe handling skills and techniques with dogs
	2.2. Demonstrate effective, appropriate and safe handling skills and techniques with horses
3. Be able to apply knowledge of musculoskeletal anatomy	3.1. Identify and physically palpate a list of bony landmarks and joints on the dog
	3.2. Identify and physically palpate a list of bony landmarks and joints on the horse
	3.3. Identify and physically palpate a list of tendons and ligaments in the distal limb on the horse
	3.4. Identify and physically palpate a list of major muscles on the dog, indicating the origin, insertion, innervation and function of each muscle
	3.5. Identify and physically palpate a list of major muscles on the horse, indicating the origin, insertion, innervation and function of each muscle
4. Understand the fundamental knowledge and underpinning theory of Animal Sports Massage	4.1. Explain the different applications of massage
	4.2. Explain the purpose of pre and post-event massage
	4.3. Define the main techniques used in animal sports massage and explain their indications and benefits within Sports Massage

	4.4. Define total and local contraindications
	4.5. Explain the overall contraindications for massage/sports massage
	4.6. Explain the contraindications for specific techniques as appropriate
5. Be able to take a client history and signalment	5.1. Demonstrate taking client signalment
	5.2. Demonstrate taking a full clinical history
6. Be able to assess and palpate animals	6.1. Demonstrate visual assessment of a dog
	6.2. Demonstrate a dynamic assessment of a horse
	6.3. Demonstrate visual assessment of a horse
	6.4. Demonstrate a dynamic assessment of a horse
	6.5. Demonstrate assessment of whether the patient is a suitable candidate for treatment
	6.6. Demonstrate physical assessment of a dog including palpation
	6.7. Demonstrate identification of soft tissue pathologies in the canine
	6.8. Demonstrate physical assessment of a horse including palpation
	6.9. Demonstrate identification of soft tissue pathologies in the horse
7. Be able to apply and demonstrate soft tissue techniques	7.1. Demonstrate safe and effective use of standard massage techniques on a dog
	7.2. Demonstrate safe and effective use of standard massage techniques on a horse
8. Be able to complete practical hours in an Animal Sports Massage environment	8.1. Complete a minimum of 200 hours of practical training
9. Be able to demonstrate awareness of an ability to work with the Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) throughout clinical practice	9.1. Obtain appropriate consent, approval or referral for all case work
	9.2. Show inclusion of the wider multidisciplinary team as necessary in all case work
10. Be able to work in a reflective and self-aware manner	10.1. Reflect on own clinical performance
	10.2. Analyse own strengths and weaknesses and areas for development
	10.3. Set objectives, goals, and targets for future performance

Assessment information

All Assessment Criteria must be evidenced. For guidance on assessment, including principles of assessment and methods which may be used, Training Providers should consult the 'Assessment' section of the iPET Network Qualification Handbook and relevant policies.

Sector Subject Area (SSA)	3.3
Date from which qualification will be available for learners	28/03/2024
Qualification review date	28/03/2027

11. Suggested Learning Resources

Qualification	Suggested learning resources
Level 4 Diploma in Animal Sports Massage	<p>Literature</p> <p>Anatomy of the Dog. Published by: Schluetersche (2007) 5th ed. ISBN-10 : 9783899930184 – Budras, K-D, McCarthy, P.H, Fricke, W., Richter, R., Horowitz, A. and Berg, R. https://vetbooks.ir/anatomy-of-the-dog-an-illustrated-text-5th-revised-edition/</p> <p>Anatomy of the Horse. Published by: Schluetersche (2012) 6th ed. ISBN-10 : 9783899936667 – Budras, K-D., Sack, W.O. and Röck, S. https://vetbooks.ir/anatomy-of-the-horse-6th-edition/</p> <p>Horse Structure and Movement. Published by: J.A.Allen & Co Ltd; (1993) 3rd ed. ISBN: 085131547X – Smythe, R.H and Goody, P.C.</p> <p>Introduction to Animal and Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology. Published by: CABI, 2019 ISBN: 978178924117 – Aspinall, V. and Capello, M.</p> <p>Memmler's the Human Body in Health and Disease. Published by: Lippincott Williams and Wilkins (2012) 12th rev ed. ISBN-10 : 9781609139056 – Cohen, B.J.</p> <p>Physical Therapy and Massage for the Dog. Published by: CRC Press (2013) 1st ed. ISBN-10 : 184076144X - Robertson, J. and Mead, A.</p> <p>Physical Therapy and Massage for the Horse. Published by: Manson Publishing (2009) 2nd ed. Denoix, J.-M. and Paillioux, J.-P.</p> <p>The Complete Guide to Sports Massage. Published by: A & C Black Publishers Ltd (2007) 2nd ed. ISBN-10 : 0713685794 – Paine, T.</p> <p>The Horse In Motion: The Anatomy and Physiology of Equine Locomotion. Published by: Wiley-Blackwell (2013) 1st ed. ISBN: 9781118702369 – Pilliner, S., Elmhurst, S. and Davies, Z.</p> <p><i>Peer-reviewed published journal articles</i></p> <p>Websites / Associations</p> <p>https://www.ramregister.org/education https://www.irvap.org.uk/</p>

12. 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, the web portal or SharePoint.

iPET Network Training Provider Manual
iPET Network Quality Assurance Requirements
Malpractice and Maladministration Policy and Procedure (including Sanctions)



Document Control

Document Name: Level 4 Diploma in Animal Sports Massage- Qualification Specification

Document Number: Q169

Date of Correction	Version Number	Correction Reason
	1	

