

2026



NZ Certificate in Animal Healthcare Assisting (Companion Animals)

Level 4

Turn your passion for companion animals into a rewarding career by studying the New Zealand Certificate in Animal Healthcare Assisting (Level 4) with a strand in Companion Animals. This hands-on programme will equip you with the skills and knowledge to provide healthcare support to companion animals in veterinary clinics, boarding facilities, animal shelters, and other animal care environment.

You will learn essential practical skills in areas such as patient handling, infection control, diagnostic assistance, surgical support, husbandry, and client communication. Graduates will be capable of working safely and ethically within animal healthcare teams, helping to ensure high standards of animal welfare and operational excellence.

Location	Hawke's Bay*
Start	February
Length	36 weeks full-time*
Contact	Louella Campollo - Hawke's Bay Phone: 06 830 1237 Email: lcampollo@eit.ac.nz

* Full-time or Part-time on Campus study options available.

For NZ Citizens and Permanent Residents

Make Your Passion for Companion Animals Your Career

The New Zealand Certificate in Animal Healthcare Assisting (Companion Animals) Level 4 prepares students to assist veterinary and animal care professionals by developing skills in patient care, animal husbandry, healthcare support, and client communication. The programme places a strong emphasis on infection control, legislative compliance, and ethical, professional behaviours in animal healthcare environments.

Subject Areas

- Infection Control and Biosecurity
- Surgical Assistance
- Diagnostic Support
- Patient Handling and Restraint
- Animal Welfare and Husbandry
- Communication and Professionalism in Animal Healthcare

Career and Study Opportunities

Graduates of this programme may gain employment as:

- Veterinary Healthcare Assistants
- Animal Care Assistants in animal shelters, boarding facilities, or pet stores
- Support staff within veterinary practices
- Animal Welfare Support Workers

You are welcome to make an appointment to discuss your study options with our staff either in person or by phone and also to visit at any time to view our facilities. If you have any questions please feel free to contact us.

Your study pathway could progress onto:

- NZ Diploma in Veterinary Nursing [Level 6]
- Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing [Level 7]



NZ Certificate in Animal Healthcare Assisting (Companion Animals) Level 4, 120 credits

 Hawke's Bay

 Full-time: 36 weeks
Part-time: equivalent

 Fee: Visit fees.eit.ac.nz to see the fees for this programme

2026 Key Dates

Programme Starts Monday, 9 February

Programme Ends Friday, 4 December

Semester Breaks
13 - 24 April
29 June - 17 July
21 September - 2 October

Work Experience

As part of the New Zealand Certificate in Animal Healthcare Assisting, you are required to complete a minimum of 240 hours of work placement, as determined by the Programme Coordinator and Workplace Coordinator. To ensure you gain a broad understanding of veterinary practices, your work experience will be undertaken across at least two different veterinary clinics.

During your placement, you must maintain a workplace logbook to record evidence of completed practical assessments and skill development.

A Memorandum of Agreement will be established between you, the placement clinics, and EIT. This agreement outlines the rights and responsibilities of each party, ensuring clarity and mutual understanding throughout the placement period.

Timetable

Your study time will be made up of contact time (classroom lectures, practical sessions, tutorials and industry-based learning) and non-contact time (self-directed study).

For a current timetable, please refer to <https://www.eit.ac.nz/students/timetable/>

Contact Time

On-campus classes are usually scheduled between 8.00am-5.00pm, Monday to Friday.

Your contact time will be made up of:

- 416 teaching hours for the duration of the programme
- 240 work placement hours for the duration of the programme.

There will also be 80 hours in our Animal Housing facility as part of your work placement hours for the duration of the programme.

Non-contact Time

You should plan to spend 544 hours over the duration of the programme.

Additional Costs

- Transport and accommodation for work placement where required.
- Black dress pants and scrub top for clinic placement.
- \$120 approximately for required textbook
- \$40 approximately for scrub top

Entry Requirements

- NZ Certificate in Animal Care (Level 3) Companion Animals
- 40 credits at NCEA Level 1, including 10 Literacy credits and 10 Numeracy credits **OR** a relevant qualification at NZQF Level 2 or above.

Provisional Entry*

- Applicants who do not meet the criteria above, but present evidence of ability to succeed (e.g. maturity, life experience, work experience, other study); or
- Those who narrowly fail to meet the standard entry above.

