



iPET Network
Level 2 Award in
Principles of Puppy
Socialisation
Qualification Number - 610/0973/8
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.

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1. About This Qualification

The **iPET Network Level 2 Award in Principles of Puppy Socialisation** 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 knowledge and understanding required to effectively socialise a puppy, from birth, into adolescence. The purpose of the qualification is to aid the development of well-adjusted, confident young adult dogs, equipped with the necessary life skills to integrate effectively into the household. This qualification is suited to both dog owners wishing to learn more about their puppy, and individuals working with young puppies in a professional capacity.

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

Leading behaviour, training, veterinary and education 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 early behaviour and socialisation of puppies.

The qualification addresses the essential theoretical underpinning knowledge required to effectively socialise puppies from birth into adolescence.

Objectives of the qualification

This qualification aims to take Candidates on a journey from complete beginners to being confident in approaching methods of puppy socialisation. Depending on the needs of the individual Candidate, the qualification can:

- Prepare individuals to progress to a qualification in the same subject area but at a higher level or requiring more specific knowledge, skills and understanding;
- Prepare Candidates for employment;
- Support a role in the workplace;
- Encourage engagement in learning.

iPET Network have designed this qualification to enable Candidates to:

- Understand the normal developmental stages of puppies, from birth to adolescence;
- Recognise the importance of early socialisation and the impact this can have in later life;
- Determine the appropriate timing of socialisation to maximise impact;
- Recognise the key areas in which puppies must be socialised and how;
- Understand the importance of human and canine interaction for developing puppies;
- Identify techniques for habituating puppies to new experiences in a safe, calm and controlled manner;
- Recognise the requirements for successful management of puppy socials and classes.

Suggested progression following completion of the qualification:

- iPET Network Level 2 Award in Responsible Dog Ownership
- iPET Network Level 2 Award in Canine Care, Health and Behaviour

- A Level 3 (or above) regulated 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 Principles of Puppy Socialisation is regulated by Ofqual and CCEA Regulation.

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 Principles of Puppy Socialisation

GLH (Guided Learning Hours): 7

TQT (Total Qualification Time): 10

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

There are no specific entry requirements for this qualification.

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

The assessment methodology is appropriate and rigorous for individuals or groups of Candidates.

If you have Candidates with identified learning needs you should refer to the Reasonable Adjustment and Special Considerations Policy, available from iPET Network. This 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.

When carrying out any assessment method, Tutors will need to consider the presentation of the assessment task to the Candidate to make it fair and accessible. Tutors may also need to consider arrangements for Candidates with particular learning difficulties and will need to be aware of iPET Network's policy on reasonable adjustments.

Assessment methods may be adapted due to potential contingency plans for assessments, this will be decided and authorised by iPET Network only.

Further guidance and support can be accessed at iPET Network.

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 / induction for each Candidate must 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.

During the induction, Candidates must be made aware of academic malpractice and the consequences of committing malpractice such as plagiarism or cheating. Please see iPET Network's Malpractice and Maladministration Policy and Procedure (including sanctions) for details of indicative sanctions against Candidates.

5. Achieving the Qualification

Credits

To be awarded the iPET Network Level 2 Award in Principles of Puppy Socialisation, Candidates must achieve 1 credit.

Unit achievement

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

Recording achievement

Training Providers must record the Candidate's achievement of each 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.

If malpractice is suspected, the candidate will be reported following the Training Provider and iPET Network's Malpractice and Maladministration policies.

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
211	Principles of Puppy Socialisation	2	1	7	10	F/650/2718

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.

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. All Training Providers must have an up to date Appeals procedure.

