



iPET Network
Level 2 Award in An
Introduction to Canine
Nutrition
Qualification Number - 610/2254/8
Qualification Specification



iPET Network

LED BY INDUSTRY EXPERTS.

DRIVEN BY PASSION.

BOUND BY ANIMALS.

GUIDED BY CANDIDATES.

UNITED BY iPET NETWORK.

Our Mission

EDUCATION FOR PEOPLE, FOR PETS, FOR THE FUTURE

To be the Awarding Organisation of choice for Training Providers, Employers and Learners in the Animal Care and Veterinary Science Sector.

We demand the highest standard of practice to ensure our suite of qualifications work: they work for pets who deserve the best care; they work for learners giving valuable skills, and they work for Training Providers with strong market appeal.

Leading the way:

iPET Network is an Awarding Organisation regulated by Ofqual, CCEA Regulation and Qualifications Wales, specialising in qualifications in the Animal Care and Veterinary Science sector. iPET Network is a sector-specific Awarding Organisation and are constantly developing innovative animal care and veterinary science qualifications in the industry. We are unique in our approach to development, design and awarding of qualifications through the range of services and support we offer. Additionally, iPET Network is an End-point Assessment Awarding Organisation (EPAO) for English Apprenticeship standards and offers Professional Development Recognition (PDR) of unregulated educational courses.

Our approved Training Providers have exclusive access to our portfolio of qualifications, courses, learning materials and assessment strategies. We offer an inclusive opportunity to join a diverse network of forward-thinking professionals across the UK, Ireland, Europe and internationally.

We do the hard work for you – fast, flexible and straightforward:

We have developed robust systems at the forefront of technology that include extensive resources, quality learning materials and varied assessment methods. Our centralised platform makes it simple for Training Providers and their teams to deliver, manage, mark and quality assure all in one place. We provide access to training and updates through standardisation to uphold modern best practice.

Organisations of many different types, who want to deliver education, can join iPET Network, taking advantage of becoming a direct approved Training Provider. With transparent fees and packages to suit every size of organisation from sole traders to limited companies, colleges and large employers.

An exciting and supportive community:

We practice what we preach - the iPET Network team has extensive experience and knowledge of working in the animal care, veterinary science and education sector. We provide support, advice and Continual Professional Development to help Training Providers offer the best standard of education and to inspire the future generation of the industry. We believe in removing learning barriers and working with Candidates of all abilities to help them reach their full potential.

Contents

1. About This Qualification	5
Objectives of the qualification	5
Guided Learning Hours (GLH).....	6
Total Qualification Time (TQT)	6
Qualification Delivery Requirements	6
2. Candidate Requirements	7
Entry requirements	7
Minimum age	7
Reasonable Adjustment and Special Considerations	7
3. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).....	7
4. Induction / Initial Assessment.....	8
5. Achieving the Qualification	8
Credits	8
Unit achievement	8
Recording achievement.....	8
Authentication of the Candidate’s work	8
Duration of registration.....	9
6. Qualification Structure.....	9
Units	9
Level descriptor.....	9
7. Assessment.....	10
Assessment method	10
Specimen Assessment Materials.....	10
Marking	10
Qualification grading	10
Appeals.....	10
What constitutes a fail?	11
8. Offering the Qualification	11
Approval To Offer The Qualification	11
Standardisation	11
Support for Training Providers	12
Training Provider Responsibilities	12

9. Requirements to Offer This Qualification.....13
10. Qualification Unit Breakdown and Assessor Guidance13
11. Suggested Learning Resources18
12. Supporting Documents and General18



1. About This Qualification

The iPET Network Level 2 Award in An Introduction to Canine Nutrition is aimed at individuals working with dogs in a range of capacities such as pet retail, dog walkers, sitters, day care and trainers, who need a basic understanding of the principles of food and feeding of dogs. The qualification offers a theory-based introduction to concepts such as nutrient groups, how diet influences health, energy requirements, the anatomy of the digestive tract and how food is used within the body. The qualification creates a basis of understanding of different methods of feeding, including newer, novel diet types and considers approaches to commonly faced feeding issues.

