



International Pet Education and Training

CANDIDATE QUALIFICATION OVERVIEW

iPET Network

Level 3 Certificate in Dog
Training

Qualification Number

610/3852/0

Introduction

About the Qualification

Congratulations on enrolling on the iPET Network Level 3 Certificate in Dog Training. This Candidate Qualification Overview has been written to provide you with information and support as you work through achieving the qualification.

The iPET Network Level 3 Certificate in Dog Training is an ideal qualification for Candidates who wish to gain the knowledge and practical skills required to confidently handle and train dogs in a series of common exercises using a variety of training techniques. Candidates will gain an understanding of canine evolution, anatomy, health, socialisation and behaviour. Candidates will learn how to effectively communicate with, understand and adapt to a dog's needs.

The qualification would suit those who wish to work as a Dog Trainer or those who are currently working as a Dog Trainer and want to gain a formally recognised regulated qualification.

It would also be beneficial for those who work in a similar animal sector e.g., veterinary nurses, groomers, dog walkers and day care workers etc.

It is an ideal qualification for those looking to progress onto the iPET Network Level 4 Diploma in Dog Training and Instruction.

iPET Network places the welfare of animals at the forefront of all qualifications developed. While views on the methods of dog training vary, iPET Network supports the use of compassionate and evidence-based positive reinforcement techniques.

Leading industry experts have reviewed this qualification to ensure the outcome is appropriate for the dog training industry.

The qualification consists of three theory units and one practical unit (all units are mandatory), designed to provide the underpinning knowledge required to support the development of robust practical training skills. The materials and learning are designed to give clear guidance on how to meet each specific criterion.

The qualification structure:

- Unit 374: Introduction to Canine Ethology
- Unit 375: Canine Health and Handling Theory
- Unit 376: Dog Training and Socialisation Theory
- Unit 377: Dog Training and Handling Skills

Objectives of the qualification

This qualification has been designed to enable Candidates to:

- Understand the history and evolution of the dog and how this influences canine behaviour.
- Recognise health and ill-health in the dog and when training is not suitable on health/fitness grounds.
- Be able to safely approach and handle dogs using equipment that is best suited to the individual.
- Recognise and interpret canine communication signals and emotional states.
- Understand how puppies and adult dogs can be socialised and habituated to a range of stimuli.
- Understand and apply the theories of dog training to everyday handling and training scenarios.
- Demonstrate a compassionate and research-based approach to the training and handling of dogs.

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

The iPET Network Level 3 Certificate in Dog Training is regulated by Ofqual.

Who will be involved?

The Candidate

You will need to:

- Complete a workbook which proves how you have developed your knowledge and understanding throughout your training.
- Undertake independent study and practical dog training to practice the skills you have learned throughout the qualification.
- Produce evidence which documents your learning journey throughout this qualification.
- Collate your evidence within an e-portfolio or a paper-based portfolio system.
- Present the evidence for assessment either via an e-portfolio or a paper-based document; this may include being available to discuss your workbook/portfolio with the internal and /or external quality assurer if requested.

The Tutor / Assessor

- Will have experience in your area of work and must be occupationally competent.
- Will be experienced in training and assessing.
- Will themselves have achieved the qualification or have the equivalent qualification(s) or have significant and current experience in the area of assessment.

The Internal Quality Assurer

- Is appointed by the Training Provider where you are registered.
- Is responsible for maintaining the quality of assessment by checking the assessment decisions made by Tutors / Assessors.
- Will have experience in your area of work and must be occupationally competent.
- Will themselves have achieved a higher qualification and or have an equivalent qualification or have significant and current experience in the area of assessment to allow them to act as an Internal Quality Assurer.

The External Quality Assurer

- Is appointed by iPET Network to ensure that all assessments undertaken are fair, valid, consistent and that your Training Provider meets the required national standard.
- Will make regular visits to your Training Provider (either in person or remotely) to observe assessments and examine e-portfolios / workbooks.
- Makes regular reports to iPET Network confirming assessment practices conducted by your Training Provider.