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 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 Deliver This Qualification

To offer this qualification, Training Providers must ensure that Tutors delivering this qualification have one of the following recognised professional qualifications:

- A Level 3 (or above) professional regulated canine-related qualification

And/or,

- Is able to demonstrate a minimum of one years' work-based experience gained within a canine environment (evidenced through CV, references, website etc.) and,
- Is a member of one of the following organisations (desirable):
 - APDT
 - APBC
 - ASAB

Or,

- Has demonstrable experience of socialising puppies, for example through breeding activity (minimum of two years' experience); or
- A minimum of one years' experience of running day care puppy socialisation sessions; or
- Is a Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN) or UK-Practicing Veterinary Surgeon (MRCVS)

And,

Hold a teaching certificate (examples detailed below) and/or is able to demonstrate teaching experience:

- the Level 3 Award in Education and Training; or

- the iPET Network Level 3 Award for Educators in the Canine and Feline Sector; or
- the Level 4 Certificate in Education and Training; or
- Level 3 or 4 PTLLS (or equivalent).

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

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 qualifications in dog training and/or behaviour;
- Is familiar with the assessment requirements of the qualification for which they are the Internal Quality Assurer.

Or

- Gold package registrations are used (*refer to Training Provider fees*)

10. Qualification Unit Breakdown and Assessor Guidance

Unit title:	Principles of Puppy Socialisation
Level:	2
Credit value:	1
GLH:	7
TQT:	10
Unit code:	211
Unit reference number:	F/650/2718
Unit aim:	The aim of this unit is to provide the knowledge and understanding of the key principles of socialisation for puppies, from birth, all the way to adolescence. The unit will teach the essentials of puppy development and how this relates to socialisation, the basics of training and reinforcement of behaviours, key areas for socialisation and techniques for habituating dogs to these stimuli, as well as strategies for effectively managing puppy socials and classes.
Number of learning outcomes	10

