Certificate Program in Canine Hydrotherapy
What is Canine Hydrotherapy?

Canine Hydrotherapy is a rapidly growing industry in Australia. It offers dogs the chance to move better, feel better, be fitter and stronger and offers Canine Hydrotherapists the opportunity to have a rewarding career, helping dogs, in a range of different settings.

Canine Hydrotherapy has been around in Australia for more than 20 years, but in recent times it has significantly increased in popularity. This is due to the growth in the Rehabilitation and Physiotherapy industry for animals, where canine hydrotherapy is often used as a rehabilitation tool to accelerate recovery and maximise return to function.

Canine Hydrotherapy is performed either in a purpose built swimming pool, or in canine specific underwater treadmill. Each of these modes of hydrotherapy has its own benefits and is useful for a variety of conditions and stages of fitness and recovery. Canine hydrotherapy is available in stand-alone clinics and as part of Canine Rehabilitation Facilities, Veterinary Clinics and Boarding Kennels. With the growth in this industry, it is imperative there are suitably qualified therapists available to deliver quality services and care to the patients.
Design of the Program

This Program has been designed to ensure the standard of care and treatment provided to canine patients and clients is of exceptional quality. The course has been developed based on Human Physiotherapy and Hydrotherapy principles and research, combined with 15 years of Canine Hydrotherapy experience. Students are taught to perform an individual assessment of each dog and devise a suitable hydrotherapy program, specific to the needs of each individual dog.

Who is this Course suitable for?

There are no pre-requisites for this course however a background in the veterinary and/or animal industry is an advantage. Anatomy, physiology and pathology subjects are quite in-depth, and require a commitment to weekly hours spend studying and revising, in order to complete the course.

Who Accredits this Course?

This Course is accredited by the Australian Canine Rehabilitation Association (ACRA).

www.caninerehabassociation.com

ACRA is the governing body for the practise of Canine Rehabilitation and Canine Hydrotherapy in Australia. The board is made up of Physiotherapists with a Masters Degree in Animal Physiotherapy, and Veterinary professionals with an interest in Canine Rehabilitation. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in canine rehabilitation with different membership levels available. Participants who successfully complete the Certificate in Canine Hydrotherapy Course are eligible to apply for Practitioner Membership and display the ACRA logo.
Instructors

The Course chief Instructor is Michelle Monk. She is a Physiotherapist, with a Masters Degree in Animal Physiotherapy. She started the first Canine Rehabilitation and Swim Centre for dogs in Australia in 2002 and had the first Underwater Treadmill system built here in 2003. She is the most experienced Canine Hydrotherapist in the country performing many tens of thousands of Canine Hydrotherapy sessions both in the Pool and Underwater Treadmill over the last 15 years.

She is also the author of the Hydrotherapy chapter in the textbook: ‘Animal Physiotherapy: Assessment, Treatment and Rehabilitation’.

She has won several awards for her delivery of service to canine patients and for her research in the area of rehabilitation following surgery for cruciate disease.

Michelle is assisted by her team – a group of Physiotherapists with a Masters in Animal Physiotherapy and experienced Canine Hydrotherapists.
Certificate Program in Canine Hydrotherapy

Modules

The Modules covered in this program include:
• Introduction to Hydrotherapy in the Canine Patient
• The physical properties of water
• Principles of Canine Hydrotherapy - swimming and underwater treadmill
• Canine First Aid
• Anatomy and Physiology of the Canine Patient
• Canine Hydrotherapy for Health and Fitness
• Canine Hydrotherapy for Rehabilitation
• Common pathologies requiring Hydrotherapy in the Canine Patient
• Working safely in Canine Hydrotherapy
• Assessment of the Canine patient for Hydrotherapy
• Use of equipment in Canine hydrotherapy
• Development of and progression of treatment plans in Canine Hydrotherapy
• Practical delivery of Canine Hydrotherapy
• Working as part of a Multi-disciplinary team
• Hydrotherapy Facility Centre Design
• Water Chemistry in Canine Hydrotherapy
• Record Keeping
• Business development
Blended Learning at Your Convenience

- **This Program** is delivered in a variety of formats. Lectures are accessed online at your convenience, along with copies of slides, and reference materials. These are supported by live Question and Answer Webinars, that are recorded and uploaded to the course website for viewing if you are unable to attend live.

- There are two **3-day workshops** where there is intense clinical practise both with underwater treadmill and pool therapy. These are devised to support your theoretical learning and ensure you achieve the necessary skills required to operate a Canine Hydrotherapy facility.

- **Examinations** are a mixture of online written assignments, participation and completion of practical workshop activities and a final exam within the second workshop.

- In addition, students must complete **2 days of clinical** experience in an approved Canine Hydrotherapy facility in addition to the workshops.

- Students are also required to complete **case studies**: 15 patients over 1-2 visits each are to be written up and submitted.

- In order to achieve the Certificate students must successfully complete each of the assessment tasks, and attend and successfully complete the workshop tasks and examinations.
Opportunities on Completion of the Course

Career Opportunities

The Pet industry is growing rapidly in Australia, with people now spending more and more of their disposable income on their pets. The medical and surgical treatments pet owners are investing in for their pets has increased in recent years. So too then has the need for rehabilitation. More vet clinics are adding rehabilitation and hydrotherapy to the services they offer and are looking for qualified Canine Hydrotherapists to join their teams. Existing Canine Rehabilitation and Physiotherapy Centres are also looking for qualified Canine Hydrotherapists to help treat their patients so there are many more job opportunities on the rise.

Be Your Own Boss

If you are looking to set up your own Canine Hydrotherapy Centre or to add Canine Hydrotherapy to an existing Canine Business then this qualification is just what you need to help you set up your facility and give you the tools to administer safe and effective hydrotherapy sessions with an accredited qualification.

Join ACRA

On successful completion of the course you will be eligible for membership with the Australian Canine Rehabilitation Association (ACRA) and will be able to display the ACRA logo in your business premises and on your stationary as a mark of quality. You will also be eligible for insurance with ‘Insurance House’.
How to Apply

Congratulations! You have made a wonderful choice to not only grow your own knowledge and skills, but to help improve the lives of our canine companions. If you would like to register for the course, please go to the website at www.dogsinmotion.com.au/dog-courses/ to apply. We look forward to meeting you on the course!

Ready to Register?

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