How will my competence be assessed?

Competence can be described as the consistent demonstration of knowledge and understanding, to the standard specified by the assessment criteria for each unit of the qualification. Each unit relates to competence in a different area of activity. Assessment of the Candidate's competence will be based on their knowledge and understanding and demonstration of relevant practical skills.

What is evidence?

Evidence is what Candidates will need to provide in order to prove their competence, i.e., their ability to meet the standards. Your evidence will need to be filed and indexed in a portfolio (written or electronic portfolio). The evidence required for this qualification is as follows:

Written Questions / Workbooks – Units 374, 365 and 376 all have written questions as part of their assessment. Written questions will allow Candidates to demonstrate their knowledge competence against each unit where applicable in the

qualification. The Tutor will mark these questions once submitted and provide feedback and support. Knowledge may also be captured through verbal questions where a Candidate finds writing challenging.

Observation Reports – you will need to create **TWO** Observation Reports, one Unit 374 and one for Unit 375. These reports are designed to evidence your ability to observe and interpret canine behaviour and the relationship between the dog and handler.

Video Diaries – you will need to create **THREE** Video Diaries for Unit 377. Each of these diaries is to evidence your skill in training a set of three core exercises and demonstrate the progression of this training towards the final outcome.

Summative Formal Practical Assessment – as part of Unit 377, you will be required to practically demonstrate the training you have been working on throughout the duration of your qualification. You will be asked to demonstrate and explain a series of core exercises and test your dog's ability under different circumstances.

Re-assessment is permitted for this qualification.

Clear tracking of progression and support must be evidenced to show the process is fair.

Guidance for assessment

For the iPET Network Level 3 Certificate in Dog Training, the Tutor must demonstrate the assessment is safe, fair, reliable, and valid.

Guidance - Observation Reports

You are required to produce **TWO** Observation Reports as part of your assessment for Units 374 and 375 of two or more dogs interacting with one another and their handler. Observations may take place in any scenario you see fit. Typical examples may include:

- Friends' / family members' dogs, for example on a walk together
- In public places such as parks
- In a day care setting
- Observing during training classes

The two observations should involve different dogs and handlers and should not include the yourself or your own dog(s).

The observations may be any duration as long as the required elements have been observed in order to achieve the assessment criteria. Names and details of the dogs and their handlers do not need to be provided.

These Observation Reports assess your ability to understand and interpret:

- Methods by which dogs communicate with one another and their handler
- The bond/relationship between the dog(s) and their handler
- Handler response to the dog(s) and their behaviour
- Emotional states of dogs
- Factors affecting the behaviour of the dogs
- Safe handling of the dogs
- Equipment used for handling and its impact

You should complete **TWO** separate observations

Completed **Observation Reports** must be submitted and if using the e-portfolio, uploaded for marking.

Word count – there is no specific word count; however, as a guide, each report should be in the region of 500-1000 words. The **Observation Report** template should be completed to guide you through writing up this assessment.

Guidance – Video Diaries

As evidence of your development and ongoing activity in dog training, you are required to produce a series of **THREE** Video Diaries demonstrating your ability and progression in training a dog in the following core exercises:

1. Loose lead walking
2. Recall
3. Choose 1 out of 3: Emergency stop, toy play and release or handling skills (e.g. vet/grooming handling and desensitisation)

Video requirements:

- Each video must be a minimum of 5 minutes and a maximum of 10 minutes in duration
- The videos must clearly focus on you and the dog you are working with.
- All three videos may be completed using the same dog. Different dogs may be used if possible, but this is not essential.
- Each video should document your training progress and should provide evidence of the completed outcome of the training activity undertaken. For example, a 5-minute video could include 4 x 1-minute snapshots of the training progress over a period of time, followed by 1 minute demonstrating the dog achieving the desired outcome.
- Your videos must include a running commentary as to what you are doing and why.
- Videos should be uploaded to a private YouTube channel or other Cloud-based storage platform and a link inserted into the e-portfolio. Please refer to **Video Upload Instructions** for how to do this. Do not attempt to upload videos directly to the e-portfolio.