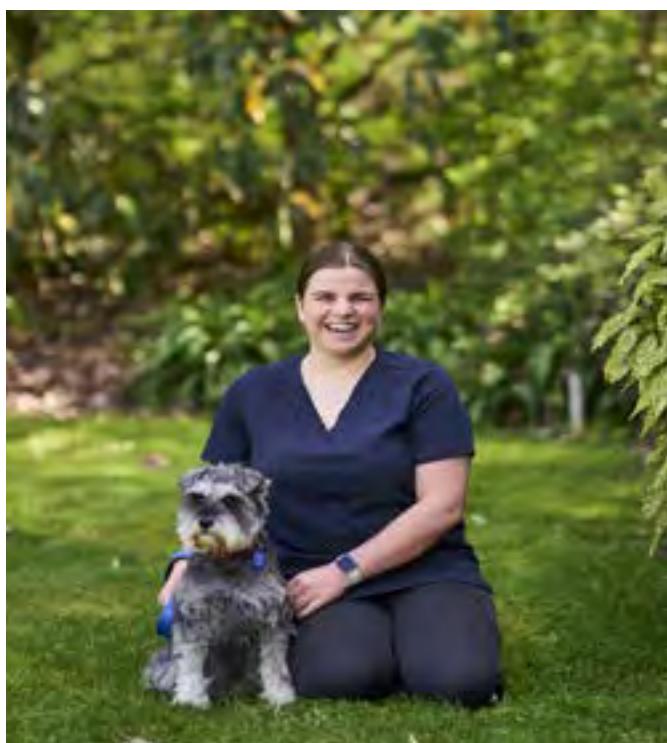
* Please note: this normally requires an interview and entry to subsequent study is conditional on satisfactory academic progress in the first year.

English Language Entry Requirements

All applicants must demonstrate an acceptable level of English language fluency prior to acceptance in the programme.

For international students, ways in which English language fluency may be demonstrated include the following:

- Successful study of a programme in which English was the language of instruction (conditions apply)



- Completion of a New Zealand Certificate in English Language (Level 5 with any endorsement)
- IELTS Academic score of 6.5 with no band score lower than 6.0, achieved in a single test within the two years preceding enrolment.
- International equivalents to IELTS accepted by NZQA.

Entry with Credit

You may already have some knowledge or skills that can be recognised as part of your intended study. This may take a number of different forms including study at any other tertiary institution, life or work experiences and workplace training can also be considered. If you think you qualify, you can apply for Cross Credit (CC) or Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

- CC is based on the equivalency of courses or qualifications. You would apply for CC if you have passed a very similar course at the same level.
- RPL is based on the assessment of your current knowledge and skills. You would apply for RPL if you had gained the relevant knowledge and skills through life experiences and informal learning situations.
- There is a fee for RPL.
- You will be asked to provide details of anything that you would like considered as credits towards your intended programme of study, as part of your application.
- You must apply prior to enrolment. CC and RPL cannot be awarded for a course if you are enrolled in that course. An original transcript or notice of results from the institute at which you previously studied (or verified copies) will be required for all applications.

- Overall RPL Credits Limit is 50% of the total course credits. The programmes maintain the ability to partially credit courses where evidence of current competence is presented.

For further information and enquiries about CC and RPL please contact, Sarah Subritzky, Programme Coordinator, on 06 830 1583

Facilities

- Specialised animal practical facilities with simulated surgery facility, live animal housing, isolation unit, simulated clinic reception and diagnostic preparation room.
- Laboratory facilities
- Library and computer facilities.

Assessments

Assessments consist of practical workbook completion for on campus practical work, completion of work placement portfolio, assignments, tests, exams and observations, depending on nature of the course.

The experience you need & the support to succeed

When you study at EIT you'll get the kind of experiences that will help you gain the knowledge and skills to get ahead.

You'll also be supported by lecturers and tutors who are here for you, within a learning environment where you are treated as an individual, not just a number.

They'll know your name and you'll receive one-on-one attention to make sure you get the support to succeed.



Experienced Lecturers

At EIT, you can be confident in the quality of our teaching and your learning experience.

EIT is highly regarded in New Zealand for research excellence due to the quality of our community centred research, our publications and our external grant income provided by funding institutions who have confidence in our research capability. You can be confident your lecturers use the latest knowledge and research in their field of expertise to inform their teaching, and many are at the forefront of knowledge creation within their discipline area.

Name	Qualification
Sarah Subritzky <i>Programme Coordinator</i>	DipVNursing
Karen Watts <i>Lecturer</i>	DipVNursing
Megan Young <i>Lecturer</i>	DipVNursing
Rachel Keith <i>Lecturer</i>	DipVNursing

Programme Information

To be awarded NZ4388 New Zealand Certificate in Animal Healthcare Assisting - Companion Animals (Level 4), students must complete every course in the programme - as identified in the Course Description below.

Total Credits for completion are 120.

