



# Level 5 Diploma in Clinical Canine Massage Therapy



Canine Massage Therapy Centre

[www.k9-massage.co.uk](http://www.k9-massage.co.uk)



*This is the course that will change your life and the lives of the dogs you work with.'*



**NATALIE LENTON**

Founder & Director

Canine Massage Therapy Centre



Since 2006 I've worked at the heart of clinical canine massage therapy, and I've seen first-hand how soft-tissue injury, myofascial pain and mobility issues can change a dog's entire quality of life. I've also seen how few professionals are truly trained to recognise and treat these problems. That gap is why I created this Level 5 Clinical Canine Massage Therapy qualification: a rigorous, evidence-based route into a profession that dogs desperately need.

This is not routine massage. Our course focuses on advanced clinical bodywork built on anatomy, biomechanics and methodical assessment. It's also the only training programme that teaches the method I personally developed, after working with thousands of dogs and humans, the Lenton Method®, the first and only canine massage approach proven in clinical trials with Winchester University and published in the *Vet Record*.

If you're looking for a meaningful career where your work has real, measurable impact, you're in the right place. Graduates build thriving practices, receive veterinary referrals, work within multimodal teams to help dogs who have nowhere else to turn.

This programme asks for commitment, but it gives you the skills, confidence and professional credibility to change lives, starting with your own. Your journey begins here.

# 10 GOOD REASONS to train with us



## *The only clinically proven method*

Train in the Lenton Method® - the first and only canine massage approach validated in clinical trials and published in the peer-reviewed veterinary press.

1

## *Created and taught by the industry leader*

Learn directly from our experienced tutor team, with decades of experience in the animal care industry.

3

## *Exceptional tutor support*

With a ratio of 1 tutor per 3-4 students, you receive personalised coaching and hands-on development throughout.

5

## *Comprehensive blended learning*

A robust mix of home study, online resources and in-person practicals ensures deep, progressive skill development.

7

## *Ethical, vet-integrated practice*

Train to work safely under the Veterinary Act, with clinical reasoning and communication skills that vets respect.

9

## *A Level 5 Ofqual regulated programme built to professional standards*

Study at a depth comparable to human clinical massage and rehabilitation courses, giving you genuine clinical credibility.

2

## *Exclusive route to become a member of the Canine Massage Guild*

Graduate into the only professional association specifically for canine massage therapists trusted by owners, vets and rehab teams.

4

## *Real-world clinical experience*

Work with real visiting clients, real pathologies and real mobility issues and see first hand the difference you can make

6

## *All disciplines of clinical massage*

Master sports, deep tissue, Swedish and advanced myofascial release, giving you a complete therapeutic toolkit.

8

## *A pathway to a meaningful career*

Join graduates who run thriving clinical practices every day, and continue developing through our advanced exclusive CPD and specialist training programmes.