This qualification has been developed in collaboration with a range of industry experts including animal science educators, professional nutritionists, dog trainers and veterinary surgeons to ensure a well-rounded and balanced approach which meets the needs of a range of professionals working with canine nutrition at a basic level.

Objectives of the qualification

This qualification has been designed to enable Candidates to:

- Understand the basis of nutrition including the main nutrient groups and their sources.
- Identify basic structures of the canine digestive system, how food is broken down and used by the body.
- Identify foods that are either toxic or otherwise dangerous to dogs.
- Understand the hygienic storage and preparation of foods for dogs.
- Recognise the different types of diets available for dogs including the use of treats.
- Read and understand the labelling of UK dog foods.
- Understand simple approaches to managing food and feeding related problems in dogs.

The qualification will:

- Prepare individuals to progress to another qualification in the same subject area, studying at a higher level or a qualification requiring more specific knowledge, skills and understanding.
- Improve employability skills.
- Encourage engagement in learning.

Suggested progression following completion of the qualification:

- iPET Network Level 3 Diploma in Canine Nutrition

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

The iPET Network Level 2 Award in An Introduction to Canine Nutrition is a regulated qualification.

Guided Learning Hours (GLH)

Guided Learning Hours (GLH) are defined by the [Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act, 2009](#) as the number of hours the Candidate spends:

- Being taught or given instruction by a lecturer, tutor, supervisor or other appropriate provider of education or training, or
- Otherwise participating in education or training under the immediate guidance or supervision of such a person.

GLH does not include time spent on unsupervised preparation or study, whether at home or otherwise.

iPET Network has calculated the GLH for this qualification representing an estimate of the amount of actual guided learning which could reasonably be expected to be required to achieve the standard required to obtain the qualification.

Estimated GLH will be stated for each unit which should be used by Training Providers as a guide for devising teaching and learning plans. GLH may be recorded within the e-portfolio (if being used) or within the Candidate Hours Log (if the e-portfolio is not used).

Total Qualification Time (TQT)

Total qualification time is defined as the number of Guided Learning Hours (GLH) **plus** the time taken by the Candidate for independent, unsupervised study. Individual Learners' requirements and individual teaching styles mean there will be variation in the actual time taken to complete a qualification. Values for Total Qualification Time are estimates as some Candidates will be able to achieve units and qualifications within a shorter time than indicated. Others, for example those with additional support requirements, may need longer.

Guided Learning Hours and Total Qualification Time for this qualification are:

iPET Network Level 2 Award in An Introduction to Canine Nutrition:

GLH (Guided Learning Hours): 8 hours

TQT (Total Qualification Time): 20 hours

Qualification Delivery Requirements

This qualification may be delivered as the Training Provider sees fit, ensuring that Guided Learning Hours requirements are met. As part of the application to deliver, Training Providers must be able to evidence how they intend to deliver the qualification, including the methods by which they will achieve the estimated GLH and TQT.

2. Candidate Requirements

Entry requirements

All Candidates must meet the following criteria:

- Have an interest in canine food and feeding
- Be capable of working at Level 2 or above

All Candidates will be screened via an initial assessment with the Training Provider to ensure their suitability for the registration on the qualification. Whilst the above criteria form the basis of eligibility, Candidates may be registered at the Training Provider's discretion.

Minimum age

The minimum age for access to this qualification is 16 years.

Training Providers ought to satisfy themselves that Candidates have a level of maturity appropriate for units included in the courses that they offer. If in doubt, please contact iPET Network for advice.

