



NEW ZEALAND **QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK**
TE TAURA HERETOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

New Zealand Certificate in Animal Management (Level 4) with strands in Canine Behaviour and Training; Companion Animals; Fish, Amphibians and Reptiles; Pet Grooming; and Zookeeping

New Zealand Certificate in Animal Management

Qualification Number

2489

Qualification Status

Current

Version Number

3

Version Status

Approved

Last Date for Entry

Last Date for Assessment

Qualification Type

Certificate

Level

4

Credits

120

NZSCED

061103 Health>Veterinary Studies>Veterinary Assisting

Qualification Developer

Muka Tangata - People, Food and Fibre Workforce Development Council

Next Review

30/04/2026

Quality Assurance Body

New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Consistency Review Details

Next Planned Consistency Review

2026

Consistency Rating

Confirmed (10/11/2021)

Outcome Statement

Strategic Purpose Statement

The purpose of this qualification is to provide individuals with the skills, knowledge and attributes to maintain and manage a positive welfare state for animals.

This qualification is designed for people who intend to work in a role managing the day-to-day care, welfare and/or training of animals in settings such as breeding facilities, quarantine facilities, rehabilitation facilities, animal rescue centres, pet grooming facilities, boarding facilities, commercial pet shops, public aquariums, and zoos.

Graduates will have the technical knowledge and skills to manage the day-to-day animal care and husbandry operations in an animal facility, under broad supervision, or guidance.

This qualification is stranded to recognise the specialist skills required for managing care and husbandry within the contexts of companion animal; fish, amphibian and reptile; canine behaviour and training; pet grooming; and zookeeping facilities; and to promote a positive welfare state for animals.

Graduate Profile

Graduates of this qualification will be able to:

- Implement regulatory and compliance requirements for animal care and welfare.
- Apply knowledge of anatomy and physiology to relevant aspects of animal management.
- Manage interpersonal relationships and ethical behaviour in the provision of animal care.

Graduates of the Canine Behaviour and Training strand will also be able to:

- Apply knowledge of canine health, welfare, husbandry, wellness, and housing design to manage their care in a training environment, and transport.
- Apply knowledge of canine development, learning theory, animal communication, behaviour, and basic principles of behavioural modification, to handle and train dogs.
- Apply knowledge of interpersonal communication skills and canine learning theory, behaviour, and behavioural modification to provide instruction to clients on dog handling and training.
- Manage variations to normal and abnormal, canine health and behaviour in a training environment.

Graduates of the Companion Animals strand will also be able to:

- Apply knowledge of health, welfare, husbandry, wellness, and housing design to manage the optimal care, and transport of companion animals.
- Manage variations to normal and abnormal companion animal health and behaviour.

Graduates of the Fish, Amphibians and Reptiles strand will also be able to:

- Apply knowledge of fish, reptiles and amphibian health, welfare, husbandry, and housing design to manage their optimal care and transport.
- Manage variations to normal and abnormal health and behaviour in fish, reptiles, and amphibians.

Graduates of the Pet Grooming strand will also be able to:

- Maintain animal, human, and environmental safety in a pet grooming environment.
- Maintain an optimal welfare state of pets in a pet grooming environment.
- Manage variations to normal and abnormal health and behaviour of pets in a pet grooming environment.
- Apply knowledge of pet breed and individual characteristics, coat and body type, handling techniques, and the use and maintenance of grooming equipment to groom pets.

Graduates of the Zookeeping strand will also be able to:

- Apply global zoo industry frameworks and concepts of conservation and objectives to all aspects of zookeeping.
- Maintain animal, human, and environmental safety in a zookeeping environment or facility.
- Maintain an optimal welfare state for animals in a zookeeping environment or facility.
- Manage variations to normal and abnormal animal health and behaviour in a zookeeping environment or facility.

Education Pathway

This qualification may build on the National Certificate in Educational Achievement (Level 2) [Ref: 0973] with Vocational Pathways Primary Industry endorsement; or the New Zealand Certificate in Animal Care (Level 3) with strands in Companion Animals, Equine, and Rural Animals [Ref: 2487].