Each video will assess your ability to:

- Plan effective training sessions
- Select, fit, and safely use a range of different dog training equipment
- Demonstrate basic approaches to safe handling and assessment of dogs
- Adapt methods of handling, training and the environment to suit the individual dog
- Recognise and interpret the emotional state of dogs on the basis of their body language
- Use ONE method or theory of how dogs learn to teach a dog a specific skill
- Deliver training that considers the welfare needs of all dogs involved and relevant legislation
- Respond appropriately to challenges encountered during training

The **Digital Imagery Consent Form** must have been signed prior to commencement of this activity. or digital consent given via the e-portfolio.

The videos will be assessed by your Tutor using the **Video Diary Record** and, once completed, provided to you for you to add your own comments.

Candidates are encouraged to carefully select the dogs used for their videos to ensure the suitability of the dog for training and their own safety.

Guidance – Summative Formal Practical Assessment

The Summative Formal Practical Assessment forms part of the assessment strategy for Unit 377. It should be assessed in-person, face-to-face and on a one-to-one basis with your Tutor or remotely via a live video call such as Teams/Zoom, on a one-to-one basis. There is no requirement to video record this practical assessment.

You must be able to bring a suitable dog (one that you have been working with for the duration of the qualification) to the assessment to demonstrate the skills you have acquired. If this is not possible, you should discuss in advance whether your Assessor can provide a suitable dog.

The Practical Assessment is intended to assess your ability in real-time to:

- Determine the suitability of dogs for training
- Select and safely use a range of different dog training equipment
- Demonstrate basic approaches to safe handling and assessment of dogs
- Recognise and interpret the emotional state of dogs on the basis of their body language
- Use an appropriate method/theory of training to teach a dog the relevant skill
- Make decisions regarding adaptations to methods, environment and equipment required
- Deliver training that considers the relevant legislation and welfare needs of all dogs involved
- Reflect on the effectiveness of the training session

You will be asked to choose a minimum of 4 out of the following 9 exercises and demonstrate them with the dog, explaining your process and methodology:

- Sit
- Stand
- Down
- Stay
- Leave
- Settle (also referred to as boundaries)
- Hand target
- Loose lead walking
- Recall

Time permitted – 25 minutes total for all 4 exercises

The **Summative Formal Practical Assessment Record** should be completed by the Tutor during the assessment. Following the assessment, you will be asked to complete your reflection on the session in the relevant part of the form.

Candidates are encouraged to carefully select the dogs used for their assessment to ensure the suitability of the dog for training and their own safety.

Additional Evidence

In addition to the evidence described above, prior to completion of the qualification, the following documents must be submitted:

- Candidate Qualification Checklist and Sign-off Form (if not using e-portfolio)
- Digital Imagery Consent Form (or consent given via e-portfolio)

Recommended Additional Evidence/Forms to be submitted

In addition to the evidence described above, prior to completion of the qualification, it is recommended the following documents are submitted:

- Completed Candidate Hours Log (if not using e-portfolio)
- Candidate Feedback Form

Marking

These assessments are pass or fail and the Assessor's decision is final. The use of artificial intelligence to mark any candidate's work is strictly prohibited.

*Please note re-assessments are permitted.

Qualification grading

This qualification is graded pass or fail and the Assessor's decision is final.

The Candidate must demonstrate achievement in all Assessment Criteria for each unit to meet the level required for this qualification.

