



iPET Network
Level 2 Award in Canine Body
Language

Qualification Number - 610/3250/5

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.

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1. About This Qualification

The **iPET Network Level 2 Award in Canine Body Language** is designed to be flexible to meet the real life needs and circumstances of its Candidates. It is aimed at Candidates who wish to gain the theoretical knowledge of canine body language and communication. This qualification is suited to both dog owners wishing to learn more about their dogs, and individuals working with dogs in a professional capacity. Canine body language serves as a vital means of communication between dogs and their handlers, but it is often misunderstood or overlooked. This qualification will enable Candidates to better understand the body language and communication signals displayed by canines and how to respond appropriately, helping to promote good welfare and prevent potential conflicts.

Completion of this qualification provides an excellent platform for progression into dog ownership, utilising the knowledge in the workplace (e.g. as a dog walker, groomer, kennel assistant, breeder or dog sitter) and/or completing further study in the subject area.

Leading behaviour and training industry experts have reviewed this qualification to ensure the outcomes are appropriate and meet the needs of both owners and professionals with an interest in canine body language.

Objectives of the qualification

This qualification has been designed to enable Candidates to:

- Understand the importance of learning to read canine body language
- Know the methods by which dogs communicate and the importance of scent in canine communication
- Identify canine body language signals and the emotions the dog may be trying to convey
- Understand the concept of trigger stacking
- Know how to correctly greet dogs, how dogs greet each other and safe play between dogs

Depending on the needs of the Candidate, the qualification can:

- 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 2 Award in Principles of Puppy Socialisation
- iPET Network Level 3 Award in Canine Emergency First Aid
- iPET Network Level 4 Diploma in Dog Training and Instruction
- A Level 3 (or above) regulated canine/animal behaviour and/or training qualification

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

The iPET Network Level 2 Award in Canine Body Language 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 Canine Body Language:

GLH (Guided Learning Hours): 7 hours

TQT (Total Qualification Time): 10 hours

Qualification Delivery Requirements

The 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:

1. Minimum Age and Requirements

Candidates must possess **all** of the following:

- Minimum age of 14 years
- Be capable of working at a Level 2 standard 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 14 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 Canine Body Language 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

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 12 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	GLH	TQT	Unit Reference number
227	Canine Body Language	2	7	10	K/650/8463
TOTALS					

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.

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

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. Appendix A – 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		2. Relevant Experience		3. Teaching Qualification
<p>Tutors must possess both of the following:</p> <p>Hold one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iPET Network Level 2 Award in Canine Body Language Level 3 (or above) regulated qualification in Animal or Canine Behaviour and Training (or equivalent) – e.g., BSc / MSc / MA / BA / other <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a minimum of 1 years’ (full-time 	OR	<p>Tutors must possess both of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CV / career profile demonstrating relevant industry/subject-specific skills, knowledge, experience and achievements. Have a minimum of 3 years’ (full-time equivalent) demonstrable experience of working with multiple dogs a day <p>(This will be accepted at the discretion of the Awarding Organisation)</p>	AND	<p>Tutors must possess at least one of the following:</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; or Level 4 Certificate in Education and Training; or Level 3 or 4 PTTLS (or equivalent).

equivalent) demonstrable experience of working with multiple dogs a day			
Desirable: Accredited by a behaviour and training association such as ABTC, CFBA, IMDT			

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 dog behaviour and training
- 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:	Canine Body Language
Level:	2
GLH:	7
TQT:	10
Unit code:	227
Unit reference number:	K/650/8463
Unit aim:	The aim of this unit is to provide Candidates with the knowledge of the fundamentals of canine body language and methods of communication. This unit will also address correct greeting of dogs and how to safely manage interactions between dogs.
Number of learning outcomes	11

