Skills & Education Group Awards

Placement Hours Guidance

Level 3 Diploma in Canine Massage – 610/8274/0

Outline of Placement Hours Guidance Document

A Placement Hours Guidance document provides a clear outline of what a learner is expected to undertake within the required placement hours, as set out by the Awarding Organisation. The Placement Hours Guidance document will align with the Qualification Guide and is to be used in conjunction with the Placement Hours Log.

Qualification Requirements VS Placement Requirements

The Level 3 Diploma in Canine Massage is a knowledge-based qualification.

Learners are required to apply their knowledge learnt throughout the delivery of the qualification and apply them within their 42 hours of placement to achieve the overall qualification. The learners' skills, knowledge and behaviours will all be required to be demonstrated and are to be evidenced through a placement log and submitted with the qualification portfolio of evidence.

What is ethically acceptable during the Placement Hours

- Close supervision is always in place by an experienced and qualified practitioner;
- The placement is undertaken at an established and professional organisation;
- Canine owner consent is received, and the owner is fully informed that the practitioner is a learner who is not yet qualified;
- Animal welfare is prioritised;
- Work stays within the learner's competence level;
- Work complies with the Veterinary Surgery (Exemptions) Order 2015 - The Veterinary Surgery (Exemptions) Order 2015;
- Learners must not diagnose or act outside their scope.

What is deemed as ethically questionable during the Placement Hours

- Learner works unsupervised;
- The placement is carried out at a non-professional establishment;
- Canine owner's consent is not received;
- Learner works on an injured, post-surgical, or clinical cases canine;

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- If a learner presents themselves as qualified or fully competent;
- A learner fails to recognise signs of pain, stress, or discomfort in a canine;
- A learner tries to work above their level.

Requirements of the Placement Provider

A placement provider is not responsible for teaching the full qualification, and they are not a regulator. Their role is to facilitate safe, real-world practice so the learner can meet assessment requirements set by the awarding organisation.

The Placement Provider must provide:

- A safe, clean, and professional setting suitable for working with canines;
- Appropriate space for massage;
- Basic welfare conditions are met so no learner or animal is being put at risk.

Placement Providers must allow learners to:

- Observe canine massage techniques on live canines;
- Perform canine massage techniques on live canines;
- Work under appropriate supervision always;
- Gradually progress from observation to hands-on practice.

Placement providers are required to:

- Ensure the assigned canine and cases are not beyond the learner's competence;
- Gain consent from owners to say that they understand that the learner is not yet qualified;
- Record sessions including taking notes, logs and provide witness testimonies;
- Confirm that sessions were carried out safely and appropriately;
- Provide feedback on learner performance;
- Escalate concerns if welfare or safety issues arise.

Requirements of the Placement Supervisor

A Placement Supervisor is a qualified practitioner or an experienced professional depending on the setup (having 5 or more years of experience in the field).

Placement Supervisors are expected to:

- Be qualified to a Level 3 Diploma in Canine Massage, as a minimum;
- Have at least 3 years of consistent practice;
- Worked on a variety of massage cases including complex cases such as sporting or working canines, elderly canines, post-injury canines;
- Experience adapting techniques depending on the canine and its behaviour;

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- Demonstrates professionalism and confidence;
- Good communication skills;
- Have work insurance;
- Undergoes continual CPD;
- Up to date on Sector requirements, legislations and acts.

What is to be covered within the required 42 placement hours

Shadowing and Observation:

- Observing a professional in practice including:
  - setting up a massage environment
  - observing how to correctly handle a canine
  - observing how to correctly massage
  - observing how to end the session
  - observing how to appropriately and clearly communicate with clients
  - observe how to clear down after a session
- Recording sessions and outcomes

Pre-Assessments:

- Assessing at least one canine before treatment (posture, gait, muscle condition, body language)

Session planning:

- Creating a treatment plan (Adapting methods to suit different breeds, sizes, temperaments, and conditions)

Practical application of skills:

- Applying massage techniques learned during the qualification (always supervised by a qualified professional)
- Demonstrating safe handling and positioning of canines
- Identify major muscle groups through palpation

Communication skills:

- Communicating clearly with canine owners and other members of staff
- Gaining informed consent

Health and Safety:

- Maintaining hygiene and welfare standards
- Cleaning products and equipment
- Tidying away to ensure a safe environment

Evaluation of sessions:

- Knowing when to refer to a vet
- Evaluating the impact of treatment

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The above list covers the minimum requirements of what is to be undertaken within the placement hours. If opportunities arise where a learner can be involved with areas outside of the above, this is at the discretion of the supervisor and can be submitted as additional evidence.

How many hours a learner spends on each element highlighted within this document will be down to the discretion of the Supervisor and will be determined on the cases that are present on the days that the learner is in attendance.