



SEG Awards Level 4 Certificate in Advanced Aquatic Treadmill Therapy for Small Animals

England – 610/5033/7

Qualification Guidance

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 has 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

Skills and Education Group Awards website www.skillsandeducationgroupawards.co.uk provides access to a wide variety of information.

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Specification Code

The specification code is D9272-03.

Issue	Date	Details of change
1.0	November 2024	New qualification guide

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1.1	November 2025	Added paragraph under Assessment heading to clarify the number of examples required when learners are asked to demonstrate various methods or techniques
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This guide should be read in conjunction with the Indicative Content document which is available on our secure website using the link above.

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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 Guide is in use. Any amendments will be published on our website and centres are encouraged to check this site regularly.

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Introduction

The SEG Awards Level 4 Certificate in Advanced 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 at least one of the following qualifications before enrolling:

- Level 3 Qualification in Small Animal Hydrotherapy
- Level 3 Qualification in Aquatic Treadmill Therapy for Small Animals

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 based on 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: Level 4 Certificate in Advanced Aquatic Treadmill Therapy for Small Animals

Learners must achieve 15 credits from the mandatory unit.

Unit	Unit Number	Level	Credit Value	GL
Mandatory Group Min Credit Target - 15				
Advanced Small Animal Aquatic Treadmill Techniques	K/651/4023	4	15	77

Aim

The SEG Awards Level 4 Certificate in Advanced Aquatic Treadmill Therapy for Small Animals has been designed to build on their prior knowledge and to give the learners fundamental information on small animal aquatic therapy.

This qualification will provide learners with the chance to develop their skills further in directing the animals to walk and assess the impact of aquatic treadmill therapy.

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Target Group

The SEG Awards Level 4 Certificate in Advanced Aquatic Treadmill Therapy for Small Animals is designed for learners of the age of 16 and over, who are passionate about animal healthcare and wellbeing and dedicated to advancing their skills in therapeutic aquatic treadmill techniques.

Learners must have previous qualifications and experience with working with small animals.

Practical Hours Requirement

There is no external practical hour requirements attached to this qualification.

Assessments

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

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

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.

Resources

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

- Purpose Statement
- Learner Unit Achievement Checklist
- Indicative Content

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.

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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 this field.

Learners could also look to progress within various other regulated qualifications within the Animal Care sector that Skills and Education Group Awards offers, to expand on their knowledge and experience in animal care further.

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 recognised by the Canine Hydrotherapy Association (CHA). Where Skills and Education Group Awards have referred to industry trade associations within this qualification guide, we are referring to the above associations.

CHA has recognised this qualification to be of a high standard, mapping to current sector standard requirements and legislations.

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Qualification Summary

Qualification	
SEG Awards Level 4 Certificate in Advanced Aquatic Treadmill Therapy for Small Animals	
Qualification Purpose	<p>The purpose of the Level 4 Certificate in Advanced Aquatic Treadmill Therapy for Small Animals is to develop knowledge and expertise, improve practical skills and to encourage professional development within the Aquatic Treadmill industry. This qualification will support the growing demand for specialised rehabilitative care, focusing on improving mobility, recovery, and quality of life for small animals.</p> <p>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.</p>
Age Range	Pre 16 16-18 ✓ 18+ ✓ 19+ ✓
Regulation	<p>The above qualifications are regulated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ofqual
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolio of Evidence • Practical Demonstration
Type of Funding Available	See FaLA (Find a Learning Aim)
Grading	Pass/Fail Only
Operational Start Date	02/12/2024
Review Date	02/12/2027
Operational End Date	
Certification End Date	
Guided Learning (GL)	77

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Total Qualification Time (TQT)	150
Credit Value	15
Skills and Education Group Awards Sector	Animal Care
Regulator Sector	3.3 - Animal care and veterinary science
Support from Trade Associations	