Reasonable Adjustment and Special Considerations

Assessment within the iPET Network Level 2 Award in An Introduction to Canine Nutrition qualification is designed to be accessible and inclusive. The assessment methodology is appropriate and rigorous for individuals or groups of Candidates.

iPET Network is an inclusive organisation and operates in line with legislation set out in the Equality Act, 2010. It should be noted that any Candidate registering for an iPET Network qualification, must be able to meet the assessment criteria (theoretical), with appropriate reasonable adjustment where required, in order to be certificated. Those Candidates with additional educational or physical needs, should discuss their support requirements with their Training Provider. Training Providers should refer to the Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations Policy which gives clear guidance on the reasonable adjustments and arrangements that take account of disability or learning difficulty without compromising the achievement of the assessment criteria.

Further guidance and support can be accessed by contacting iPET Network on info@ipetnetwork.co.uk

3. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Exemption (also known as 'Recognition of Prior Certificated Learning) - is the facility for a Candidate to claim exemption from some of the achievement requirements of an iPET Network qualification using certificated evidence, for example certificated NQF achievement. This must be of an equivalent or higher value to an iPET Network unit but may not share the exact assessment criteria or learning aims.

Training Providers wishing to obtain further details regarding awarding of RPL should refer to the iPET Network **Recognition of Prior Learning Policy**.

4. Induction / Initial Assessment

An initial assessment of each Candidate should be made before the start of their programme to identify:

- If the Candidate has any specific learning or training needs
- The support and guidance they may need when working towards their qualification
- The Candidate's suitability for the type and level of qualification

Each Training Provider must carry out an induction so that Candidates fully understand the requirements of the qualification, their responsibilities as a Candidate, and the responsibilities of the Training Provider. This information will need to be recorded e.g., within a contract.

5. Achieving the Qualification

Credits

To be awarded the iPET Network Level 2 Award in An Introduction to Canine Nutrition, Candidates must achieve 2 credits.

Unit achievement

All assessment criteria in each unit must be met before the unit is deemed to be achieved. The unit achievement is not graded: units are either achieved or not achieved.

Recording achievement

Training Providers must record the Candidate's achievement of the unit on an appropriate form(s) or electronic system. Training Providers should record the Candidate's achievement against the specific unit assessment criteria evidenced by the task.

Authentication of the Candidate's work

Tutors must demonstrate that the Candidate's work is authentic. This can be done through using iPET Network's e-portfolio system which provides secure access to each Candidate or through use of an alternative e-portfolio system. If a Training Provider is using paper-based portfolio, they must be able to demonstrate authenticity of the work and must provide transparent feedback from marking to internal quality assurance.

Assessments must demonstrate authenticity please refer to assessment methods in this Qualification Handbook.

Duration of registration

All Candidates will be registered with iPET Network for a period of 6 months. Failure of the Candidate to complete the qualification during this timeframe will incur an additional charge for re-registration. Please refer to your **Terms and Conditions** for further details. Extension to registration may be obtained with written permission under specific extenuating circumstances. Please contact iPET Network for advice regarding extensions to registration.

6. Qualification Structure

Units

iPET Network Reference No.	Title	Level	Credit	GLH	TQT	Unit Reference number
216	Nutrition for Dog Health and Wellbeing	2	1	4	10	M/650/6150
217	Fundamentals of Food and Feeding of Dogs	2	1	4	10	R/650/6151
TOTALS			2	8	20	

Level descriptor

Level	Knowledge Descriptor (the holder...)	Skills Descriptor (the holder can...)
Level 2	<p>Has knowledge and understanding of facts, procedures and ideas in an area of study or field of work to complete well-defined tasks and address straightforward problems.</p> <p>Can interpret relevant information and ideas.</p> <p>Is aware of a range of information that is relevant to the area of study or work.</p>	<p>Select and use relevant cognitive and practical skills to complete well-defined, generally routine tasks and address straightforward problems.</p> <p>Identify, gather and use relevant information to inform actions.</p> <p>Identify how effective actions have been.</p>

7. Assessment

This qualification requires achievement of the specified units and summative assessments. The assessment process is as follows:

