iPET Network

Level 2 Award in Small Animal Health and Husbandry

Qualification Number - 610/1578/7

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.
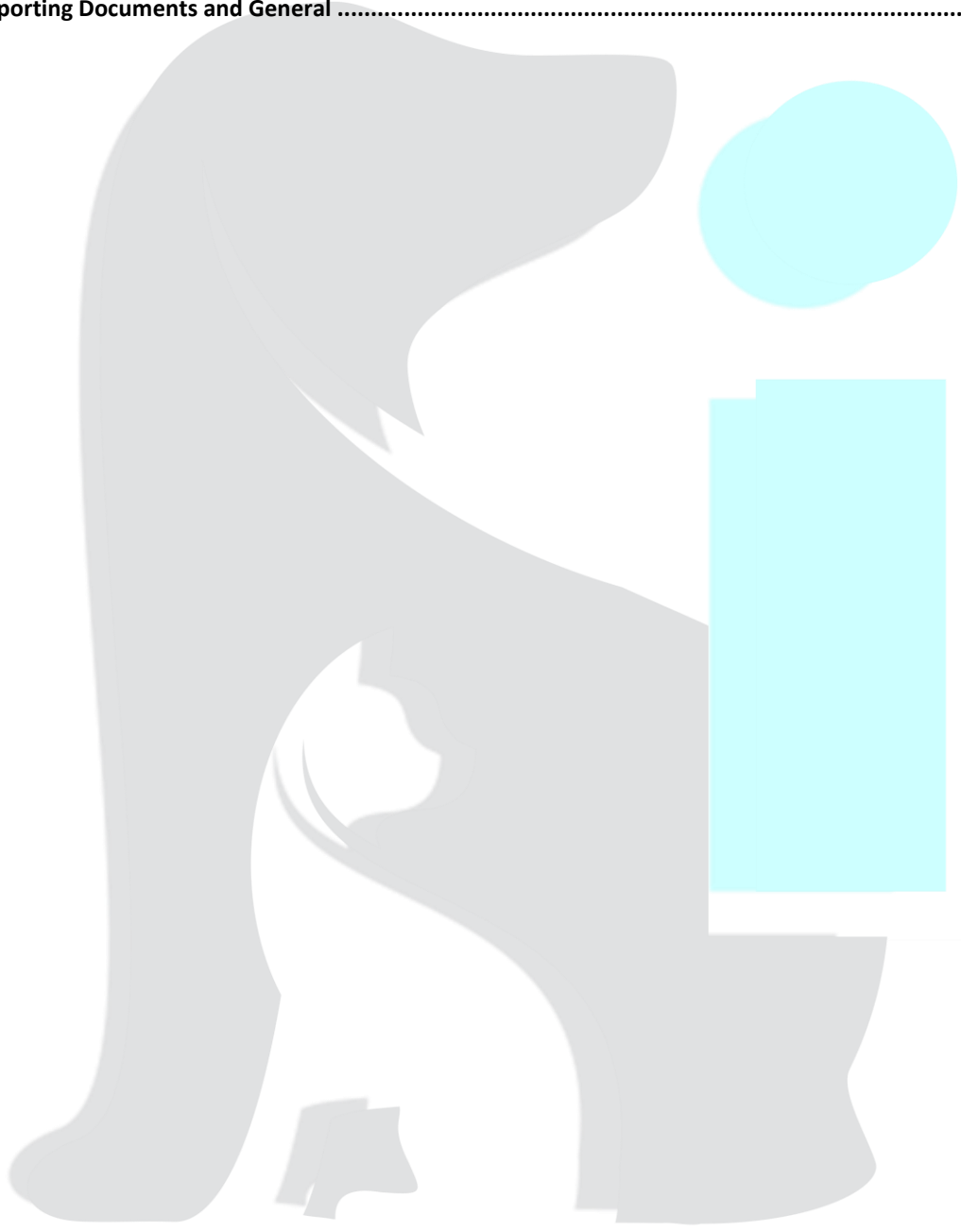
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1. About This Qualification

The **iPET Network Level 2 Award in Small Animal Health and Husbandry** has been developed to meet the needs of Candidates who are interested in providing the correct care and husbandry requirements to popular small animals kept as pets and who have little to no existing qualifications or knowledge of the subject. Upon successful completion, students will be able to confidently own and work with small animals. The qualification will provide a platform for further progression in animal care both academically and practically and focuses on three key popular small mammal species: Rabbit, Guinea Pig and Hamster.