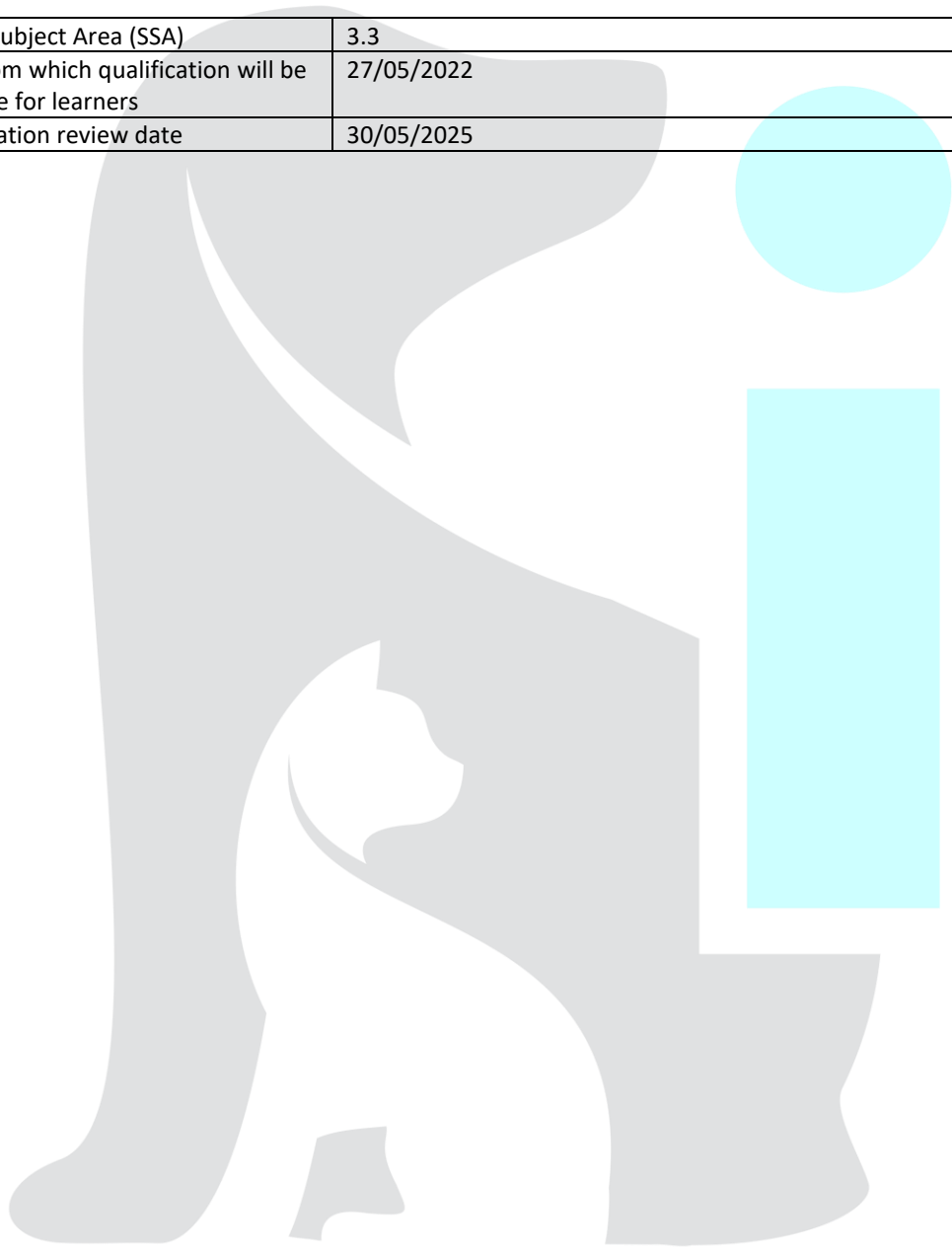
Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will:	The learner can:
1. Know and understand the terminology associated with socialisation and the importance of socialisation programmes	1.1. Define the term 'socialisation' in the context of puppy training
	1.2. Define the term 'habituation' in the context of puppy training
	1.3. State the importance of a thorough socialisation programme for puppies from an early age
2. Understand the different stages of puppy development and how natural breed traits affect socialisation	2.1. Describe the different stages of puppy development
	2.2. Describe how breed history and traits affect a dog's behavioural characteristics and preferences
3. Know and understand the principles of how dogs learn	3.1. Describe the different methods of reinforcement
4. Understand the importance of socialisation starting with the breeder	4.1. Describe the use of breeder socialisation programmes
	4.2. List the types of activities that breeders can undertake with puppies before 8 weeks
	4.3. Recognise differences in early socialisation between dogs raised in different environments
5. Understand the issues surrounding timing of puppy socialisation and vaccination	5.1. State when puppy socialisation takes place and how this coincides with vaccination
	5.2. Identify the health concerns regarding socialising puppies before they have received a full course of vaccinations
	5.3. List methods of ensuring puppies may still receive socialisation despite these issues
6. Know and understand the key focus areas for socialisation of puppies	6.1. List the main focus categories of puppy socialisation

	6.2. List example situations that dogs may be habituated to for each focus category
	6.3. Describe ways in which new situations may be introduced to puppies in a gradual and controlled manner
	6.4. State how socialisation plans for puppies should differ between different breeds and natural temperaments
	6.5. Define the term 'flooding' and how it can be avoided
7. Understand the importance of human interaction in socialisation and methods of habituating puppies to people	7.1. State the importance and methods of creating positive interactions with family members
	7.2. State the importance of socialisation of puppies with humans (non-family members)
	7.3. Identify ways in which puppies may be introduced to a range of different people
	7.4. Identify methods of teaching puppies correct ways of greeting people and the correct methods for people to greet dogs
8. Understand the importance of canine interaction in socialisation and methods of habituating puppies to other dogs	8.1. State the importance of correct socialisation of puppies with other dogs
	8.2. Identify ways in which puppies may be introduced to a range of different dogs
	8.3. Describe the importance and methods of ensuring safe play between puppies
9. Know and understand the correct procedures for facilitating a puppy social event	9.1. Describe the physical environmental requirements for a puppy class or social
	9.2. Identify the requirements for management of puppy socials
	9.3. State the possible detrimental effect poorly managed puppy socials/classes may have on puppies' development
10. Understand the difference between dog trainers and behaviourists and how to find a reputable trainer or behaviourist	10.1. Identify the difference between a dog trainer and a behaviourist
	10.2. Identify situations in which referral to a professional trainer/behaviourist would be required
	10.3. Identify a reputable dog trainer or behaviourist

