

SEG Awards Level 3 Award in Aquatic Treadmill Therapy for Small Animals

England – 610/5032/5

About Us

At Skills and Education Group Awards we continually invest in high quality qualifications, assessments and services for our chosen sectors. As a UK leading sector specialist, we continue to support employers and skills providers to enable individuals to achieve the skills and knowledge needed to raise professional standards across our sectors.

Skills and Education Group Awards have an on-line registration system to help customers register learners on its qualifications, units and exams. In addition, it provides features to view exam results, invoices, mark sheets and other information about learners already registered.

The system is accessed via a web browser by connecting to our secure website using a username and password: [Skills and Education Group Awards Secure Login](#)

Sources of Additional Information

The [Skills and Education Group Awards](#) website provides access to a wide variety of information.

Copyright

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publishers.

This document may be copied by approved centres for the purpose of assessing learners. It may also be copied by learners for their own use.

Specification Code

The specification code is A9259-03.

Issue	Date	Details of change
1.0	October 2024	New qualification guide
1.1	March 2025	Added NARCH Endorsement

1.2	November 2025	Added paragraph under Assessment heading to clarify the number of examples required when learners are asked to demonstrate various methods or techniques
1.3	August 2026	Updated to new company branding

This guide should be read in conjunction with the Indicative Content document which is available on our secure website using the link above.

Contents

About Us	2
Sources of Additional Information	2
Copyright	2
Specification Code.....	2
Qualification Summary.....	5
Introduction	6
Pre-requisites	6
Qualification Structure and Rules of Combination	6
Aim	7
Target Group.....	7
Practical Training Requirements.....	7
Assessment	7
Resources.....	8
Practice Assessment Material	8
Teaching Strategies and Learning Activities	8
Progression Opportunities	8
Tutor / Assessor Requirements.....	9
Language	9
Endorsements and Recognition	9
Unit Details.....	10
Introduction to Aquatic Treadmill Practice.....	10
Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), Exemptions, Credit Transfers and Equivalencies	13
Certification	14
Exemptions.....	14
Glossary of Terms	15

This is a live document and as such will be updated when required. It is the responsibility of the approved centre to ensure the most up-to-date version of the Qualification Specification is in use. Any amendments will be published on our website and centres are encouraged to check this site regularly.

Qualification Summary

SEG Awards Level 3 Award in Aquatic Treadmill Therapy for Small Animals – 610/5032/9								
Qualification Purpose	Learners will develop the fundamental knowledge, skills and understanding required to safely and effectively conduct aquatic treadmill therapy for small animals. Occupations within Animal Care Services has shown a strong increase of demand over the past 3 years, with occupation postings increasing by 9%. The sector continues to rise with occupation opportunities within this field, with an expected 3% rise, providing learners with a great opportunity of success when achieving this qualification.							
Age Range	Pre 16		16-18	✓	18+	✓	19+	✓
Regulation	The above qualifications are regulated by Ofqual							
Assessment	> Portfolio of Evidence > Practical Demonstration							
Type of Funding Available	See FaLA (Find a Learning Aim)							
Grading	Pass/Fail only To achieve a Pass, learners must complete all units as stated in the rule of combination (RoC)							
Operational Start Date	19/01/2024							
Review Date	19/01/2027							
Operational End Date								
Certification End Date								
Guided Learning (GL)	30							
Total Qualification Time (TQT)	40							
Credit Value	4							

Skills and Education Group Awards Sector	Agriculture, Environment and Animal Care
Regulator Sector	3.3 - Animal Care and Veterinary Science
Support from Trade Associations	National Association of Registered Canine Hydrotherapists (NARCH)

Introduction

The SEG Awards Level 3 Award in Aquatic Treadmill Therapy for Small Animals has been designed to develop knowledge and skills within small animal hydrotherapy.

Pre-requisites

Learners are required to have obtained a Level 3 Qualification in Small Animal Hydrotherapy not including aquatic units within the qualification. The minimum age to apply for this qualification is 16 years of age.