Objectives of the qualification

This qualification has been designed to enable Candidates to:

- State the importance of maintaining welfare in small animals
- Identify common diseases and disorders found in small animals
- Identify key legislation surrounding keeping small animals as pets
- Describe the methods surrounding maintaining small animal accommodation
- Describe the nutritional requirements of small animal species
- Identify a variety of breeds and their classifications
- Recognise techniques used for handling and restraint of small animals

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:

- A regulated Level 3 in Animal Management qualification
- A regulated Level 2/3 Animal Care qualification
- Employment in the small animal industry (pet shop, pet sitting etc.)

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

The iPET Network Level 2 Award in Small Animal Health and Husbandry 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 Small Animal Health and Husbandry

GLH (Guided Learning Hours): 16 hours

TQT (Total Qualification Time): 40 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:

- Students must have a keen interest in small mammals and have an understanding of the importance of providing the correct care
- A level 1 qualification in a relevant animal care subject (ABC, City and Guilds etc.) would be desirable but is not mandatory
- Relevant work experience in an animal care sector such as a pet shop or veterinary practice would be desirable but not mandatory

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 Small Animal Health and Husbandry 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 requiring further clarification should refer to the Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations Policy or contact iPET Network on info@ipetnetwork.co.uk. This policy 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.

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 Small Animal Health and Husbandry Candidates must achieve 4 credits.

Unit achievement

All of the assessment criteria in a 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 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.

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
213	**Sustain Small Animal Health and Welfare**	2	2	8	20	**F/650/4392**
214	**Small Animal Husbandry Practices**	2	2	8	20	**H/650/4393**
		TOTALS	**4**	**16**	**40**	

Level descriptor

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

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 <u>or</u> 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):

- Plagiarism
- Irrelevant content
- Incomplete knowledge
- Incomplete coverage of an assessment criterion

When making an assessment decision it is important that all evidence and feedback is documented to support the assessment decision whether it is a pass or fail. If the decision is a fail, then the Candidate must be provided with support and the opportunity to re-sit the assessment once they are ready.

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 Manual*.

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:

- A regulated Level 3 (or above) qualification in the animal care sector, examples include:

  o Extended Diploma in Animal Management; or
  o Certificate in Animal Management; or
  o Veterinary nursing diploma / degree; or
  o Veterinary Medicine degree.

And,

- A minimum of one years' relevant experience in the animal care sector. This would ideally be in an educational or veterinary sector (animal care lecturers, vet nurses, veterinarians etc.) but could also be intended for those running an animal care related business such as pet sitting as a means of providing the relevant CPD to their employees

And,

- Hold (or be willing to work towards) a relevant teaching qualification at Level 3 or above (see below).

Example teaching qualifications include:

- iPET Network Level 3 Award for Educators in the Canine and Feline Sector; or
- Level 3 Award in Education and Training; or
- 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 in the animal care sector
- Is familiar with the assessment requirements of the qualification for which they are the Internal Quality Assurer
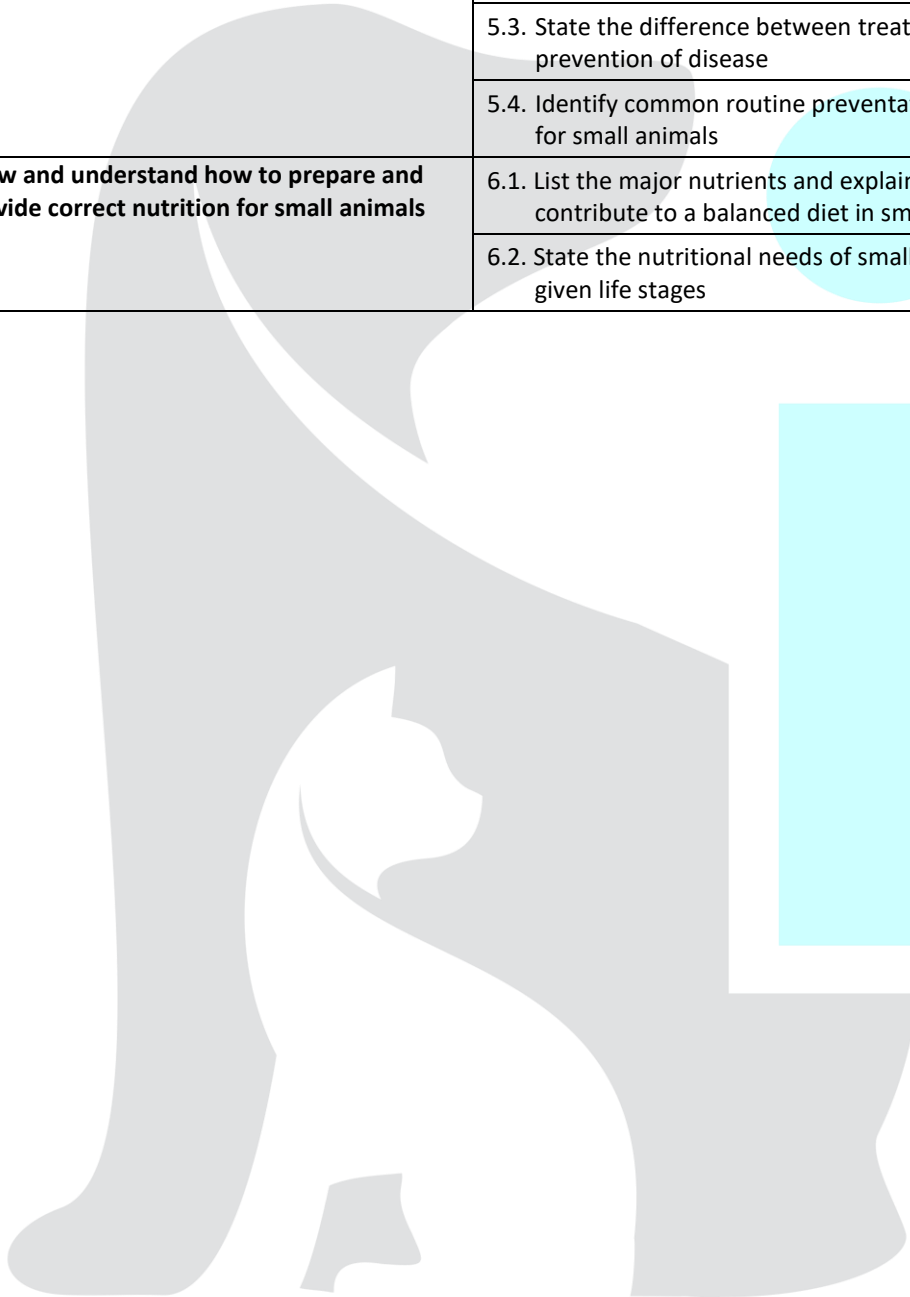
or

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

10. Qualification Unit Breakdown and Assessor Guidance

Unit title:	**Sustain Small Animal Health and Welfare**
Level:	**2**
Credit value:	**2**
GLH:	**8**
TQT:	**20**
Unit code:	**213**
Unit reference number:	**F/650/4392**
Unit aim:	**The aim of this unit is to provide the knowledge and understanding of common indicators of health in small animals kept as pets It will explore ways to assess the health status of an animal and the visual health checks necessary to ensure optimum health. The unit will develop an understanding of prevention of disease and the measures needed to promote wellbeing in small animals, focusing on the rabbit, hamster and guinea pig.**
Number of learning outcomes	**6**

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will:	The learner can:
1. Know and understand how to recognise natural behaviours of small animals and a range of different breeds	1.1. Identify the common breeds of small animal species
	1.2. Identify recognised small animal breed societies
	1.3. Identify the natural behaviours and characteristics of a range of small animals
2. Know and understand how to recognise and monitor good and poor health in the species range	2.1. State the normal biology of a range of small animal species
	2.2. Identify signs of health and ill-health in small animal species
	2.3. Describe the importance and types of health checks in selected small animals
	2.4. Describe methods of recording and monitoring small animal health
3. Know and understand how to promote the wellbeing of small animals	3.1. Describe factors affecting animal welfare in small animals
	3.2. Define 'enrichment' and identify a range of examples for each species in the range
4. Know and understand relevant animal welfare legislation and how this relates to small animal care requirements	4.1. Outline relevant animal welfare legislation/codes of practice and how this relates to daily health care routines for small animals
	4.2. Describe how the 5 welfare needs relate to the care of selected small animal species

