

# Practical training requirements and guidance

## Requirements

There are a number of options available to satisfy NARCH practical training requirements. Which option is best for you will depend on your training and degree of hydrotherapy experience. The options are:

- a) Hydrotherapy practical handling/behaviour skills – minimum of 20 hours as part of a course, practical or CHA shadow training. You can download a Practical Training Record and an example from the Resource Library.
- b) If you have been working within a hydrotherapy centre for more than 2 years NARCH will take into account your day to day practical hydrotherapy experience. We require hydrotherapy treatment records for 10 patients plus submission of a case study for one of them. You can download a Case Study Guide and an example from the Resource Library. The records and case study will be reviewed by 2 qualified committee members and you will be informed if your documents are accepted for registration or if we feel further training is required.
- c) From July 2010 practical training must be completed with a NARCH approved hydrotherapy mentor. At least 30 patients should have been treated by the hydrotherapist and NARCH will require documentary evidence of completion of practical training.

## Guidance for trainers/mentors and students

- Training should be practical and hands on with the patients. Observation of patients during hydrotherapy sessions, although useful, cannot be counted towards the number of patients treated on the record form.
- Practical training can be carried out in single or multiple centres. However it is useful to attend different centres to experience a range of approaches and equipment.
- NARCH does not allow the use of poles to handle dogs during hydrotherapy sessions. Any use of poles at a centre should be reported to NARCH. Students are responsible for ensuring that they personally do not operate outside of the rules and guidelines contained in the **NARCH Guide to Professional Conduct for Registered Canine Hydrotherapists**.

## Aims of practical training

- To gain experience and receive guidance on practical handling skills during hydrotherapy sessions
- To apply the theory gained during training courses and to improve understanding of the issues involved in hydrotherapy
- To gain experience in caring for patients with a wide variety of orthopaedic, neurological and medical conditions
- To gain experience in handling a wide variety of dog breeds and the specialist care required for some of these breeds during hydrotherapy treatment
- To be able to demonstrate awareness, understanding and appropriate responses to dog behaviours – please download the sheet **Essential Behaviour Knowledge** from the resource library for further information
- To learn how to complete treatment records and the importance of accurate information
- To gain knowledge about the day to day running of a hydrotherapy centre

## Arranging practical training/fees

Arrangements for practical training should be made directly with the hydrotherapy centre or hydrotherapy mentor.

The level of fee for the provision of practical training should be agreed and paid before commencement of training. Acceptable fees may range between £55.00 and £100.00 per day.

The NARCH Practical Training form can be downloaded from the resource library. This form should be completed and submitted to NARCH. Forms without the trainers signature will not be accepted by NARCH.