1. Assessments are developed by iPET Network and provided to the Training Provider or assessments may be devised by the Training Provider and approved by iPET Network in advance
2. The assessment is then delivered and implemented by the relevant iPET Network approved Training Provider
3. All Tutors involved in the assessment process must have been approved by iPET Network, on an individual basis, in advance of any assessments being carried out
4. Compiled portfolios of assessed evidence are internally quality assured by an iPET Network approved Internal Quality Assurer (IQA) via remote sampling.
5. Completed portfolios of assessed evidence are then quality assured by an External Quality Assurer (EQA) approved by iPET Network.

Assessment method

Assessment is through a Portfolio of Evidence/Workbook.

Specimen Assessment Materials

Specimen assessment materials are not available for this qualification.

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.

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

Full details can be found in the relevant assessment guidance and **Candidate Qualification Overview** handbook.

8. Offering the Qualification

Training Providers wishing to deliver this qualification will need to demonstrate the ability to adhere to quality assurance and assessment regulations.

All procedures for the use of this qualification or units of this qualification, including approval, registration of Candidates, quality assurance process and certification will be completed through iPET Network, who will have an allocated member of the Quality Team to support the Training Provider. Any queries or difficulties should be directed to the allocated Team member or if they are not available, via the iPET Network office on 0800 433 4700.

Approval To Offer The Qualification

Training Providers wishing to offer this qualification must note the requirements stipulated in Appendix A.

To offer this qualification, potential Training Providers must apply for Training Provider approval with iPET Network. Applications can be made via email info@ipetnetwork.co.uk or by calling 0800 433 4700.

In addition, to gain approval to offer the qualification, Training Providers must apply by submitting an iPET Network **Qualification Approval Form** which can be downloaded from the website.

For more information, visit our website www.ipetnetwork.co.uk.

Standardisation

Standardisation is a process that promotes consistency in the understanding and application of standards.

Standardisation:

- Establishes statements on the standard of evidence required to meet the assessment criteria for the units in iPET Network Qualifications
- Makes recommendations on assessment practice

- Produces advice and guidance for the assessment of units
- Identifies good practice in assessment.

It is a requirement of the Training Provider approval process that each Training Provider offering units from iPET Network qualifications must provide assessment materials and Candidate evidence for standardisation if requested.

iPET Network will notify Training Providers of the required sample(s) for standardisation purposes. Assessment materials, Candidate evidence and Tutor feedback must be sent to iPET Network by Training Providers.

Outcomes from standardisation will be available to Training Providers through iPET Network.

Support for Training Providers

iPET Network provides all Training Providers with on-going support and advice on the use of iPET Network units and qualifications, including the requirements for assessment.

If Training Providers who are approved to offer iPET Network units and qualifications have obtained a UKPRN (UK Provider Reference Number) from the UKRLP (UK Register of Learning Providers), this will be used as the Training Provider's reference number. If a Training Provider has not obtained a UKPRN they will be issued with a unique iPET Network Training Provider number.

Information about obtaining a Unique Learner Number (ULN) on behalf of the Candidates is included in the iPET Network Training Provider Handbook.

Training Provider Responsibilities

Each Training Provider should identify a named contact person who will be responsible for any iPET Network provision within the Training Provider organisation.

The Training Provider contact must ensure all procedures relating to the delivery of the qualification operate effectively in the centre.

The Training Provider contact is the person responsible for confirming and ensuring that the Training Provider meets all the iPET Network requirements for Training Provider recognition.

The Training Provider contact is responsible for ensuring all relevant iPET Network documentation is distributed as required within the Training Provider and that the security requirements for external assessment are adhered to, where applicable.