5.	Know and understand common diseases and disorders of small animals, their prevention and treatment	5.1. Describe common small animal diseases, their signs and treatments
		5.2. Identify causative factors of small animal health conditions
		5.3. State the difference between treatment and prevention of disease
		5.4. Identify common routine preventative methods for small animals
6.	Know and understand how to prepare and provide correct nutrition for small animals	6.1. List the major nutrients and explain how they contribute to a balanced diet in small animals
		6.2. State the nutritional needs of small animals at given life stages

Unit title:	Small Animal Husbandry Practices
Level:	2
Credit value:	2
GLH:	8
TQT:	20
Unit code:	214
Unit reference number:	H/650/4393
Unit aim:	The aim of this unit is to provide Candidates with the knowledge and understanding of suitable handling and restraint techniques for small animals. It will develop the understanding needed to maintain accommodation and provide suitable nutrition to support optimum health and welfare of small animals kept as pets, focusing on the rabbit, hamster and guinea pig.
Number of learning outcomes	4

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will:	The learner can:
1. Know and understand how to prepare, maintain and clean small animal housing	1.1. State the methods involved in sourcing and introducing new stock of small animals
	1.2. Describe the importance of maintaining animal accommodation and the implications of failing to do so
	1.3. Describe suitable accommodation for the species range
	1.4. Identify a range of protective equipment and cleaning materials suitable for maintaining small animal accommodation
	1.5. Identify appropriate cleaning routines for small animal accommodation
2. Know and understand how to provide food and water opportunities for small animals	2.1. Identify suitable sources of nutrition for given species
	2.2. State the relative quantities of feeds to be provided to small animals
	2.3. Describe a range of feeding methods for small species
	2.4. State correct food preparation techniques for the species range
3. Know and understand how to provide suitable opportunities for exercise	3.1. List the type and frequency of exercise appropriate for small animal requirements
	3.2. Identify appropriate exercise equipment used when providing exercise opportunities for given species

4. Know and understand how to handle and restrain selected small animals safely	4.1. Identify a range of handling and restraint equipment for select small animal species
	4.2. Describe the correct handling techniques for a range of small animals
	4.3. State the correct restraint techniques for a range of small animals and when this might be required
	4.4. State appropriate and safe methods of transporting small animals

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	14/10/2022
Qualification review date	14/10/2025

11. Suggested Learning Resources

Qualification	Suggested learning resources
Level 2 Award in Small Animal Health and Husbandry	**Literature** **Animal Biology and Care (3rd).** Published by: Wiley-Blackwell (2014) ISBN 9781118276068 – Dallas, S. **Concise Textbook of Small Animal Handling.** Published by: CRC Press (2022) ISBN 9780367628130 – Chastain, C. B. **Introduction to Animal and Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology.** Published by: CABI, (2019) ISBN: 978178924117 – Aspinall, V. & Capello, M. **Manual of Veterinary Care**. Published by BSAVA (1999) ISBN 9780905214498 – Dallas, S. **Pets & Pet Care, The Encyclopaedia of: The essentials family reference guide to pet breeds and pet care**. Published by: Hermes House (2018) ISBN 978184477938 – Alderton, D. *et al.* **Small Pet Handbook**. Published by Collins (1997) ISBN 9780368628130 – Taylor, D. **Veterinary Nursing**. Published by Butterworth (1998) ISBN 9780750655255 – Lane, D. R. and Cooper, B. **Websites** https://www.vets4pets.com/pet-health-advice/small-pet-advice/handling-small-pets/ https://www.bluecross.org.uk/pet-advice https://bvna.org.uk/blog/ https://animalowners.rcvs.org.uk/help-and-advice/ https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/pets https://www.pfma.org.uk/small-mammals-fact-sheet https://todaysveterinarypractice.com/exotic-medicine/todays-technician-safe-humane-handling-of-small-mammal-patients/ https://rabbitwelfare.co.uk/good-practice-code-for-the-welfare-of-rabbits/

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: iPET Network Level 2 Award in Small Animal Health and Husbandry - Qualification Specification

Document Number: Q66

Date of Correction	Version Number	Correction Reason
	1	
13/06/2023	2	Change of document name from 'Qualification Guide' to 'Qualification Specification' and amendment to assessment section
10/08/2023	3	Update to document name and general document updates
05/01/2024	4	Specimen assessment materials clarified, qualification review section updated and formatting updates