Course Code	Course Title	Level	Credits	Semester
ANML4101	Companion Animal Professionalism and Infection Control	4	15	1
ANML4102	Companion Animal Anatomy & Physiology	4	15	1
ANML4103	Introduction to Companion Animal & Behaviour	4	15	1
ANML4104	Companion Animal Practicum 1	4	15	1
ANML4105	Companion Animal Health and Hygiene	4	15	2
ANML4106	Companion Animal Clinical Assistance	4	15	2
ANML4107	Companion Animal Preparation for Practice	4	15	2
ANML4108	Companion Animal Practicum 2	4	15	2
Total credits				120

Course Descriptions

In the following descriptions:

Pre-requisite = courses which must be studied before.

Co-requisite = courses which can be studied before or at the same time.

Course No.	Brief Description	NZQA Level	No. of Credits
	Companion Animal Professionalism and Infection Control		
ANML4101	To develop the knowledge, skill, and competencies to work in a professional, safe, and effective manner in an animal health care environment.	4	15
	Companion Animal Anatomy & Physiology		
ANML4102	To develop the knowledge skills, and competencies relevant to animal nutrition, and basic anatomy and physiology to support companion animal patient care.	4	15
	Introduction to companion Animal Husbandry & Behaviour		
ANML4103	To develop the knowledge, skills and competencies to provide safe and appropriate husbandry and handling to support companion animal health and welfare.	4	15
	Companion Animal Practicum 1		
ANML4104	To develop the knowledge, skills and competencies to provide day-to-day care of companion animals as part of an interprofessional team.	4	15
	Companion Animal Health and Hygiene		
ANML4105	To develop the knowledge, skills and competencies to assist in the provision of companion animal healthcare.	4	15
	Companion Animal Clinical Assistance		
ANML4106	To develop the knowledge, skills and competencies to provide clinical assistance in all aspects of the animal healthcare environment.	4	15
	Companion Animal Preparation for Practice		
ANML4107	To develop the knowledge, skills and competencies required for effective clinical practice and first aid.	4	15
	Companion Animal Practicum 2		
ANML4108	To develop the knowledge, skills and competencies to assist with healthcare and clinical procedures in companion animals as part of an interprofessional team.	4	15



How to Enrol

There is an easy 3-step process to follow when enrolling at EIT.

Step 1

Check out eit.ac.nz to see the programmes available for you to study. A copy of the course information for each programme is available on our website.

Step 2

You can now use your RealMe verified identity to apply for study at EIT. If you use your RealMe verified identity you will no longer be sent a copy of your application form to sign. You also will not need to provide us with a copy of your primary ID.

If you apply online without using RealMe then you will be sent a summary of your enrolment to check and sign. It will also include course selection forms which you need to complete and return. Your enrolment cannot progress until you have sent the summary and forms back to us.

You can also apply using a paper enrolment form. Please call us on 0800 22 55 348 and we will send you one out.

You will receive an acceptance letter from your Faculty with programme information. This will include the start date of your study and any special information regarding your programme. Depending on your chosen programme of study, you may be invited to attend an interview before you are accepted.

Step 3

Arrangement for full payment of enrolment fees must be made before the start of your programme. You will receive an invoice with payment details.

Fees Free Government Scheme: Tertiary education is fees-free for eligible domestic tertiary students. To check if you are eligible, go to FeesFree.govt.nz and enter your National Student Number (NSN). If you are not eligible you will be responsible for paying your fees.

Scholarships and Grants: Scholarships and grants make life easier by helping to cover your fees, other costs and living expenses while you study. You don't always need to be an academic high-flyer to qualify. You can find out more about scholarships and other options for paying your fees at eit.ac.nz.

StudyLink: If you need to pay for your own study you can choose to apply for your Student Loan and Student Allowance with StudyLink. You should do this early, even if you haven't yet been accepted on your programme. You can change your details later if anything changes. Visit studylink.govt.nz to find out more about StudyLink.

Student Services Levy

The student services levy is a compulsory non-tuition fee that is charged to students enrolled at EIT. The levy is to contribute to the provision of quality student services that support learning. The funds received by EIT from the levy are ring-fenced, meaning they can only be spent on student services.

Student Loans and Allowances

StudyLink is a service of the Ministry of Social Development. Apply well before your programme begins (even if you haven't been accepted yet) so you'll be ready to get your payments when you need them most.

Check out what you qualify for at studylink.govt.nz.



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NZ Certificate in Animal Healthcare Assisting (Companion Animals) [Level 4]

Enrolment Checklist

Please Note

**The following documents need to be completed and returned
with your enrolment form.**

**Without these documents we are unable to proceed
with your application.**

Please complete and return the following:

ALL applicants

Enrolment Form

Ministry of Justice Criminal Convictions Record

Criminal Declaration

Health and Privacy Declaration

Verified copy of your New Zealand full birth certificate carrying a unique identification number or Passport*

*Verification of your Birth Certificate or Passport and other form of ID must be completed by a JP, EIT Programme Administrator or Registry staff member.