Unit Title	Assessment Criteria	Assessment Strategy	Criterion Type	
			K & U	Skills
374: Introduction to Canine Ethology	1.1-1.4, 2.1, 2.2, 3.4, 4.1-4.4	Workbook / e-portfolio	✓	
	1.4, 3.1-3.7, 4.3	Observation Report	✓	
375: Canine Health and Handling Theory	1.1-1.5, 2.1-2.5, 4.1-4.2	Workbook / e-portfolio	✓	
	3.1, 3.2	Risk Assessment	✓	
	3.3-3.7	Observation Report	✓	
376: Dog Training and Socialisation Theory	All	Workbook / e-portfolio	✓	
377: Dog Training and Handling Skills	1.1-1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 4.1, 5.1-5.3, 5.5	Practical Assessment		✓
	1.1-1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 5.2-5.4	Video Diaries		✓

*K & U – Knowledge and Understanding (theory); Skills – practical assessment

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. 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
- 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
- Inappropriate use of equipment
- Excessively long or short duration of assessment
- Inability to satisfactorily execute one or more of the exercises

Level 3 Certificate in Dog Training

Candidate Hours Log

This document is only for use by Candidates who are not using the e-portfolio.

Date	Total numbers of hours	Guided Learning Hours (spent with direct Tutor support)	At Home (personal study and practice without Tutor support)	Sign
				Tutor / Candidate
Unit 374: Introduction to Canine Ethology	0	0	0	
[Please add your key learning for this unit here – add/delete rows as required]				
Unit 375: Canine Health and Handling Theory	0	0	0	
[Please add your key learning for this unit here – add/delete rows as required]				
Unit 376: Dog Training and Socialisation Theory	0	0	0	
[Please add your key learning for this unit here – add/delete rows as required]				
Unit 377: Dog Training and Handling Skills	0	0	0	
[Please add your key learning for this unit here –				

<i>add/delete rows as required]</i>	



Level 3 Certificate in Dog Training

Candidate Feedback Form

To help us improve our training programmes we would really appreciate it if you could take a few moments to evaluate our performance. Your feedback is very important to us and will help us to improve our work for future Candidates.

Candidate Name: **Date:**

E-mail address:

How satisfied are you with the training that you have received?	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Not Satisfied
Qualification induction			
Qualification length/time taken to complete			
Number of supported training hours received			
Qualification content			
Materials provided			
Skills gained			
Suitability of methods of assessment used			
Assessment methods appropriately reflect equality, diversity, and inclusion			

How satisfied are you with the Tutor on the following?	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Not Satisfied
Ability to answer questions			
Presentation style			
Patience			
Pace of training			
Support provided			
Adaptability to suit individual learner needs			

How satisfied are you with the training venue (if applicable)	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Not Satisfied
Venue facilities			
Equipment provided			
Refreshments			
Accessibility of the venue			

If you answered 'Not Satisfied' to any of the above questions, please explain how this could be improved upon:

Any additional comments:

This document is only for use by Candidates who are not using the e-portfolio.

Level 3 Certificate in Dog Training - Sign Off

Candidate Name:

Date started:

Date finished:

iPET Network Level 3 Certificate in Dog Training

Assessment Methods – Workbook/e-portfolio, Observation Reports, Video Diaries, Summative Formal Practical Assessment

Candidate's signature

I confirm that the evidence provided as part of this checklist below is all my own work

Signature

Print Name

Date

Tutor's signature

I confirm that the evidence for this unit is complete and meets the requirements for validity, authenticity, and sufficiency

Signature

Print Name

Date

Internal verifier's signature (if sampled)

Signature

Print Name

Date

Level 3 Certificate in Dog Training

Qualification Checklist

This document is only required to be submitted by Candidates who are not using the e-portfolio.

Documents Checklist		
Candidate Hours Log (if not using e-portfolio)		
Candidate Declaration / Sign Off (if not using e-portfolio)		
Candidate Feedback Form		
Digital Imagery Consent Form (if not using the e-portfolio)		
3 x Completed workbooks / e-portfolio for Units 374, 375 and 376		
2 x Observation Reports		
3 x Video Diaries (including video links)		
3 x Video Diary Records		
1 x Practical Assessment Record		

Document Control

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Document Number: Q116

Date of Correction	Version Number	Correction Reason
	1	