Employment/Cultural/Community Pathway

Graduates will be able to work as supervisors or technicians involved with the day-to-day care, welfare and/or training of animals. This may be in roles such as: dog trainer, pet groomer, zookeeper, zoo educator, animal centre worker, animal sanctuary worker, supervisor of kennels, cattery or doggie day care, or animal laboratory technician; animal rehabilitation, breeding, or quarantine facility; depending on the strand completed.

Qualification Specifications

Qualification Award

This qualification can be awarded by any education organisation which has an approved programme of study or programme of industry training leading to the qualification.

Evidence requirements for assuring consistency

Evidence of the following may be provided:

- Analysis of employer and graduate surveys to ensure the graduate outcomes have been met.
- Evidence of effective internal quality assurance systems to assure that graduates meet the graduate outcomes of the qualification, for example, by internal and external moderation.
- Portfolios of work and/or assessment samples demonstrating the range of student performance within a programme and that the graduate outcomes have been met.

Minimum standard of achievement and standards for grade endorsements

Achieved.

Other requirements for the qualification (including regulatory body or legislative requirements)

N/A

General conditions for programme

Programmes must recognise capabilities supporting environmental, social, and economically sustainable practices in animal care.

Programmes must recognise the place of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty, and capabilities supporting cultural sensitivity and responsiveness in animal care.

Strand Practicum requirements

Canine Behaviour and Training

1. At least 120 hours.
2. Practicum must take place in a suitable canine training environment that enables a balance of application of theoretical knowledge and practical skills acquisition required for the strand.
3. A suitable canine training practicum environment may include but is not limited to - preschool, group classes, one on one consultations, or any situation where the environment includes canine care in addition to training, or training and behaviour services.

Companion Animals

1. At least 120 hours in at least two different companion animal care facilities that enable a balance of application of theoretical knowledge and practical skills acquisition required for the strand.

Fish, Reptiles and Amphibians

1. At least 120 hours. It is strongly recommended that practicum hours are allocated as follows - 80 hours on fish and amphibians in an aquatic environment, and 40 hours on reptiles.
2. Practicum must take place in a suitable aquatic environment that enables a balance of application of theoretical knowledge and practical skills acquisition required for the strand.
3. A suitable aquatic practicum placement may be a pet shop or aquatic retail facility, breeding facility, zoo or public aquarium, conservation facility, quarantine facility, or animal shelter or rehabilitation facility that can provide all practicum hours with fish and amphibians. A suitable reptile practicum is a pet shop or retail facility, breeding facility, zoo or public aquarium, conservation facility, quarantine facility, or animal shelter or rehabilitation facility that can provide all practicum hours with reptiles.

Pet Grooming

1. At least 240 hours in at least two different pet grooming facilities that enable a balance of application of theoretical knowledge and practical skills acquisition required for the strand.
2. 240 hours to be made up of - Preparation; Bathing, drying, and hygiene procedures; Clipping and scissoring, hand stripping, and deshedding.
3. Hygiene procedures include ear cleaning, manual teeth brushing, clipping claws, external anal gland expression.

Zookeeping

1. At least 280 hours with 80 hours mammals; 40 hours birds; 40 hours reptiles and/or amphibians and/or fish. At least 16 hours from the total 280 must be allocated to working with any animal group that is considered dangerous to the extent that keepers only work in protected contact.
2. Practicum must take place in a commercial New Zealand zoo facility that enables a balance of application of theoretical knowledge and practical skills acquisition required for the strand.

Strand Specific requirements

Canine Behaviour and Training

1. Evidence must include a range of life stages, and a variety of breeds and uses of dogs.

Companion Animals

1. Theory assessment is required for - cats, dogs, rabbits, rodents, and birds.
2. Practical assessment is required for dogs and cats and at least one other companion animal collectively across all outcomes with only one species required for each outcome.

Fish, Reptiles and Amphibians

1. Theory assessment is required for tropical freshwater fish, aquatic biofiltration systems, common frogs and axolotls, terrapins and at least one other species of common reptile.
2. Practical assessment is required for aquatic biofiltration systems; real or simulated handling of terrapins, and one other species of reptile.

