

**HYDROTHERAPY SUB GROUP**

**ADMISSION’S POLICY**

**Application Criteria**

There are two elements to the application criteria and applicants must meet the requirements of both detailed below.

1. **Training and Qualifications:**
* Applicants that commenced study prior to January 2020 must be in a position to evidence the successful achievement of an Ofqual licensed level 3 qualification (found on the RQF in small animal/canine hydrotherapy) with a minimum of **290 hours TQT** and **29 credits** as defined by Ofqual.
* Applicants that commenced study on the new route from June 2019 must be in a position to evidence the successful achievement of an Ofqual licensed level 3 qualification (found on the RQF in small animal/canine hydrotherapy) with a minimum of **300 hours TQT,**  **230 hours GLH** and **32 credits** as defined by Ofqual.
* The course must deliver teaching and provide assessment opportunities that meets the day one competencies.
* The course must contain a minimum of **80 hours of clinically relevant hands-on practice** delivered in a suitable environment
* Applicants who operate an aquatic treadmill must be able to evidence the successful achievement of an Ofqual licensed level 3 optional unit (found on the RQF small animal/canine hydrotherapy) in aquatic treadmill practice.

**OR**

* Applicants must have successfully completed a university accredited qualification and be able to map their underpinning knowledge and skills to the AHPR Hydrotherapy Day One Competencies.
* Applicants who do not meet the educational requirements as set out above may be able to apply through a process of Recognition of Prior Learning / Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning (RPL/RPEL) and are considered on an individual basis – please see below for details. Such applicants may be required to undertake a formal assessment to demonstrate clinical proficiency.
* Applicants who undertook initial training outside the UK are invited to contact the register directly to discuss requirements for entry and will normally progress through the process described in the point above.
1. **Clinical Practice:**
* Applicants must be able to evidence **80 hours of clinically relevant hands-on practice**, delivered in a suitable environment, with appropriate assessment and treatment skills to meet AHPR Hydrotherapy Day One Competencies.
* Clinically relevant practice can be evidenced using a variety of methods and can include – practical sessions/placements with course providers, work experience where you have assisted with clinical practice, mentorship placements or employment as an Animal/Canine Hydrotherapist.

**Application Process**

In all cases, an application form must be completed and submitted along with the following documents:

1. Evidence of qualifications
2. Evidence of clinical practice\* (refer to footnote at end of document)
3. Insurance documents relevant to practice (appropriate professional indemnity and liability)
4. A current canine first aid certificate\*\* (refer to footnote at end of document)

* **Newly qualified** applicants from AHPR accredited training providers will have the right to direct entry to the register within 12 months of qualification (from the date of notification of qualification result). CPD evidence does not have to be submitted for 12 months following qualification for all newly qualified applicants. Please refer to the accredited courses page of the website for a list of AHPR accredited training providers.
* Applicants who have been **qualified and certificated for over 12 months** will additionally have to provide evidence of clinical practice in the field of animal hydrotherapy. This will be evidenced through submission of a CV, evidence of 25 hours of Continuing Professional Development per annum or 50 hours accumulative in the two years before application.
* Applicants that have completed **non-AHPR accredited courses** that meet requirements of application criteria 1 and 2 will need to demonstrate how the qualification they have achieved meets these requirements. Please contact your training provider who will assist you with this.
* Applicants that do not meet the requirements of application criteria 1 and 2 above should make their application through the RPL/RPEL route – please see below for details.

**Application by RPL/RPEL**

Please note: the following information only applies to applicants who do not meet the training and qualifications criteria set out above in the ‘Application Criteria’.

AHPR have a vested interest to ensure standards and quality are upheld, whilst maintaining a transparent, and robust system where it can be confident that registrants will meet the entry requirements of the subgroup in a way which is fair and does not unnecessarily disadvantage those affected.

This route applies to those applicants who do not meet application criteria as set out in 1 and 2. This is a three-tier system which allows for recognition of competency via alternative methods dependent upon experience and existing qualifications.

Those with less experience may need to complete all three tiers to show competency. Each applicant will be appointed an RPL/RPEL assessor to help them through this process.

**Tier One**

In addition to the criteria set out in application process a-d, applicants must also provide:

1. Two references from either a RCVS Registered Veterinary Surgeon(s) or a paraprofessional with whom they frequently work, supporting their application to the register.
2. A document that maps out how their clinical experience and training have met the ‘AHPR Hydrotherapy Day One Competencies’.
3. Evidence of their CPD for the previous year.

The above information will be assessed, and quality assured and if the decision is that more evidence is required, then applicants must move to Tier Two.

**Tier Two**

In addition to the above requirements in Tier One, the applicant will need to complete a written assessment to demonstrate their ability to reflect on their own practice and demonstrate clinical reasoning skills that are underpinned by current literature/best practice. This assessment will consist of two case studies to include relevant clinical history, initial assessment, goal setting and clinically reasoned treatment plus re-assessment findings and their significance with an updated treatment plan where necessary. Applicants will need to include a personal reflective piece on how these cases have assisted their learning and career development.

Guidance will be provided by the RPL/RPEL assessor, however if the assessor decides more evidence of clinical competency is required the applicant will move to Tier Three.

**Tier Three**

In addition to all the above requirements in Tiers One and Two, the applicant will need to complete a formal accredited assessment of clinical proficiency. Guidance for this will be provided by the RPL/RPEL assessor.

\* A template to record ‘Evidence of Clinical Practice’ can be accessed and downloaded from the applying page of the website.

\*\* The Animal Hydrotherapy industry expectation is that all practitioners ‘refresh’ their first aid training every 2 years following successful completion of their original Ofqual licensed qualifications. This ‘refresh’ must be completed with a Hydrotherapy training provider.