

## Qualification details

Qualification number/Te nama o te tohu mātauranga	4391		
English title/Taitara Ingarihi	New Zealand Diploma in Rural Animal Veterinary Technology (Level 6)		
Māori title/Taitara Māori	Veterinary Nurse   Tapuhi Kararehe		
Version number/Te putanga	2	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 Workforce Development Council		
Next review /Te rā arotake	April 2026		

## Outcome statement/Te tauāki ā-hua

<p><b>Strategic Purpose statement/ Te rautaki o te tohu</b></p> <p>This qualification is intended for people who are aware of the importance of rural animals in society, and who have the technical knowledge and skills to work in clinical veterinary/animal healthcare settings such as rural animal or mixed-animal veterinary clinics, or alongside veterinarians providing rural animal healthcare services in a variety of settings.</p> <p>Graduates will have a high level of responsibility and discretion within their scope of practice, in a wide range of dynamic and often unpredictable situations while following protocols in all aspects of clinical veterinary practice or animal healthcare settings.</p> <p>Graduates will be eligible to apply for registration on the New Zealand Register of Rural Animal Veterinary Technicians.</p>
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<p><b>Graduate Profile/Ngā hua o te tohu</b></p> <p><b>The following Qualification Outcomes reduced to 6. Refer to attached document.</b></p> <p><b>Graduates of this qualification will be able to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply principles of clinical governance to lead and support the safe, effective, and sustainable care of rural animal patients in an animal healthcare setting.</li> <li>Evaluate professionalism, professional development, and future-focused animal healthcare industries to lead and support the safe and effective care of rural animal patients in an animal healthcare setting.</li> <li>Apply knowledge of rural animal functional anatomy and physiology to rural animal management.</li> </ul>
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- Apply knowledge of veterinary microbiology and infection control to provide effective sterilisation, sanitisation, disinfection, hygiene, and isolation procedures for rural animal patients.
- Apply knowledge of animal learning and communication, and factors that influence behaviour and welfare to manage the safe and effective care of rural animal patients.
- Apply knowledge of pharmacology to provide and support clinical pharmacological interventions to rural animal patients and manage clinic pharmacy processes.
- Apply knowledge of rural animals to all aspects of rural animal husbandry and management.
- Apply knowledge of animal behaviour to manage effective rural animal handling techniques that minimise stress to the rural animal patient.
- Apply first aid, and emergency processes for rural animal patients requiring basic and advanced life support in emergency or simulated emergency situations.
- Apply knowledge of animal endemic, exotic and emerging diseases; parasitology, and immunology to support the provision of rural animal patient healthcare and disease prevention.
- Apply knowledge of animal nutrition to provide support to clients and rural animal patients.
- Apply the nursing process and care planning to manage a range of medical and surgical interventions for rural 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 rural animal patients.
- Apply knowledge of wound physiology and bandaging to apply and maintain bandages for rural animal patients.
- Apply knowledge of anaesthesia and analgesia to support the provision of anaesthesia and pain management to rural animal patients.
- Apply surgical nursing skills to carry out preoperative, intraoperative, post-operative procedures and management of rural animal patients undergoing surgery.
- Apply knowledge of rural animal reproduction to support reproductive interventions and manage 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 rural animal patients.
- Apply knowledge of modes of diagnostic imaging to produce diagnostic quality imaging for rural animal patients.
- Apply knowledge of dental pathology, oral anatomy, preventative and therapeutic dental treatments, including the maintenance of dental equipment to support rural animal patients undergoing oral health assessments, and preventative dental treatments.

#### **Education Pathway/ Ngā huarahi mātauranga**

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; and Zookeeping [Ref: 2489].

This qualification may lead to higher-level rural animal veterinary technology qualifications.

#### **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 Rural Animal Technician in a diverse range of rural veterinary practices, or rural animal healthcare settings including veterinary or rural product suppliers, government agencies, animal shelters, zoos, or organisations involved in rural animal research.

## Qualification Specifications/ Ngā tauwhāititanga o te tohu

<p><b>Qualification Award/ Te whakawhiwhinga o te tohu</b></p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>Evidence requirements for assuring consistency/ Ngā taunaki hei whakaū i te tauritenga</b></p>	<p>Evidence of the following may be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of employer and graduate surveys to ensure the graduate outcomes have been met.</li> <li>• Evidence of effective internal quality assurance systems to assure that graduates meet the graduate outcomes of the qualification.</li> <li>• Portfolios of work and/or assessment samples demonstrating the range of student performance within a programme and that the graduate outcomes have been met.</li> </ul>
<p><b>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</b></p>	<p>Achieved.</p>
<p><b>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)</b></p>	<p>TEOs offering programmes leading to this qualification must -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol> <p>Providers must ensure learners complete Health declaration and declaration of any criminal convictions to ensure fitness to practice.</p> <p>A Programme Guidance document is available on request from Muka Tangata Workforce Development Council – <a href="mailto:qualifications@mukatangata.nz">qualifications@mukatangata.nz</a>.</p>