10



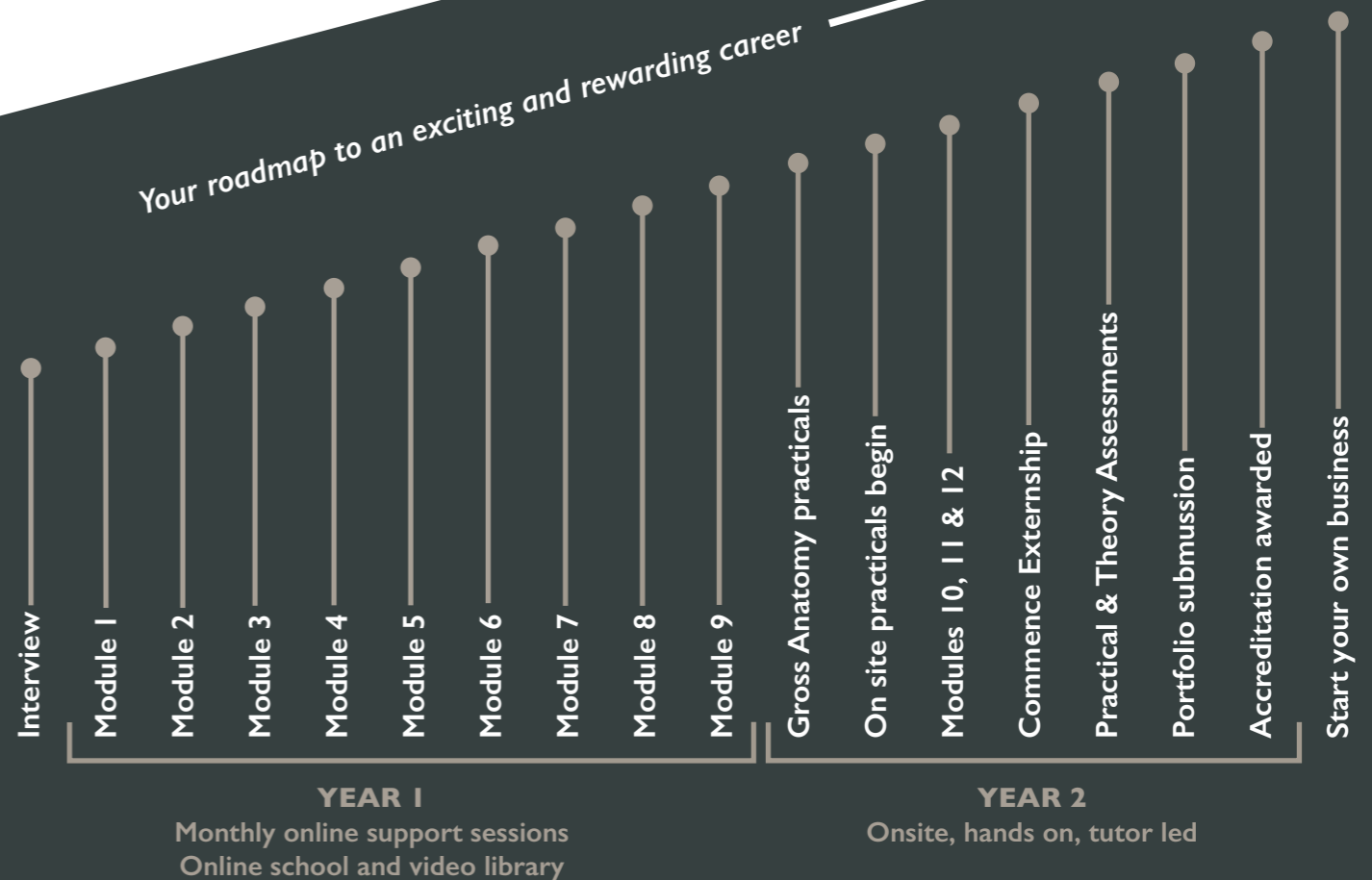
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*When a dog is struggling - whether from injury, age, anxiety or chronic pain- skilled hands can make a profound difference. This qualification gives you the clinical understanding, anatomical knowledge and therapeutic skill to change those outcomes and make a real difference to the lives of dogs.'*

Your roadmap to an exciting and rewarding career





*Clinical massage isn't pampering. Throughout your training, you will learn how to produce measurable outcomes in as few as one to three sessions while working collaboratively within the veterinary, rehabilitation and allied-care framework.'*

## Clinical Canine Massage Therapy:

Where anatomy, assessment and skilled touch create real change

Clinical Canine Massage Therapy is an evidence-informed approach to assessing and treating soft-tissue and myofascial dysfunction in dogs and we've been teaching it since 2010.

By combining anatomical knowledge, structured assessment and precise hands-on techniques, practitioners address the muscular issues that so often sit behind pain, mobility problems and changes in behaviour or performance that are frequently overlooked or misinterpreted.

### Clinical canine massage can support dogs presenting with:

- **Mobility & gait changes**  
Challenges with rising, slowing down, shortened stride, reluctance to jump or climb, compensatory movement patterns.
- **Soft-tissue injury & myofascial pain**  
Strains, trigger points, fascial restriction and chronic muscular tension caused by overuse, repetitive activity or trauma.
- **Orthopaedic related discomfort**  
Muscle tension and compensatory patterns associated with conditions such as arthritis, hip or elbow dysplasia and spondylosis.
- **Performance limitations**  
Agility and sporting dogs experiencing pole knocking, weave issues, reduced power, loss of flexibility or inconsistent performance.
- **Age-related changes**  
Senior dogs showing stiffness, reduced endurance, difficulty rising or lying down, or altered daily activity.
- **Neurological-associated tension**  
Soft-tissue adaptations seen alongside conditions such as CDRM or IVDD.
- **Post-surgical soft-tissue concerns**  
Muscular compensation, tension and guarding that often persist after orthopaedic procedures.
- **Pain-linked behavioural changes**  
Withdrawal, irritability, reduced sociability or self-protective behaviour rooted in undetected muscular pain.

To achieve this, you will develop anatomy-led assessment skills supported by a comprehensive suite of more than sixty clinical techniques.

These techniques are drawn from an integrated framework encompassing Swedish massage, sports therapy and deep-tissue methodologies, together with both direct and indirect myofascial release.

This multidisciplinary foundation is further advanced through the seven neuromyofascial release protocols of the Lenton Method®, providing a rigorously constructed clinical skill set designed to effect meaningful, evidence-informed change in canine soft-tissue function.

Clinical massage isn't pampering. Throughout your training, you will learn how to produce measurable outcomes in as few as one to three sessions while working collaboratively within the veterinary, rehabilitation and allied-care framework.

Equally important is developing the clinical discernment to identify when a dog requires veterinary assessment or a different therapeutic approach. We train you for when you can help and for when you can't. Recognising your scope of practice, and acting on it, is what defines a competent, trusted professional.