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Unit Details

Advanced Small Animal Aquatic Treadmill Techniques	
Unit Reference	K/651/4023
Level	4
Credit Value	15
Guided Learning (GL)	77
Unit Summary	<p>This unit aims to progress a learner’s clinical competencies and treatment techniques when using an aquatic treadmill, to achieve positive outcomes for an individual patient.</p> <p>It will enable the learner to develop their “therapeutic toolbox” of treatment techniques to offer a more comprehensive aquatic treadmill service.</p> <p>Learners will link knowledge and understanding of small animal biomechanics and functional anatomy to treatment techniques, assisting them in devising a specific programme to meet mobility needs.</p> <p>This unit will advance the small animal practitioners hydrotherapeutic clinical skills set and practice.</p> <p>This unit is a knowledge and skill-based unit, requiring some physical demonstrations.</p>
Learning Outcomes (1 to 9)	Assessment Criteria (1.1 to 9.6)
<i>The learner will</i>	<i>The learner can</i>
1. Understand small animal natural balanced motion in aquatic treadmill practice	1.1 Describe small animal balance and movement 1.2 Explain the role of muscles in small animal movement and function 1.3 Describe the role of the proprioceptive system in small animal movement and function

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<p>2. Understand the components of a small animal gait assessment for aquatic treadmill practice</p>	<p>2.1 2.2 2.3 2.4</p>	<p>Explain the different types of small animal gait patterns</p> <p>Explain the observations the hydrotherapist may make during a small animal gait assessment</p> <p>Describe the swing and stance phases of different gait patterns</p> <p>Describe functional small animal movement patterns essential for daily living</p>
<p>3. Understand the clinical use of small animal gait analysis in aquatic treadmill practice</p>	<p>3.1 3.2</p>	<p>Describe the different types of small animal gait analysis available</p> <p>Discuss the limitations of small animal gait analysis in the clinical setting</p>
<p>4. Be able to demonstrate small animal gait analysis using assessment findings</p>	<p>4.1 4.2</p>	<p>Analyse the gait of small animal patients referred for aquatic treadmill therapy</p> <p>Integrate gait analysis findings into the overall assessment process</p>
<p>5. Understand the components utilised in an individual treatment programme using an aquatic treadmill</p>	<p>5.1 5.2 5.3 5.4 5.5 5.6</p>	<p>Discuss how the hydrotherapist uses water properties as part of a treatment in an aquatic treadmill</p> <p>Discuss how the small animal patient's behaviours may impact on their movement in an aquatic treadmill</p> <p>Discuss the use of static and dynamic treatment techniques as part of a treatment in an aquatic treadmill</p> <p>Describe how the small animal patient's sensory awareness may be affected in an aquatic treadmill</p> <p>Discuss why a proprioceptive enriched plan improves small animal movement and function</p> <p>Evaluate the importance of proprioceptive enriched techniques in small animal aquatic treadmill practice</p>

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6. Be able to assess the small animal musculoskeletal system using therapeutic palpation techniques	6.1	Evaluate the use of a range of small animal therapeutic palpation techniques in clinical practice
	6.2	Demonstrate a range of therapeutic palpation techniques that can be utilised by the hydrotherapist during aquatic treadmill therapy
7. Be able to demonstrate small animal gait assessment	7.1	Conduct appropriate gait assessment prior to aquatic treadmill treatment
	7.2	Conduct appropriate gait assessment during aquatic treadmill treatment
	7.3	Conduct appropriate gait assessment following aquatic treadmill treatment
8. Be able to apply a range of advanced treatment techniques in the aquatic treadmill	8.1	Demonstrate a range of aquatic manual therapies
	8.2	Demonstrate a range of aquatic balance techniques
	8.3	Demonstrate a range of aquatic movement therapies
	8.4	Conduct aquatic treadmill treatments using advanced techniques
9. Appraise the use of aquatic treadmill treatment in clinical practice	9.1	Discuss how to evaluate the efficacy of aquatic treadmill treatment
	9.2	Reflect on the use of an aquatic treadmill as part of your clinical practice
	9.3	Reflect on your performance during aquatic treadmill treatments
	9.4	Reflect on your selection of treatment techniques in the aquatic treadmill
	9.5	Evaluate small animal patient performance and outcomes
	9.6	Evaluate why understanding advanced aquatic treadmill techniques is important when working as a hydrotherapist

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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.

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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 <https://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.

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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.