	<p>The Graduate Outcomes of this qualification align with the Allied Veterinary Professional Regulatory Council (AVPRC) Graduate Competencies available from:  <a href="https://www.avprc.org.nz/">https://www.avprc.org.nz/</a>.</p>
<p><b>General conditions for programme/ Ngā tikanga whānui o te hōtaka</b></p>	<p>Programmes must recognise capabilities supporting environmental, social, and economically sustainable practices.</p> <p>Programmes must recognise the place of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty, and Capabilities supporting cultural sensitivity and responsiveness in animal care.</p> <p><b>Practicum</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At least 750 hours of Practicum must be completed during the programme.</li> <li>2. Practicum must take place in a suitable animal healthcare environment where animal healthcare is carried out that enables a balance of application of theoretical knowledge and practical skills acquisition required for the outcomes.</li> <li>3. A suitable practicum environment is a veterinary clinic or alternative environment where learners are able to apply the intention of the outcomes.</li> <li>4. Within the practicum, the learners must attend at least one veterinary clinic. It is strongly recommended that learners attend a minimum of two veterinary clinics.</li> </ol> <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><b>Requirements</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Outcomes 1-6 must include comparative analysis relevant to a range of animal species.</li> <li>6. Theory assessment of dairy cattle plus at least two other rural animal species.</li> <li>7. Practical assessment must include dairy cattle plus at least one other rural animal species.</li> <li>8. Rural animal species include cattle, sheep, deer, alpaca, llama, pigs, goats, or poultry.</li> </ol>

Qualification Outcomes reduced to 6. Refer to attached document.

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
1	Apply principles of clinical governance to lead and support the safe, effective, and sustainable care of rural animal patients in an animal healthcare setting.	15	
2	Evaluate professionalism, professional development, and future-focused animal healthcare industries to lead and support the safe and effective care of rural animal patients in an animal healthcare setting.	15	
3	Apply knowledge of animal functional anatomy and physiology to rural animal management.	15	
4	Apply knowledge of veterinary microbiology and infection control to provide effective sterilisation, sanitisation, disinfection, hygiene, and isolation procedures to rural animal patients.	15	
5	Apply knowledge of animal learning and communication, and factors that influence behaviour and welfare to manage the safe and effective care of rural animal patients.	10	
6	Apply knowledge of pharmacology to provide and support clinical pharmacological interventions to rural animal patients and manage clinic pharmacy processes.	15	
7	Apply knowledge of rural animals to all aspects of rural animal husbandry and management	10	
8	Apply knowledge of animal behaviour to manage effective rural animal handling techniques that minimise stress to the rural animal patient.	15	
9	Apply first aid, and emergency processes for rural animal patients requiring basic and advanced life support in emergency or simulated emergency situations.	10	
10	Apply knowledge of animal endemic, exotic and emerging diseases; parasitology, and	15	

	immunology to support the provision of rural animal patient healthcare and disease prevention.		
11	Apply knowledge of animal nutrition to provide support to clients and rural animal patients.	10	
12	Apply the nursing process and care planning to manage a range of medical and surgical interventions for rural animal patients of different life stages and health status.	15	
13	Apply knowledge of physiological fluid and electrolyte balance to provide fluid replacement therapy, and blood transfusions to rural animal patients.	10	
14	Apply knowledge of wound physiology and bandaging to apply and maintain bandages for rural animal patients.	10	
15	Apply knowledge of anaesthesia and analgesia to support the provision of anaesthesia and pain management to rural animal patients.	10	
16	Apply surgical nursing skills to carry out preoperative, intraoperative, post-operative procedures and management of rural animal patients undergoing surgery.	10	
17	Apply knowledge of rural animal reproduction to support reproductive interventions and manage neonatal patient care.	15	
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 rural animal patients.	15	
19	Apply knowledge of modes of diagnostic imaging to produce diagnostic quality imaging for rural animal patients.	10	
20	Apply knowledge of dental pathology, oral anatomy, preventative and therapeutic dental treatments, including the maintenance of dental equipment to support rural animal patients undergoing oral health assessments, and preventative dental treatments.	10	

## Transition information/ He kōrero whakawhiti

<p><b>Replacement information/ He kōrero mō te whakakapi</b></p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Additional transition information/ Kō ētahi atu kōrero mō te whakakapi</b></p>	<p><b>Version information:</b></p> <p>Version 2 of this qualification was published in October 2022 following an out of cycle review. Please refer to <a href="#">Qualifications and Assessment Standards Approvals</a> for further information.</p> <p>No last date of assessment has been applied to version 1, both versions will remain current.</p> <p>This qualification was published in April 2021. Please refer to <a href="#">Qualifications and Assessment Standards Approvals</a> for further information.</p> <p>Muka Tangata – People, Food and Fibre Workforce Development Council</p> <p>PO Box 445</p> <p>Wellington 6143</p> <p>Phone: (04) 909 0288</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:qualifications@mukatangata.nz">qualifications@mukatangata.nz</a></p> <p>Web: <a href="http://www.ohumahi.nz">www.ohumahi.nz</a></p>