



Transitional Arrangements for Recognition of Certificate III Qualifications Guidance

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Citation:

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www.workinganimals.com.au/guidance

Purpose

This guideline outlines the process WAFA follows to recognise existing Certificate III Dog Behaviour and Training (22542VIC) qualifications within the WAFA credentialing system. It is designed to assist applicants in transitioning to meet the WAFA General Credential Requirements for enrolment in the WAFA Professional Credential for Assistance Animal Trainers.

Scope

This guideline applies to all WAFA members and applicants holding a Certificate III Dog Behaviour and Training (22542VIC) qualification who seek recognition as part of their credential application or membership progression.

Qualification Accreditation Expiry

- The Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) accreditation for the Certificate III in Dog Behaviour and Training (22542VIC) expired on 31 July 2025, and consequently, new enrolments in this qualification are no longer permitted.
- ASQA also cancelled the accreditation for the Diploma of Canine Behaviour and Training (10777NAT) on 19 November 2022, with new enrolments similarly discontinued.

WAFA Standards

- WAFA has established the Certificate IV in Animal Behaviour and Training (ACM40322) as the minimum qualification standard for enrolment, to maintain rigorous professional and ethical standards within the assistance animal sector.
- Certificate IV-level training provides a comprehensive, in-depth curriculum covering advanced animal behaviour, positive reinforcement methods, and client communication skills essential for effective assistance animal training.
- This qualification ensures credential holders possess the theoretical knowledge and practical competencies necessary to safely and humanely support assistance animals and handlers with diverse and complex needs.
- Adoption of the Certificate IV aligns with national training frameworks and industry best practices, fostering consistency and professionalism across the sector.
- By setting this standard, WAFA aims to contribute to the sustainable development and positive reputation of the assistance animal industry nationwide.

Transitional Period

- WAFA will implement a 12-month transitional period commencing 1 January 2026, during which applicants holding a Certificate III qualification may still apply for enrolment in the Professional Credential for Assistance Animal Trainers.
- During this period, applicants must submit comprehensive documentation demonstrating that their skills, knowledge, and experience meet WAFA's current

professional and ethical standards consistent with the Certificate IV in Animal Behaviour and Training (ACM40322).

- Required documentation includes evidence of:
 - Completion of the Certificate III Dog Behaviour and Training (22542VIC) qualification,
 - A minimum of two years' equivalent full-time practical experience post-graduation, and
 - Ongoing professional development following graduation.
- Applicants are required to successfully pass a written examination based on the core competency units of the Certificate IV in Animal Behaviour and Training (ACM40322). This examination is offered online via the WAFA members portal. This exam assesses theoretical knowledge relevant to ethical assistance animal training and handler support, reflecting material students would study during their Certificate IV qualification.
- Applicants must successfully complete a supervised practical skills assessment or portfolio conducted or approved by WAFA. This may include submission of video evidence demonstrating proficiency in key areas such as assistance animal training techniques, handler coaching, ethical decision-making, and animal welfare practices.
- Where an applicant's successful completion of the exam or demonstration of competencies through portfolio submission is not clearly established, WAFA reserves the right to require the applicant to participate in an interview or discussion with WAFA representatives. This process enables a thorough assessment of the applicant's experience, ethical understanding, and overall readiness to meet WAFA's credentialing standards.
- Applicants must also satisfy all other requirements outlined in the Assistance Animal Trainer – General Entry Requirements (Summary) document.
- After the transitional period ends, WAFA will no longer accept Certificate III qualifications for enrolment; all new applicants must hold a Certificate IV qualification or its equivalent.
- This arrangement supports current Certificate III holders in aligning with evolving sector standards while maintaining the quality and consistency of WAFA credentialing.
- Alternatively, applicants may complete the Certificate IV in Animal Behaviour and Training through direct enrolment, credit transfer, or Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) pathways.

Accepted Certificate IV Qualifications for WAFA Credentialing

1. Certificate IV in Animal Behaviour and Training (ACM40322 or equivalent)

- A current, nationally recognised qualification that meets WAFA's standards for ethical practice and animal welfare.
2. Certificate IV in Companion Animal Services (ACM40312 or equivalent)
- Although no longer offered, this qualification remains recognised by WAFA for credentialing purposes due to its relevance in companion animal training.

Review

This guideline will be reviewed annually or as necessary to ensure alignment with evolving industry standards and credentialing requirements.

Document Control

Version	Date	Author	Change Description	Approved By
V1.0	23/07/2025	V. Solomon	Initial	C.Williams