



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK
TĒTAURĀ HĒRE TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

Qualification details

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 kaihanga tohu	Muka Tangata – People, Food, and Fibre Workforce Development Council		
Next review /Te rā arotake	April 2026		

Outcome statement/Te tauāki ā-hua

Strategic Purpose statement/ Te rautaki o te tohu
<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>

Graduate Profile/Ngā hua o te tohu

All graduates of this qualification will be able to: ~~all GPOs~~ reworded – see below

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- ~~Apply principles of clinical governance to lead and support the safe and effective care of animal patients in an animal healthcare setting.~~
- ~~Apply knowledge of professionalism, professional development, and future focused animal healthcare industries to lead and support the safe and effective care of animal patients in an animal healthcare setting.~~
- ~~Apply knowledge of animal functional anatomy and physiology to animal management.~~
- ~~Apply knowledge of veterinary microbiology and infection control to provide effective sterilisation, sanitisation, disinfection, hygiene, and isolation procedures.~~
- ~~Apply knowledge of animal learning and communication, and factors that influence behaviour and welfare to manage the safe and effective care of animal patients.~~
- ~~Apply knowledge of pharmacology to provide and support clinical pharmacological interventions to animal patients and manage clinic pharmacy processes.~~

Graduates of the Companion Animal Veterinary Nursing strand will also be able to:

- ~~Apply knowledge of companion animals to manage animal husbandry.~~
- ~~Apply knowledge of companion animal behaviour to manage effective handling techniques that minimise stress to the companion animal patient.~~
- ~~Apply first aid, and emergency processes for companion animal patients requiring basic and advanced life support in an emergency or simulated emergency.~~
- ~~Apply knowledge of companion animal endemic, exotic and emerging diseases; parasitology, and immunology to support the provision of companion animal patient healthcare and disease prevention.~~
- ~~Apply knowledge of companion animal nutrition to provide clinical and therapeutic nutritional support to companion animal patients.~~
- ~~Apply the nursing process and care planning to manage a range of medical and surgical interventions for companion animal patients of different life stages and health status.~~
- ~~Apply knowledge of physiological fluid and electrolyte balance to provide fluid replacement therapy, and blood transfusions to companion animal patients.~~
- ~~Apply knowledge of wound physiology and bandaging to apply and maintain bandages for companion animal patients.~~
- ~~Apply knowledge of anaesthesia and analgesia to support the provision of anaesthesia and pain management to companion animal patients.~~
- ~~Apply surgical nursing skills to carry out preoperative, intraoperative, post-operative procedures and management of companion animal patients undergoing surgery.~~
- ~~Apply knowledge of companion animal reproduction to support reproductive interventions and manage neonatal companion animal patient care.~~
- ~~Apply knowledge of veterinary diagnostic procedures to collect and process a range of diagnostic samples, maintain diagnostic sample integrity, and support effective diagnostic laboratory quality control measures for companion animal patients.~~

- Apply knowledge of modes of diagnostic imaging to produce diagnostic quality imaging for companion animal patients.
- Apply knowledge of dental pathology, oral anatomy, preventative and therapeutic dental treatments, including the maintenance of dental equipment to support companion animal patients undergoing oral health assessments, and preventative dental treatments.

Graduates of the Equine Veterinary Nursing strand will also be able to:

- Apply knowledge of equines to manage equine husbandry.
- Apply knowledge of equine behaviour to manage effective rural animal handling techniques that minimise stress to the equine patient.
- Apply first aid, and emergency processes for equine patients requiring basic and advanced life support in an emergency or simulated emergency.
- Apply knowledge of equine endemic, exotic and emerging diseases; parasitology, and immunology to support the provision of equine patient healthcare and disease prevention.
- Apply knowledge of equine nutrition to provide clinical and therapeutic nutritional support to equine patients.
- Apply the nursing process and care planning to manage a range of medical and surgical interventions for equine patients of different life stages and health status.
- Apply knowledge of physiological fluid and electrolyte balance to provide fluid replacement therapy, and blood transfusions to equine patients.
- Apply knowledge of wound physiology and bandaging to apply and maintain bandages for equine patients.
- Apply knowledge of anaesthesia and analgesia to support the provision of anaesthesia and pain management to equine patients.
- Apply surgical nursing skills to carry out preoperative, intraoperative, post-operative procedures and management of equine patients undergoing surgery.
- Apply knowledge of equine reproduction to support reproductive interventions and manage equine neonatal patient care.
- Apply knowledge of veterinary diagnostic procedures to collect and process a range of diagnostic samples, maintain diagnostic sample integrity, and support effective diagnostic laboratory quality control measures for equine patients.
- Apply knowledge of modes of diagnostic imaging to produce diagnostic quality imaging for equine patients.
- Apply knowledge of dental pathology, oral anatomy, preventative and therapeutic dental treatments, including the maintenance of dental equipment to support equine patients undergoing oral health assessments, and preventative dental treatments.