Skills and Education Group Awards expects approved centres to recruit with integrity on the basis of a trainee's ability to contribute to and successfully complete all the requirements of a unit(s) or the full qualification.

Qualification Structure and Rules of Combination

Rules of Combination: SEG Awards Level 3 Award in Aquatic Treadmill Therapy for Small Animals

Learners must achieve 4 credits. All credits must come from the 1 mandatory unit.

Unit Title	Unit Number	Level	Credit Value	GL
Mandatory Group Minimum Credit Target - 4				
Introduction to Aquatic Treadmill Practice	J/650/2818	3	4	30

Aim

The SEG Awards Level 3 Award in Aquatic Treadmill Therapy for Small Animals has been designed to provide learners with fundamental information in the section of small animal hydrotherapy. The aim of this qualification includes the chance for the learners to manage and work on aquatic treadmills and evaluate the animals whilst using the equipment.

The learners will develop a plan for treadmill sessions and work alongside versatile professionals.

Target Group

The SEG Awards Level 3 Award in Aquatic Treadmill Therapy for Small Animals is designed for learners of the age of 16 and over, who are interested in the welfare of animals and who have previous experience working alongside them.

Practical Training Requirements

It is required for learners to complete 10 hours of practical training to obtain the skills required in aquatic treadmill therapy for small animals.

Learners will gain the required skills, knowledge and behaviours to work professionally in small animal aquatic treadmill therapy.

Skills and Education Group Awards have provided a Training Log template for all Learners to use to professionally log these training hours however, use of this log is not mandatory.

Assessment

This qualification is to be completed by portfolio submission including physical demonstration on live / dummy animals throughout the unit, with clear evidencing linked to the relevant Assessment Criteria.

Unless stated otherwise, Skills and Education Group Awards require a minimum of three examples when learners are asked to demonstrate various methods or techniques. This requirement ensures that the learner shows a clear understanding of the assessment criteria.

Where physical demonstration is required, this needs to be observed and recorded by the tutor to support the overall qualification submission.

Centres must take all reasonable steps to avoid any part of the assessment of a learner (including any internal quality assurance and invigilation) being undertaken by any person who has a personal interest in the result of the assessment.

Resources

Skills and Education Group Awards provides the following additional resources for this qualification:

- > Purpose Statement
- > Learner Unit Achievement Checklist
- > Indicative Content
- > Practical Hours Training Log
- > Progression Routes Flow Chart

Practice Assessment Material

Skills and Education Group Awards confirm that there is no practice assessment material for this qualification.

Teaching Strategies and Learning Activities

Centres should adopt a delivery approach which supports the development of all individuals. The aims and aspirations of all the learners, including those with identified special needs or learning difficulties/disabilities, should be considered and appropriate support mechanisms put in place.

Progression Opportunities

By obtaining this qualification, learners will have the necessary skills and knowledge to allow them the opportunity to potentially progress into employment within Aquatic Treadmill therapy for small animals.

This qualification goes hand in hand with a variety of Skills and Education Group Awards regulated qualifications within the Animal Care sector, supporting learners' knowledge and experience in animal care, which will support learners progress on to the following qualifications/areas:

- > Level 4 Certificate in Advanced Aquatic Treadmill Therapy for Small Animals

Centres should be aware that Reasonable Adjustments, which may be permitted for assessment, may in some instances limit a learner's progression into the sector. Centres must, therefore, inform learners of any limits their learning difficulty may impose on future progression.

Tutor / Assessor Requirements

Skills and Education Group Awards require those involved in the teaching and assessment process to be suitably experienced and / or qualified. Assessors should also be trained and qualified to assess or be working towards appropriate qualifications.

Those responsible for Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) must be knowledgeable of the subject/occupational area to a suitable level to carry out accurate quality assurance practices and processes.

Language

This specification and associated assessment materials are in English only.

Endorsements and Recognition

This qualification is currently endorsed by the National Association of Registered Canine Hydrotherapists (NARCH) and meets the requirements for those wishing to join NARCH, upon successful completion of the qualification - please note, this endorsement is applicable for all approved Centres apart from Learn Direct, Animal Courses Direct and Stonebridge Associated Colleges Limited.