9. Requirements to Offer This Qualification

To offer this qualification, Training Providers must ensure that Tutors involved in delivery and assessment are professionally competent to do so. This means Training Providers must ensure that Tutors have the following qualifications/experience:

1. Subject-specific Qualifications Tutors must possess one of the following:	OR	2. Relevant Experience Tutors must possess both of the following:	AND	3. Teaching Qualification Tutors must possess at least one of the following:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • iPET Level 2 Award in An Introduction to Canine Nutrition • iPET Network Level 3 Diploma in Canine Nutrition • A Level 3 (or higher) regulated qualification in Canine Nutrition • A Level 3 (or higher) regulated qualification which covers canine nutrition as a specific unit/module 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CV / career profile demonstrating relevant industry/subject-specific skills, knowledge, experience and achievements. • Have a minimum of 1 years' (full-time equivalent) demonstrable experience of working with dogs in some capacity involving feeding. <p style="text-align: center;">(This will be accepted at the discretion of the Awarding Organisation)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • iPET Network Level 3 Award for Educators in the Canine and Feline Sector • Level 3 Award in Education and Training • Level 4 Certificate in Education and Training • Level 3 or 4 PTLLS • Other suitable equivalent

If no formal teaching qualification is held, it will be a requirement that a teaching qualification is achieved within 12 months of approval.

Evidence of qualifications and experience must be provided in the form of original certificates, detailed CV and employer references. iPET Network reserves the right to request additional information in support of Training Provider/Tutor applications e.g., client reviews.

Training Providers must also ensure that they have in place an Internal Quality Assurer who:

- Holds or is working towards a Level 4 Award in Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practices or its equivalent
- Has substantial experience of working in or assessing in canine nutrition
- Is familiar with the assessment requirements of the qualification for which they are the Internal Quality Assurer

Or,

Gold package registrations are used with iPET Network (**Refer to Training Provider Fees**)

10. Qualification Unit Breakdown and Assessor Guidance

Unit title:	Nutrition for Dog Health and Wellbeing
Level:	2
Credit value:	1
GLH:	4
TQT:	10
Unit code:	216
Unit reference number:	M/650/6150
Unit aim:	The aim of this unit is to provide Candidates with the knowledge and understanding required to recognise the component nutrients required in pet foods for maintenance of good health and wellbeing. This unit will also introduce the basics of digestive system anatomy and foods that must be avoided.
Number of learning outcomes	6

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will:	The learner can:
1. Know and understand what nutrition is, its benefits to health and wellbeing and your responsibilities for providing nutrition	1.1. State your responsibility for providing appropriate food and water to dogs
	1.2. Define the terms 'nutrient' and 'nutrition'
	1.3. List the benefits of good quality nutrition for health and wellbeing
	1.4. Identify how food can affect the behaviour of dogs
2. Know and understand basic anatomy of animals' digestive systems	2.1. Identify key structures of the canine digestive system and their role
	2.2. Define the terms 'carnivore', 'herbivore' and 'omnivore' and state which species fall into which category
3. Know and understand the essential requirements in dog food	3.1. Identify the role of each of the six main nutrient groups
	3.2. List common natural sources of each of the main nutrient groups
	3.3. Identify sources of energy for dogs and how energy needs change throughout life
	3.4. State the importance and sources of antioxidants in a dog's diet
4. Know and understand the process of food intake and digestion	4.1. Describe the role of enzymes in digestion
	4.2. State how food is used within the body

5. Know and understand nutritional supplements and their use	5.1. State what a nutritional supplement is and give examples of commonly used ones
6. Know and understand common toxic and dangerous foods for dogs	6.1. List the different foods that are toxic and/or dangerous to dogs if ingested



Unit title:	Fundamentals of Food and Feeding of Dogs
Level:	2
Credit value:	1
GLH:	4
TQT:	10
Unit code:	217
Unit reference number:	R/650/6151
Unit aim:	The aim of this unit is to provide Candidates with the knowledge and understanding of the basic principles of food for dogs and feeding practices. The unit will address a range of different types of food available, looking at their relative merits, how dogs should be fed, quantities to feed, monitoring the effects of a diet and basic approaches to issues faced in relation to feeding.
Number of learning outcomes	6