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	27/05/2022
Qualification review date	30/05/2025



11. Suggested Learning Resources

Unit	Suggested learning resources
<p>211: Principles of Puppy Socialisation</p>	<p>Literature</p> <p>Meet Your Dog: The Game-Changing Guide to Understanding Your Dog's Behaviour. Publisher: Chronicle Books (2018) ISBN-10: 1452148996. Brophay, K.</p> <p>Inspiring Resilience in Fearful and Reactive Dogs. Publisher: Independently published (2018). ISBN-10: 172893978X. Gutteridge, S.</p> <p>BAT 2.0 for Dog Reactivity. (e-book) Stewart, G.</p> <p>Mine!: A Practical Guide to Resource Guarding Dogs. Publisher: Kinship Communications (2002). ISBN-10: 0970562942. Donaldson, J.</p> <p>Stop Walking Your Dog: A Guide to Training Your Nervous, Reactive or Over-excited Pup. Publisher: Independently published (2021). ISBN-13: 979-8757531021. French, N.</p> <p>The Perfect Puppy. Publisher: Hamlyn (2008). ISBN-10: 060061722X. Bailey, G.</p> <p>Canine Enrichment: The Book Your Dog Needs You to Read. Publisher: Independently published (2019). ISBN-10: 1088600191. Kelly, S.</p> <p>When Pigs Fly: Training Success with Impossible Dogs. Publisher: Dogwise Publishing (2007). ISBN-10 1929242441. Killion, J.</p> <p>Total Recall: Perfect Response Training for Puppies and Adult Dogs. Publisher: Quiller Publishing Ltd. (2012). ISBN-10: 1846891493. Mattinson, P.</p> <p>Interactive Play Guide. Publisher: First Stone Publishing (2017). ISBN-10: 1910488348. Oglivie, C.</p> <p>Enrichment through Scentwork for Highly Aroused Dogs (e-book) (2018). Gutteridge, S.</p> <p>What's My Dog Thinking? Publisher: DK (2020) ISBN-10: 0241435838 ISBN-13: 978-0241435830 Molloy, H.</p> <p>Websites</p> <p>Kids Around Dogs</p> <p>Children's Picture Books I Can Be A Dog Detective!</p> <p>Socialising Your Puppy Blue Cross</p> <p>The Family Dog</p> <p>Fear in Dogs: An Introduction For Owners of Anxious Dogs - Depend On Dogs</p> <p>Dog Body Language and Chart (servicedogtrainingschool.org)</p> <p>Canine Compilation - Canine Compilation</p> <p>Scent Work for Dogs Blue Cross</p>

	<p>Eyeballing and Hostility Between Dogs – Theo Stewart, Dog Behaviour Specialist (dogidog.co.uk)</p> <p>Rebarkable Blog - Puppy training articles and posts.</p> <p>6 easy ways to give your dog more choice (scentsationaldogs.co.uk)</p> <p>Understanding Dog Play Victoria Stilwell Positively</p> <p>Let a dog be a dog (dogways.info)</p>
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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

Document Name: Level 2 Award in Principles of Puppy Socialisation – Qualification Specification

Document Number: Q51

Date of Correction	Version Number	Correction Reason
	1	
06/10/2022	2	Added duration of registration, updated mission statement and office opening hours. General updates.
13/06/2023	3	Change of document name from 'Qualification Guide' to 'Qualification Specification' and amendment to assessment section
05/01/2024	4	Specimen assessment materials clarified, qualification review section updated and formatting updates