

Qualification details

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| Qualification number/Te nama o te tohu mātauranga | 4389 | | |
| English title/ Taitara Ingarihi | New Zealand Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (Level 6) with strands in Companion Animal Veterinary Nursing, and Equine Veterinary Nursing | | |
| Māori title/ Taitara Māori | | | |
| Version number/Te putanga | 2 3 | Qualification type/Te momo tohu | Diploma |
| Level/Te kaupae | 6 | Credits/Ngā whiwhinga | 240 |
| NZSCED/Whakaraupapa | 061103 Health > Veterinary Studies > Veterinary Nursing | | |
| Qualification developer/Te kaihanganga tohu | Muka Tangata – People, Food, and Fibre Workforce Development Council | | |
| Next review /Te rā arotake | April 2026 | | |

Outcome statement/Te tauāki ā-hua

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| <p>Strategic Purpose statement/ Te rautaki o te tohu</p> <p>This qualification is intended for people who are aware of the importance of animals in society, and who intend to work as a veterinary nurse in clinical veterinary/animal healthcare settings such as companion animal veterinary clinics, equine veterinary clinics, or alongside veterinarians providing companion animal or equine healthcare services in a variety of settings.</p> <p>Graduates will have technical knowledge and skills to work as a veterinary nurse in a clinical veterinary setting. They will have a high level of responsibility and discretion within their scope of practice, in a wide range of dynamic and often unpredictable situations and following protocols in all aspects of clinical veterinary practice or animal healthcare settings.</p> <p>The qualification is stranded to recognise the specialist skills required for providing veterinary nursing care to either companion animal or equine veterinary practices.</p> <p>Graduates will be eligible to apply for registration on the New Zealand Register of Veterinary Nurses.</p> |
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Graduate Profile/Ngā hua o te tohu

All graduates of this qualification will be able to: all GPOs reworded, refer section below – ‘Conditions relating to the Graduate Profile’ - tbc

Graduates of the Companion Animal Veterinary Nursing strand will also be able to: tbc – see below

Graduates of the Equine Veterinary Nursing strand will also be able to: tbc – see below

Education Pathway/ Ngā huarahi mātauranga

This is a stand-alone qualification.

However, this qualification may build on the New Zealand Certificate in Animal Healthcare Assisting (Level 4) with strands in Companion Animal Healthcare, Equine Healthcare and Rural Animal Healthcare [Ref: 4388]; or the 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 [Ref: 2489]; or the New Zealand Certificate in Animal Care with strands in Companion Animal, Equine, and Rural Animals [Ref: 2487].

This qualification may lead to higher level study in veterinary nursing.

Employment, Cultural, Community Pathway/ Ko ngā huarahi ā-mahi, ā-ahurea, ā-whānau, ā-hapū, ā-iwi, ā-hapori anō hoki

Graduates of this qualification may be employed as a veterinary nurse in a diverse range of animal healthcare settings including veterinary clinical practice, veterinary product suppliers, government agencies, animal shelters, zoos, or organisations involved in animal research.

Qualification Specifications/ Ngā tauwhāititanga o te tohu

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| Qualification Award/ Te whakawhiwhinga o te tohu | 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/ Ngā taunaki hei whakaū i te tauritenga | Evidence of the following may be provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.• Portfolios of work and/or assessment samples demonstrating the range of student performance within a programme and that the graduate outcomes |

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| | have been met. |
| Minimum standard of achievement and standards for grade endorsements/ Te pae o raro e tutuki ai, ngā paerewa hoki hei whakaatu i te taumata o te whakatutukinga | Achieved. |
| Other requirements for the qualification (including regulatory body or legislative requirements)/ Kō ētahi atu here o te tohu (tae atu hoki ki ngā here ā-hinonga whakamarumarū, ki ngā here ā-ture rānei) | <p>TEOs offering programmes leading to this qualification must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure currency with amendments to, and replacements of, relevant legislation, regulations, and codes of practice which may include some or all of the following: Veterinarian’s Act 2005; Animal Welfare Act 1999; Biosecurity Act 1993, Health and Safety at Work Act 2015; Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996; Resource Management Act 1991; Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997, Misuse of Drugs Act 1975, Privacy Act 2020. 2. Abide by Animal Welfare Act 1999 Part 6 legislating ethics surrounding use of animals in learning and teaching, including seeking Animal Ethics Committee Approval where applicable. <p>Providers must ensure learners complete health declaration and declaration of any criminal convictions to ensure fitness to practice.</p> <p>The Graduate Outcomes of this qualification align with the Allied Veterinary Professional Regulatory Council (AVPRC) Graduate Competencies available from: www.avprc.org.nz.</p> |
| General conditions for programme/ Ngā tikanga whānui o te hōtaka | <p>Programmes must embed environmental, social, and economically sustainable practices.</p> <p>Programmes must embed Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and capabilities supporting cultural sensitivity and responsiveness, in animal care.</p> <p>Practicum</p> <p>All strands</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least 750 hours of practicum must be completed during the programme. 2. Practicum must take place in a suitable animal environment that enables a balance of application of knowledge and skills required by the outcomes. 3. A suitable practicum environment is a veterinary clinic, providing healthcare services for species applicable for the strand and may in some cases include an alternative environment where learners are able to apply the intention of the outcomes. 4. Within the practicum, learners must attend a |