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will:	The learner can:
1. Know and understand the requirements for hygienic preparation of food and storage	1.1. List appropriate equipment for storage and hygienic food preparation for dogs
	1.2. State the hygiene risks associated with raw feeding and how these risks may be minimised
2. Know and understand methods of feeding and feeding as enrichment	2.1. Describe how often dogs should be fed to maintain health and appropriate timing of meals
	2.2. State methods of how food can be used as an enrichment opportunity
	2.3. List different methods of feeding and watering dogs
3. Know and understand the different types of food available for dogs	3.1. List the different types of food available for dogs and the advantages and disadvantages of each
	3.2. Describe how different commercial diets are tailored to life stage, exercise level and health condition
	3.3. State the type of treats available, their advantages and disadvantages and how to give treats
4. Know and understand how to ensure that dogs are fed correct amounts	4.1. List the factors affecting the quantity/type of food required
	4.2. State how to calculate feeding requirements on the basis of packaging recommendations
	4.3. Describe how to monitor correct intake and effects of food/water
	4.4. Identify where to source guidelines for feeding home-prepared meals

5. Know and understand the principles of reading a pet food label and principles of quality in pet foods	5.1. Identify the legal requirements for labelling of dog foods in the UK
6. Know and understand common problems encountered by pet owners in relation to feeding their dogs	6.1. Identify how to recognise changes in a dog's feeding and drinking habits
	6.2. List common food/feeding-related issues and describe basic approaches to resolving these
	6.3. Recognise your limitations within your role

Assessment Information

All Assessment Criteria must be evidenced. For guidance on assessment, including principles of assessment and methods which may be used, Training Providers should consult the 'Assessment' section of the iPET Network Qualification Handbook and relevant policies.

Sector Subject Area (SSA)	3.3
Date from which qualification will be available for learners	02/03/2023
Qualification review date	02/03/2026

11. Suggested Learning Resources

Qualification	Suggested learning resources
Level 2 Award in An Introduction to Canine Nutrition	<p>Literature</p> <p>Introduction to Animal and Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology. Published by: CABI, (2019) ISBN: 978178924117 – Aspinall, V. & Capello, M.</p> <p>Aspinall’s Complete Textbook of Veterinary Nursing (third edition). Published by: Elsevier. (2016) ISBN: 9780702066092 – Ackerman, N.</p> <p>The Dog: Its Behaviour, Nutrition and Health (second edition). Published by: Wiley-Blackwell (2013) ISBN: 9781118701201 – Case, L.P.</p> <p>Canine and Feline Nutrition: A Resource for Companion Animal Professionals (third edition). Published by: Mosby (2010). ISBN-10 0323066194 – Case, L.P., Daristotle, L., Hayek, M.G. & Raasch, M.F.</p> <p>Dog Food Logic: Making Smart Decisions for your Dog in an Age of Too Many Choices. Published by: Dogwise Publishing (2014). ISBN-10: 1617811386</p> <p>Websites</p> <p>Homepage UK Pet Food Pet Food Nutrition Resources UK Pet Food</p>

12. Supporting Documents and General

The following documents contain essential information for Training Providers delivering iPET Network qualifications. They should be referred to in conjunction with this handbook. To download the documents and to find other useful documents, go to www.ipetnetwork.co.uk, the web portal or SharePoint.

iPET Network Training Provider Manual
iPET Network Quality Assurance Requirements
Malpractice and Maladministration Policy and Procedure (including Sanctions)

Document Control

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Document Number: Q111

Date of Correction	Version Number	Correction Reason
	1	
13/06/2023	2	Change of name to document from 'Qualification Guide' to 'Qualification Specification' and amendment to assessment section
05/01/2024	3	Specimen assessment materials clarified, qualification review section updated and formatting updates
06/03/2024	4	Correction to book title for Dog Food Logic