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](#)

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Animals [Ref: 2487]

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

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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

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 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)	TEOs offering programmes leading to this qualification must: <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. Providers must ensure learners complete health declaration

	<p>and declaration of any criminal convictions to ensure fitness to practice.</p> <p>▼</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>
<p>General conditions for programme/ Ngā tikanga whānui o te hōtaka</p>	<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"> At least 750 hours of practicum must be completed during the programme. ▼ Practicum must take place in a suitable animal environment that enables a balance of application of knowledge and skills required by the outcomes. 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. Within the practicum, learners must attend a minimum of two veterinary clinics, with a minimum of 40 hours spent in the secondary placement. <p>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.</p> <p>Requirements</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Outcomes 1-6 must include comparative theoretical analysis relevant to a range of animal species. Companion Animal Veterinary Nursing strand - <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Each of the following species - dogs, cats, rabbits, rodents, and birds; will be assessed at least once in a theory assessment across the programme. Practical assessment must include cats and dogs collectively across the programme. In the context of this programme companion animals include pet - cats, dogs, birds, rabbits, mice, rats, and guinea pigs. Equine Veterinary Nursing strand -

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	<p>a. Each of the following will be assessed at least once in a theory assessment across the programme - donkeys and horses.</p> <p>b. Practical assessment must include a range of life stages, and a variety of breeds and uses of horses, and may include donkeys.</p>
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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
Core Outcomes			
Professionalism			
Core Outcome 1 - Demonstrate professional practice when working in an animal healthcare setting		25 credits	
1	Apply principles of clinical governance to lead and support the safe and effective care of animal patients in an animal healthcare setting. Replaced by new GPO 1	15	
2	Apply knowledge of professionalism, professional development, and future-focused animal healthcare industries to lead and support the safe and effective care of animal patients in an animal healthcare setting. Replaced by new GPO 1	15	
Core Outcome 2 - Apply knowledge of animal functional anatomy and physiology to manage animal welfare.		15 credits	
3	Apply knowledge of veterinary microbiology and infection control to provide effective sterilisation, sanitisation, disinfection, hygiene, and isolation procedures. Remove Covered in husbandry, diagnostic, medical and surgery GPOs	15	
4			
6	Apply knowledge of pharmacology to provide and support clinical pharmacological interventions to animal patients and manage clinic pharmacy processes. Remove, covered in Medical and Surgical	15	

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Companion Animal Veterinary Nursing strand			
Animal Husbandry and Behaviour – Companion Animals			
Outcome 3 - Apply knowledge of husbandry and behaviour to manage the welfare of companion animal patients.		55 credits	
5	Apply knowledge of animal learning and communication, and factors that influence behaviour and welfare to manage the safe and effective care of animal patients. Replaced by new Outcome 3	10	
7	Apply knowledge of companion animals to manage companion animal husbandry. Replaced by new Outcome 3	10	
8	Apply knowledge of companion animal behaviour to manage effective handling techniques that minimise stress to the companion animal patient. Replaced by new GPO 4	10	
11	Apply knowledge of companion animal nutrition to provide clinical and therapeutic nutritional support to companion animal patients. Replaced by new Outcome 3	10	
17	Apply knowledge of companion animal reproduction to support reproductive interventions and manage companion animal neonatal patient care. Replaced by new Outcome 3	5	
9	Apply first aid, and emergency processes for companion animal patients requiring basic and advanced life support in an emergency or simulated emergency. Remove, covered in Medical	10	
Medical Nursing – Companion Animals			
Outcome 4 - Provide medical nursing to support the welfare of companion animal patients		60 credits	
10	Apply knowledge of companion animal endemic, exotic and emerging diseases; parasitology, and immunology to support the provision of companion animal patient healthcare and disease prevention. Replaced by new Outcome 4	15	
12	Apply the nursing process and care planning to manage a range of medical and surgical interventions for companion animal patients of different life stages and health status. Replaced by new Outcome 4	20	
13	Apply knowledge of physiological fluid and electrolyte balance to provide fluid replacement therapy, and blood transfusions to companion animal patients.	10	