NZ Certificate in Animal Healthcare Assisting (Companion Animals) [Level 4]

Ministry of Justice Criminal Convictions Record

As part of your application EIT requires you to obtain your own Ministry of Justice criminal record check.

You can do this online by going to: <https://www.justice.govt.nz/criminal-records/get-your-own/>

Please fill in the **"Requesting your own criminal record - Individual Request"**.

Before you begin you will need to have the following documents ready:

1. Proof of identification
 - a. NZ Drivers Licence - can be current or expired within the last 2 years, but cannot be cancelled, defaced or a temporary licence.
 - b. NZ Passport - can be current or expired within the last 2 years but cannot be cancelled or defaced. Must show your signature.
 - c. Overseas Passport - must be current and cannot be expired, cancelled or defaced. Must show your signature.
 - d. NZ Firearms Licence - must be current and cannot be expired or defaced.
 - e. If you do not have any of these forms of identification you will need to ask someone to confirm your identity or you will need to complete a statutory declaration.
2. A signed, dated Authority to Release Information Form

You must provide your **email address** to receive your report. When you receive the report, you must forward it to the Centre for Veterinary Nursing Programme Administrator Louella Campollo, at lcampollo@eit.ac.nz.

Your enrolment is not considered to be completed until this record has been received by the Programme Administrator.

As well as completing online, you can print out and post the request form and accompanying proof of identification to the Criminal Records Unit at the Ministry of Justice (postal and email address details are on the form).

If you do have a conviction, this will not automatically exclude you from enrolling. However, if you do have a conviction you will still go through the EIT conviction review process.



NZ Certificate in Animal Healthcare Assisting (Companion Animals) [Level 4]

Criminal Declaration Form

Applicant Full Name: _____

Please print full name clearly

Please be aware that having criminal convictions, especially for offences involving drugs or dishonesty, may affect your ability to gain employment or attend work placements in an animal facility. If your conviction history is such that it may affect your employment or work placement prospects, you may be denied entry into this programme.

Do you have any criminal convictions or pending criminal charges? Yes

5

If you answered yes to the above question, please give details below:

Please read the following statement carefully before signing.

I declare that I have no undisclosed criminal convictions or pending criminal charges and am aware that failure to disclose such information could mean expulsion from the programme.

I give EIT my full consent to obtain a police clearance check, if required, from my home country or any country that I have lived or worked in for more than 12 months.

Applicant Signature

Applicant Full Name

Witnessed by (Signature)

Witnessed by (Signature)

Witness' printed name and position or relationship to Applicant

1 / 1

Date



NZ Certificate in Animal Healthcare Assisting (Companion Animals) [Level 4]

Health and Privacy Declaration

Required for all of the animal healthcare and veterinary nursing programmes.

It is essential to declare honestly on this form. A declaration of a medical condition does not mean that you will be excluded from your preferred programme of study. It provides an opportunity for us to discuss with you an appropriate plan for your situation.

Please read carefully and tick or highlight the appropriate box(es).

Applicant Full Name:

Please print full name clearly

Student ID: _____

If known

Health Declaration

I have listed below any medical condition(s) (mental or physical) that may impact on my ability to work safely in the animal care/healthcare context. If none, please write N/A.

Other Information

Please let us know of any other information that will help us provide you with the best support to enable you to succeed (for example: learning difficulties, other special needs).

Privacy Declaration

Please tick Yes or No for each of the below:

1. Pursuant to Principle 11.1(a) of the Privacy Act 2020, I agree to the disclosure and use of the information on this form (and supporting information) by EIT to work placements where I may be completing practical experience.

2. I understand that I have the right to access and correct any of my personal information held by EIT, and am required to update the information held about me should this change at any time I am studying with EIT.

Overall Declaration

Please tick Yes or No for each of the below:

1. I understand that if any false or deliberately misleading information is given, or any material fact suppressed, my enrolment may be terminated.

2. I understand that EIT requires this information to ensure the safety of animals, public and staff in animal facilities and veterinary clinics where I may be completing practical experience.

3. I understand that if anything changes in relation to this declaration after the date I have signed it, while I am an applicant or enrolled in an animal healthcare and veterinary nursing programme, I must notify EIT immediately.

Applicant Full Name (printed)

Applicant Signature

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If you have any questions regarding this declaration, please contact Emma Martin, Programme Coordinator, on 06 830 1373 or emma.martin@otago.ac.nz.