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will:	The learner can:
1. Know the importance of understanding canine body language	1.1. State the importance of understanding canine body language 1.2. Identify the factors that should be considered when interpreting canine body language
2. Know the methods by which dogs communicate with each other and other species	2.1. Identify the methods by which dogs communicate with other dogs and other species
3. Know the importance of scent in canine communication	3.1. Identify the primary sense that dogs use to communicate
	3.2. Identify the difference between the senses of smell in humans and canines
	3.3. Define pheromones and describe their function
	3.4. List information that dogs can gather through scent
4. Know the role of the face in canine body language and communication	4.1. Describe different ways in which dogs use their eyes to communicate with other dogs and other species and what emotions it may indicate
	4.2. Identify different positions and movements of the canine ears and what emotions they may indicate
	4.3. Identify different ways in which the dog uses the mouth and teeth to communicate, and what emotions they may indicate
5. Know the role of the body and posture in canine body language and communication	5.1. Describe how dogs display their intention through movement and body posture
	5.2. Identify physical features or characteristics in certain dogs that may have a negative impact on communication

6. Know and understand the role of the tail in canine body language and communication	6.1. Identify how the position and speed of the tail are used to express different emotions
7. Know how appeasement signals and stress can escalate to aggression in dogs	7.1. Define the term 'appeasement signal' or 'calming signal'
	7.2. Identify canine calming or appeasement signals
	7.3. Define trigger stacking and identify triggers
	7.4. Describe the Ladder of Fear/Aggression
8. Know canine body language signals and the emotions being expressed	8.1. Describe signs of relaxation and confidence in dogs
	8.2. Identify signs of fear, stress and anxiety in dogs and the appropriate response to prevent the situation from escalating
	8.3. Identify behavioural signs of illness and pain in dogs and what professional advice or support could be sought
9. Know safe human-dog greeting	9.1. State how a person should correctly greet a dog
10. Know and understand dog to dog greeting and interaction	10.1. Explain how dogs greet each other, including signs of positive greeting and how the interaction may go wrong
	10.2. Identify how dog interactions may progress after initial greetings
11. Know and understand play between dogs and safe management	11.1. Describe the function of play in dogs and recognise that not all dogs partake in play
	11.2. Identify body language signs and behaviours which may indicate dog-dog play/interaction is suitable and that a positive experience is being had by all dogs involved
	11.3. Identify body language signs and behaviours which may indicate dog-dog play/interaction is unsuitable and requires intervention
	11.4. Identify measures to support positive interaction and ensure consent between dogs

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	18/09/2023
Qualification review date	18/09/2025

11. Suggested Learning Resources

Qualification	Suggested learning resources
Level 2 Award in Canine Body Language	<p>Literature</p> <p>Doggie Language: A Dog Lover's Guide to Understanding Your Best Friend. Publisher: Summersdale (2020) ISBN-10: 1787837017. Chin, L.</p> <p>What's My Dog Thinking?: Understand Your Dog to Give Them a Happy Life. Publisher: DK (2020) ISBN-10: 0241435838. Molloy, H.</p> <p>Meet Your Dog: The Game-Changing Guide to Understanding Your Dog's Behaviour. Publisher: Chronicle Books (2018) ISBN-10: 1452148996. Brophey, K.</p> <p>Dogs In Translation: A Unique Journey Of Observation and Interpretation. Publisher: The Pet Book Publishing Company Ltd (2022) ISBN-10: 191048864X. Krauss, K. and Maue, G.</p> <p>What Dogs Want: An illustrated guide for HAPPY dog care and training. Publisher: Bloomsbury Publishing (2021) ISBN-10: 1526639955. Ward, M.</p> <p>Websites</p> <p>https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/pets/dogs/behaviour/understanding</p> <p>https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/dog-advice/understanding-your-dog/body-language</p> <p>https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/getting-support/information-and-advice/dog-care-and-welfare/dog-body-language/</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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Date of Correction	Version Number	Correction Reason
	1	
05/01/2024	2	Specimen assessment materials clarified, qualification review section updated and formatting updates