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Surgical Nursing – Companion Animals			
Outcome 5 - Provide surgical nursing to support the welfare of companion animal patients		60 credits	
14	Apply knowledge of wound physiology and bandaging to apply and maintain bandages for companion animal patients. Replaced by new Outcome 5	10 5	
15	Apply knowledge of anaesthesia and analgesia to support the provision of anaesthesia and pain management to companion animal patients. Replaced by new Outcome 5	15	
16	Apply surgical nursing skills to carry out preoperative, intraoperative, post-operative procedures and management of companion animal patients undergoing surgery. Replaced by new Outcome 5	10 20	
20	Apply knowledge of dental pathology, oral anatomy, preventative and therapeutic dental treatments, including the maintenance of dental equipment to support companion animal patients undergoing oral health assessments, and preventative dental treatments. Replaced by new Outcome 5	10 5	
Diagnostics – Companion Animals			
Outcome 6 - Apply knowledge of veterinary diagnostic procedures to support the welfare of companion animal patients.		25 credits	
18	Apply knowledge of veterinary diagnostic procedures to collect and process a range of diagnostic samples, maintain diagnostic sample integrity, and support effective diagnostic laboratory quality control measures for companion animal patients. Replaced by new Outcome 6	10	
19	Apply knowledge of modes of diagnostic imaging to produce diagnostic quality imaging for companion animal patients. Replaced by new Outcome 6	10	

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Equine Veterinary Nursing strand			
Animal Husbandry and Behaviour - Equine			
Outcome 1 - Apply knowledge of husbandry and behaviour to manage the welfare of equine patients		55 credits	
21	Apply knowledge of equines to manage equine husbandry. <u>Replaced by new Outcome 1</u>	10	
22	Apply knowledge of equine behaviour to manage effective rural animal handling techniques that minimise stress to the equine patient. <u>Replaced by new Outcome 1</u>	10	
Medical Nursing - Equine			
Outcome 2 - Provide medical nursing to support the welfare of equine patients		60 credits	
24	Apply knowledge of equine endemic, exotic and emerging diseases; parasitology, and immunology to support the provision of equine patient healthcare and disease prevention. <u>Replaced by new Outcome 2</u>	15	
26	Apply the nursing process and care planning to manage a range of medical and surgical interventions for equine patients of different life stages and health status. <u>Replaced by new Outcome 2</u>	20	
27	Apply knowledge of physiological fluid and electrolyte balance to provide fluid replacement therapy, and blood transfusions to equine patients. <u>Replaced by new Outcome 2</u>	10	
Surgical Nursing - Equine			
Outcome 3 - Provide surgical nursing to support the welfare of equine patients		60 credits	
28	Apply knowledge of wound physiology and bandaging to apply and maintain bandages for equine patients. <u>Replaced by new Outcome 3</u>	10	
29	Apply knowledge of anaesthesia and analgesia to support the provision of anaesthesia and pain management to equine patients. <u>Replaced by new Outcome GPO 3</u>	15	
30	Apply surgical nursing skills to carry out preoperative, intraoperative, post-operative procedures and management of equine patients undergoing surgery. <u>Replaced by new Outcome 3</u>	10	
34	Apply knowledge of dental pathology, oral anatomy,	5	

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	preventative and therapeutic dental treatments, including the maintenance of dental equipment to support equine patients undergoing oral health assessments, and preventative dental treatments. <u>Replaced by new Outcome 3</u>		
23	Apply first aid, and emergency processes for equine patients requiring basic and advanced life support in an emergency or simulated emergency. Remove, covered in Medical	10	
Diagnostics - Equine Outcome 4 - Apply knowledge of veterinary diagnostic procedures to support the welfare of equine patients		25 credits	
32	Apply knowledge of veterinary diagnostic procedures to collect and process a range of diagnostic samples, maintain diagnostic sample integrity, and support effective diagnostic laboratory quality control measures for equine patients. <u>Replaced by new Outcome 4</u>	10	
33	Apply knowledge of modes of diagnostic imaging to produce diagnostic quality imaging for equine patients. <u>Replaced by new Outcome 4</u>	10	

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Transition information/ He kōrero whakawhiti

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, both versions will remain current.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The last date for entry for programmes leading to the replaced qualification is 31 March 2024.</p> <p>The last date for assessment for programmes leading to the replaced qualification is 31 December 2025.</p> <p>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.</p>

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.