

Animal Care

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Amanda



Veterinary Nursing Tutor

What are the main components of the Veterinary Nursing Assistant (Level 5) programme?

In the first trimester, we run classes from Monday to Wednesday, covering a range of topics including reception, welfare, clinical examination and grief management. This provides learners with the foundation needed to support them in their work placement, which they complete in a veterinary clinic one day per week.

In the second trimester; hospital, diagnostic, and surgical topics will be taught to prepare learners to practice the duties of a veterinary nurse in their placement, along with a second work placement set up by our work placement coordinator. Throughout the year, practical opportunities are provided in class for students to practice these skills, prior to performing them in the veterinary clinic.

What sort of skills do you teach ākongā studying the programme?

We teach low-stress animal handling, communication skills, grief management, veterinary computer-based skills, diagnostic, surgical, anaesthesia, and emergency response skills

What is your favourite part about being a veterinary nurse?

I love how varied the role of a vet nurse is. I am an

anaesthetist, groomer, administrator, dog walker, trainer, counsellor, radiographer, animal advocate, teacher, and more. I really enjoy meeting and helping the variety of companion and exotic animals that would visit the vet clinic. Not one day is the same and there are always opportunities to expand your knowledge and skill.

What career opportunities are there for graduates of the Veterinary Nursing Assistant (Level 5) programme?

A veterinary clinic receptionist, and a veterinary nursing assistant to assist both the veterinarian and Diploma veterinary nurse in a veterinary clinic environment.

How can ākongā who study the Veterinary Nursing Assistant (Level 5) programme, pathway onto higher level programmes? What options are there for them?

After completing the Veterinary Nursing Assistant (Level 5) programme, learners can go on to complete the Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (Level 6) programme and work as a Diploma veterinary nurse.

What are the main differences between the Animal Care and Veterinary Nursing Assistant programmes?

The Veterinary Nursing Assistant (Level 5) programme prepares a learner to work as a veterinary nursing assistant in a veterinary clinic environment. It also prepares students to transition onto the Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (Level 6) programme to become a Diploma veterinary nurse. The Animal Care (level 3) programme gives students the knowledge and skill to work in a non-clinical animal facility. This may include working in animal boarding, pet grooming or pet sitting.

New Zealand Certificate in Animal Care (Companion Animals) (Level 3)

📖	Level 3
🕒	17 weeks, (part-time options available)
📅	07 Jul 2025 (Petone)
💰	\$3,500 (indicative for 2023 intake)
🌐	\$13,254* (indicative for 2023 intake)

This programme will give you an entry-level animal care qualification. It will also give you a taste of the wider range of animal-related qualifications available and allow you to get a feel for tertiary study before attempting higher-level qualifications. It's also a great first step if you want to enter an animal-related profession such as an animal care attendant, pet shop work or kennel and cattery animal carer.

Programme outline

You will gain the skills and knowledge to work in a role assisting with the care of companion animals (cats, dogs, rabbits, rodents, and birds), in a variety of settings such as pet stores, animal rescue centres, pet grooming, animal day care, kennels and catteries etc.

Working within the current welfare standards and practices you will learn a range of clinical skills in both classroom and practicum (workplace) settings.

Graduates will have the skills, knowledge, and attributes to assist with the care of animals under limited supervision.

More detail about this qualification

This programme is delivered by blended learning i.e., face to face and online learning. This means some of your lessons may be delivered via Moodle (our online learning platform), which will require you to have a computer and internet access at home.

Courses

Course No	Course Name	Credits
ANML301	Introduction to Professional Skills when working with companion animals	15
ANML302	Behaviour, handling, and transportation for companion animals	15
ANML303	Introduction to form, function, and preventative health for companion animals	15
ANML304	Introduction to Husbandry for companion animals	15
ANML305	Companion Animals Practicum	10
Total Compulsory Credits at Level 3		70 Credits

Practicum

You will need to arrange a practicum in a workplace environment that provides you with the opportunity to practice the skills and knowledge required to meet the programme's outcomes (you will need to complete at least 40 hours). A suitable placement could be at an animal facility such as a cattery, kennels, doggy day-care, SPCA, animal shelter etc. Our staff will assist you if you have difficulty finding a placement.

Course related costs

Information about your uniform requirements and other course related costs can be found [here](#).

Entry requirements

Open Entry, if the delegated authority is satisfied that the applicant has the capability to complete the requirements of the programme. International applicants are required to have an IELTS score of 5 (general or academic) with no individual band lower than 5 from one test taken in the preceding two years, or an equivalent described in NZQA Rules.

In addition to meeting the requirements for admission all applicants must complete a health declaration and declaration of any criminal conviction to ensure fitness to practice prior to acceptance into the programme.

*Convictions of any offence may not necessarily exclude applicants from enrolment. Any decision is made on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the delegated authority.

Selection processes may apply where the number of applications exceed the number of available places.

How to apply

Complete the [health and criminal conviction declaration form](#) and save to your computer so you can attach it when you complete the online application.

Declaration form



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