This qualification is also recognised by the Canine Hydrotherapy Association (CHA) for all approved Centres. CHA has recognised this qualification to be of a high standard, mapping to current sector standard requirements and legislations.

Where Skills and Education Group Awards have referred to industry trade associations within this qualification guide, we are referring to the above associations.

Unit Details

Introduction to Aquatic Treadmill Practice		
Unit Reference	J/651/2818	
Level	3	
Credit Value	4	
Guided Learning (GL)	30	
Unit Summary	In this unit, Learners will understand how to safely use an aquatic treadmill for small animal hydrotherapy. Learners will use the basics of small animal gait analysis before, during and after a hydrotherapy session. This unit will also include the learner administering treatment techniques, monitoring, evaluation, and therapeutic interaction for each small animal as appropriate. Learners will also consider the importance of appropriate aftercare in relation to advice to the owner. It is always imperative that learners act within their professional scope of practice. Learners should not engage in any manipulation techniques unless qualified to do so. Note: Preparation and after care of the small animal for a hydrotherapy treatment session is assessed in the pool unit. This unit is a knowledge and skill-based unit, requiring some physical demonstrations and 10 hours external practical hours to be completed.	
Learning Outcomes (1 to 6)	Assessment Criteria (1.1 to 6.5)	
The learner will	The learner can	
1. Be able to understand the features, process, operating and maintaining an aquatic treadmill	1.1	Identify features and correct positioning of an aquatic treadmill
	1.2	Explain how to safely operate an aquatic treadmill

	1.3	Explain the routine maintenance of an aquatic treadmill
	1.4	Identify four benefits and four risks of using an underwater treadmill
2. Be able to understand small animal gait patterns on an aquatic treadmill	2.1	Identify the normal gait patterns you will clearly observe on an aquatic treadmill
	2.2	Explain the phases of gait in walk
	2.3	Explain the role of the proprioceptive system in small animal gait patterns
3. Be able to understand the different effects that can be achieved with an aquatic treadmill	3.1	Describe how water level changes may impact a small animal patient when using an aquatic treadmill
	3.2	Describe how changes in speed may impact on a small animal patient when using an aquatic treadmill
	3.3	Describe the effects that the duration of time spent on an aquatic treadmill can have on a small animal patient
	3.4	Describe how the combined below factors can have an effect on the gait and joints of a small animal patient: > Water level > Treadmill speed > Time duration spent on an aquatic treadmill
4. Be able to understand the suitability of a small animal patient for treadmill hydrotherapy	4.1	Identify conditions that are suitable and those that are contraindicated for an aquatic treadmill
	4.2	Demonstrate how to prepare and familiarise the small animal patient when using an aquatic treadmill
5. Be able to prepare the environment and small animal patient for	5.1	Demonstrate how to interact with a small animal patient and owner for the specified cases

hydrotherapy treatment in an UWTM	5.2	Demonstrate how to prepare and familiarise the small animal patient with the environment and equipment for the specified cases
	5.3	Demonstrate how to pre-hydrotherapy shower a small animal patient, select and fit hydrotherapy aids for the specified cases
5. Be able to safely manage and perform effective small animal hydrotherapy treatment using an aquatic treadmill	6.1	Conduct a hydrotherapy treadmill treatment session for three specified cases
	6.2	Demonstrate safe and appropriate entry and exit techniques for three specified cases on the aquatic treadmill
	6.3	Demonstrate how to select correct water height, speed and duration for the small animal patient depending on target area
	6.4	Demonstrate correct hand placement on the small animal patient depending on target area
	6.5	Demonstrate how to monitor the small animal patient on the aquatic treadmill

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), Exemptions, Credit Transfers and Equivalencies

Skills and Education Group Awards policy enables learners to avoid duplication of learning and assessment in a number of ways:

- > **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)** – a method of assessment that considers whether a learner can demonstrate that they can meet the assessment requirements for a unit through knowledge, understanding or skills they already possess and do not need to develop through a course of learning.
- > **Exemption** - Exemption applies to any certificated achievement which is deemed to be of equivalent value to a unit within Skills and Education Group Awards qualification but which does not necessarily share the exact learning outcomes and assessment criteria. It is the assessor's responsibility, in conjunction with the Internal Moderator, to map this previous achievement against the assessment requirements of the Skills and Education Group Awards qualification to be achieved in order to determine its equivalence.
 - > Any queries about the relevance of any certificated evidence should be referred in the first instance to your centre's internal moderator and then to Skills and Education Group Awards.
 - > It is important to note that there may be restrictions upon a learner's ability to claim exemption or credit transfer which will be dependent upon the currency of the unit/qualification and a learner's existing levels of skill or knowledge.
 - > Where past certification only provides evidence that could be considered for exemption of part of a unit, learners must be able to offer additional evidence of previous or recent learning to supplement their evidence of achievement.
- > **Credit Transfer** – Skills and Education Group Awards may attach credit to a qualification, a unit or a component. Credit transfer is the process of using certificated credits achieved in one qualification and transferring that achievement as a valid contribution to the award of another qualification. Units/Components transferred must share the same learning outcomes and assessment criteria along with the same unit number. Assessors must ensure that they review and verify the evidence through sight of:
 - > Original certificates OR
 - > Copies of certificates that have been signed and dated by the internal moderator confirming the photocopy is a real copy and make these available for scrutiny by the External Moderator.
- > **Equivalencies** – opportunities to count credits from the unit(s) from other qualifications or from unit(s) submitted by other recognised organisations towards the place of mandatory or optional unit(s) specified in the rule of combination. The unit must have the same credit value or greater than the unit(s) in question and be at the same level or higher.

Skills and Education Group Awards encourages its centres to recognise the previous achievements of learners through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), Exemption, Credit Transfer and Equivalencies. Prior achievements may have resulted from past or present employment, previous study or voluntary activities. Centres should provide advice and guidance to the learner on what is appropriate evidence and present that evidence to the external moderator in the usual way.

Further guidance can be found in 'Delivering and Assessing Skills and Education Group Awards Qualifications' which can be downloaded from skillsandeducationgroupawards.co.uk/for-centres

Certification

Learners will be certificated for all units and qualifications that are achieved and claimed.

Skills and Education Group Awards' policies and procedures are available on the website.

Exemptions

This qualification contains no exemptions. For further details see Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), Exemptions, Credit Transfers and Equivalencies.

Glossary of Terms

GL (Guided Learning)

GL is where the learner participates in education or training under the immediate guidance or supervision of a tutor (or other appropriate provider of education or training). It may be helpful to think – ‘Would I need to plan for a member of staff to be present to give guidance or supervision?’

GL is calculated at qualification level and not unit/component level.

Examples of Guided Learning include:

- > Face-to-face meeting with a tutor
- > Telephone conversation with a tutor
- > Instant messaging with a tutor
- > Taking part in a live webinar
- > Classroom-based instruction
- > Supervised work
- > Taking part in a supervised or invigilated formative assessment
- > The learner is being observed as part of a formative assessment.

TQT (Total Qualification Time)

The number of notional hours which represents an estimate of the total amount of time that could reasonably be expected to be required, in order for a learner to achieve and demonstrate the achievement of the level of attainment necessary for the award of a qualification.’ The size of a qualification is determined by the TQT.

TQT is made up of the Guided Learning (GL) plus all other time taken in preparation, study or any other form of participation in education or training but not under the direct supervision of a lecturer, supervisor or tutor.

TQT is calculated at qualification level and not unit/component level.

Examples of unsupervised activities that could contribute to TQT include:

- > Researching a topic and writing a report
- > Watching an instructional online video at home/e-learning
- > Watching a recorded webinar
- > Compiling a portfolio in preparation for assessment
- > Completing an unsupervised practical activity or work
- > Rehearsing a presentation away from the classroom
- > Practising skills unsupervised
- > Requesting guidance via email – will not guarantee an immediate response.