

# Level 4 Certificate in Canine Hydrotherapy (Bridging Qualification)



**Canine Therapies Academy**

This qualification is available to practitioners already holding a recognised Level 3 qualification in canine or small animal hydrotherapy. It provides an excellent route for those wanting to enhance their hydrotherapy skills to Level 4 including a greater understanding of critical reasoning and facility management including sustainable practices. It is fully endorsed by IRVAP.

It is expected that learners will spend 4 days in person at our centre for the chosen optional practical unit and 6 days if both optional units are required.

Structure of this qualification:

4 mandatory units:

1. Clinical Risk Assessment, Health Monitoring and First Aid
2. Water Management and Sustainable Practice
3. Canine Functional Anatomy and Biomechanics
4. Clinical Reasoning and Assessment Processes

And at least one of the following optional units:

5. Advanced Techniques for Aquatic Treadmill Therapy
6. Advanced Techniques for Hydrotherapy Pool Treatment

<p><b>Unit 1: CLINICAL RISK ASSESSMENT, HEALTH MONITORING AND FIRST AID</b></p>	<p>This unit will equip learners with a thorough understanding of CRA, health monitoring, appropriate health checks and canine emergency first aid, to support the health and welfare of patients undergoing treatment.</p> <p>It includes effective risk assessments to ensure a safe clinical environment and the ability to justify the use of hydrotherapy as a treatment modality.</p> <p>It also includes the identification and management of emergency first aid situations within professional responsibilities and scope of practice.</p>
<p><b>Unit 2: WATER MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICE</b></p>	<p>This unit is intended to equip learners with the knowledge and understanding necessary for effective water testing and developing actionable solutions, fulfilling professional and legal responsibilities.</p> <p>Adhering to legal frameworks and implementing effective policies and protocols for safe, up-to-date practices is a fundamental requirement for veterinary healthcare professionals.</p>

<p><b>Unit 3: CANINE FUNCTIONAL ANATOMY AND BIOMECHANICS</b></p>	<p>In this unit learners will develop a comprehensive understanding of canine functional anatomy and biomechanics, essential for conducting accurate assessments and delivering effective clinical hydrotherapy treatments.</p>
<p><b>Unit 4: CLINICAL REASONING AND ASSESSMENT PROCESSES</b></p>	<p>In this unit learners will gain the knowledge and skills needed to conduct comprehensive assessments within a clinically reasoned framework ensuring accurate and reliable findings.</p> <p>They will effectively evaluate risks, assess the suitability of patients for hydrotherapy treatment, gather relevant data and apply clinical reasoning processes to analyse the information.</p> <p>They will develop a clear understanding of how the assessment process relates to safe practice, emphasising the importance of working within their professional competencies and scope.</p>
<p><b>Unit 5: ADVANCED TECHNIQUES FOR AQUATIC TREADMILL THERAPY</b></p>	<p>In this unit learners will develop their clinical competencies and proprioceptive treatment techniques when using an aquatic treadmill, focussing on achieving a positive outcome for each patient.</p> <p>Learners will apply their knowledge of assessment, behaviour, functional anatomy, breed biology and pathophysiology of underlying conditions to make informed decisions when selecting treatment techniques.</p> <p>They will combine clinical theory with practical application in order to create tailored plans which address the individual needs of each patient.</p>
<p><b>Unit 6: ADVANCED TECHNIQUES FOR HYDROTHERAPY POOL TREATMENT</b></p>	<p>In this unit learners will develop their clinical competencies and proprioceptive treatment techniques when using a hydrotherapy pool, focussing on achieving a positive outcome for each patient.</p> <p>Learners will apply their knowledge of assessment, behaviour, functional anatomy, breed biology and pathophysiology of underlying conditions to make informed decisions when selecting treatment techniques.</p> <p>They will combine clinical theory with practical application in order to create tailored plans which address the individual needs of each patient.</p>