Pet Grooming

1. Practical assessment is required for dogs and cats.

Zookeeping

1. Assessment is required for mammals; birds; reptiles and/or amphibians and/or fish; and highly dangerous animals.

Conditions relating to the Graduate Profile

Outcome	Indicative Credits	Conditions
1	Implement regulatory and compliance requirements for animal care and welfare.	5 credits
2	Apply knowledge of anatomy and physiology to relevant aspects of animal management.	15 credits

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| 3 | Manage interpersonal relationships and ethical behaviour in the provision of animal care. | 5 credits |
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Elective Strand - Canine Behaviour and Training

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| 4 | Apply knowledge of canine health, welfare, husbandry, wellness, and housing design to manage their care in a training environment, and transport. | 20 credits |
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| 5 | Apply knowledge of canine development, learning theory, animal communication, behaviour, and basic principles of behavioural modification, to handle and train dogs. | 55 credits |
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| 6 | Apply knowledge of interpersonal communication skills and canine learning theory, behaviour, and behavioural modification to provide | 10 credits |
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instruction to clients on dog handling and training.

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| 7 | Manage variations to normal and abnormal, canine health and behaviour in a training environment. | 10 credits |
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Elective Strand - Companion Animals

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| 8 | Apply knowledge of health, welfare, husbandry, wellness, and housing design to manage the optimal care, and transport of companion animals. | 50 credits |
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| 9 | Manage variations to normal and abnormal companion animal health and behaviour. | 45 credits |
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Elective Strand - Fish, Amphibians and Reptiles

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| 10 | Apply knowledge of fish, reptiles | 50 credits |
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and amphibian health, welfare, husbandry, and housing design to manage their optimal care and transport.

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| 11 | Manage variations to normal and abnormal health and behaviour in fish, reptiles, and amphibians. | 45 credits |
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Elective Strand - Pet Grooming

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| 12 | Maintain animal, human, and environmental safety in a pet grooming environment. | 5 credits |
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| 13 | Maintain an optimal welfare state of pets in a pet grooming environment. | 5 credits |
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| 14 | Manage variations to normal and abnormal health and behaviour of pets in a pet grooming environment. | 15 credits |
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| 15 | Apply knowledge of pet breed and individual characteristics, coat and body type, handling techniques, and the use and maintenance of grooming equipment to groom pets. | 70 credits |
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Elective Strand - Zookeeping

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| 16 | Apply global zoo industry frameworks and concepts of conservation and objectives to all aspects of zookeeping. | 30 credits |
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| 17 | Maintain animal, human, and environmental safety in a zookeeping environment or facility. | 15 credits |
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| 18 | Maintain an optimal welfare state for animals in a zookeeping environment or facility. | 45 credits |
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| 19 | Manage variations to normal and abnormal animal health and behaviour in a zookeeping environment or facility. | 5 credits |
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Transition Information

Replacement information

N/A

Additional transition information

Version 2 of this qualification was published in April 2021 as a result of a scheduled review.

Version 3 of this qualification was published in April 2021 as a result of a scheduled review. Please refer to [Qualifications and Assessment Standards Approvals](#) for further information.

The last date for assessment for programmes leading version 2 is 31 December 2024.

People currently enrolled in programmes leading to version 2 of this qualification may either complete the requirements by 31 December 2024 or transfer to version 3 of the qualification.

It is the intention of Muka Tangata that no existing trainee should be disadvantaged by these transition arrangements.

Any person who considers they have been disadvantaged may appeal to:

Muka Tangata - People, Food and Fibre Workforce Development Council

PO Box 445

Wellington 6143

Email: qualifications@mukatangata.nz

Phone: (04) 909 0288

Replacement information:

Version 3 of this qualification was republished in July 2022 to extend the last date of assessment for version 2 of this qualification from 31 December 2022 to 31 December 2024. Please refer to July 2022 [Qualifications and Assessment Standards Approvals](#) for further information.

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