minimum of two veterinary clinics, with a minimum of 40 hours spent in the secondary placement.

It is recommended that TEOs offering programmes leading to this qualification deliver learning and assessment of health and safety, animal ethics, professional behaviour, and basic animal handling before work experience is undertaken.

Requirements

1. Companion Animal Veterinary Nursing strand -
 - a. Each of the following species - dogs, cats, rabbits, rodents, and birds; will be assessed at least once in a theory assessment across the programme.
 - b. Practical assessment must include cats and dogs collectively across the programme.
 - c. In the context of this programme companion animals include pet - cats, dogs, birds, rabbits, mice, rats, and guinea pigs.
2. Equine Veterinary Nursing strand -
 - a. Each of the following will be assessed at least once in a theory assessment across the programme - donkeys and horses.
 - b. Practical assessment must include a range of life stages, and a variety of breeds and uses of horses, and may include donkeys.

Conditions relating to the Graduate Profile / Ngā tikanga e hāngai ana ingaa hua o te tohu

| Qualification outcomes/ Ngā hua | Credits/ Ngā whiwhinga | Conditions/ Ngā tikanga |
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| Core Outcomes | | |
| 1 - Demonstrate professional practice when working in an animal healthcare setting | 25 | |
| 2 - Apply knowledge of animal functional anatomy and physiology to manage animal welfare. | 15 | |
| Companion Animal Veterinary Nursing strand | | |
| 3 - Apply knowledge of husbandry and behaviour to manage the welfare of companion animal patients | 55 | |
| 4 - Provide medical nursing to support the welfare of companion animal patients | 60 | |
| 5 - Provide surgical nursing to support the welfare of companion animal patients | 60 | |
| 6 - Apply knowledge of veterinary diagnostic procedures to support the welfare of companion animal patients | 25 | |
| Equine Veterinary Nursing strand | | |
| 7 - Apply knowledge of husbandry and behaviour to manage the welfare of equine patients | 55 | |
| 8 - Provide medical nursing to support the welfare of equine patients | 60 | |
| 9 - Provide surgical nursing to support the welfare of equine patients | 60 | |
| 10 - Apply knowledge of veterinary diagnostic procedures to support the welfare of equine patients | 25 | |

Transition information/ He kōrero whakawhiti

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| Replacement information/ He kōrero mō te whakakapi | This qualification replaced the New Zealand Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (Level 6) [Ref: 2491]. |
| Additional transition information/ Kō ētahi atu kōrero mō te whakakapi | <p>Version Information</p> <p>Version 2 of this qualification was published in October 2022 following an out of cycle review. Please refer to Qualifications and Assessment Standards Approvals for further information.</p> <p>No last date of assessment has been applied to version 1,</p> |

both versions will remain current.

Version 1 of this qualification was published in April 2021 following a scheduled review. Please refer to [Qualifications and Assessment Standards Approvals](#) for further information.

The last date for entry for programmes leading to the replaced qualification is 31 March 2024.

The last date for assessment for programmes leading to the replaced qualification is 31 December 2025.

People currently enrolled in programmes leading to the replaced qualification may either complete the requirements by 31 December 2025 or transfer to the replacement qualification.

It is the intention of Muka Tangata – People, Food, and Fibre Workforce Development Council 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

Phone: (04) 909 0288

Email: qualifications@mukatangata.nz

Web: www.ohumahi.nz

Replacement information:

Version 1 of this qualification was republished in July 2022 to extend the last date of entry for the replaced qualification from 31 March 2023 to 31 March 2024, and the last date of assessment from 31 December 2024 to 31 December 2025.

Please refer to July 2022 [Qualifications and Assessment Standards Approvals](#) for further information.