## Strengthening Outcomes Through Owner Partnership

By empowering owners to participate confidently and responsibly in their dog's ongoing care, you strengthen clinical outcomes and build a collaborative, trust-based therapeutic process.

You will learn how to create clear, safe and individualised home care plans that help owners understand their dog's soft-tissue needs, support comfort appropriately and recognise meaningful changes between sessions.



## Clinical Canine Massage Therapy Level 5 Diploma - How it Works

**The Level 5 Diploma is delivered through a structured blended-learning model designed to develop strong anatomical knowledge, clinical reasoning and advanced hands-on competence.**

### Home Study & Distance Learning

Core theory is completed through written modules in anatomy, physiology, pathology, gait analysis, clinician skills and professional practice, supported by tutor feedback and guided reading.

### Online School & Video Library

Students access a comprehensive online learning hub containing technique demonstrations, gross anatomy presentations, self-assessment tasks and an extensive on-demand video library.

### Tutor-Led Online Tutorials

Regular live tutorials on Zoom provide academic support, case discussion and clarification to ensure steady progression between practical sessions.

### In-Person Practical Training

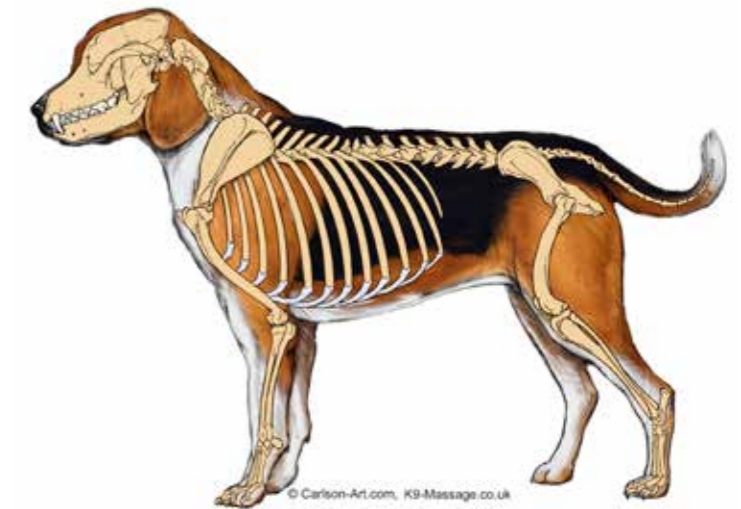
Intensive, tutor-supervised practical days develop clinical skill across more than 60 techniques, including Swedish, sports, deep tissue and myofascial work, alongside the seven neuromyofascial release protocols of the Lenton Method®.

### Clinical Exposure Through Real Cases

Clinic days allow students to work with real visiting dogs presenting with genuine soft-tissue, orthopaedic and mobility issues, building practical confidence in assessment and treatment planning.

### Externship & Case Studies

An assessed externship completes the programme, requiring structured case studies, reflective practice and evidence of safe, ethical, clinically reasoned application. This integrated approach ensures graduates are prepared for professional, evidence-informed practice within the canine rehabilitation sector.



CATRIONA DICKSON  
K9 Massage Clinic

*I now have the best job in world and it is written all over my face! Working so closely with dogs is a real privilege and one I get to enjoy every day!*



## Make it happen

When a dog is struggling - whether from injury, age, anxiety or chronic pain - skilled hands can make a profound difference.

This qualification gives you the clinical understanding, anatomical knowledge and therapeutic skill to change those outcomes.

You learn how to assess, treat and support dogs with soft tissue and orthopaedic pathologies, and build a practice grounded in integrity, evidence and results.



## PART I: Home Study Modules & Tutor Support

The home-study phase provides the academic and theoretical foundation for the Level 5 Diploma.

Students typically complete the following modules before commencing in-person practical work:

### Module 1: The Skeletal System

A comprehensive study of canine skeletal anatomy, biomechanics and structural relationships essential for understanding posture and movement.

### Module 2: The Muscular System

Detailed analysis of muscular structure, origins, insertions, actions and fibre patterns, forming the basis for advanced palpation and injury recognition.

### Module 3: The Lymphatic System

An exploration of lymphatic function, immune response, drainage patterns and relevance to inflammation and tissue healing.

### Module 4: Massage Theory and the Law.

Professional standards, the Veterinary Act, Exemptions Order, risk assessment and the legal and ethical framework for safe clinical practice.

### Module 5: The Skin and Integumentary System

Structure and function of the skin, sensory receptors, thermoregulatory processes and how these influence manual therapy.

### Module 6: The Nervous System

Neuroanatomy, proprioception, pain pathways and neurological influences on soft-tissue dysfunction and movement.



### Module 7: The Vascular System

Cardiovascular structure, circulatory physiology and the therapeutic effects of massage on blood flow, perfusion and tissue health.

### Module 8: Gait Analysis Theory

Biomechanics of canine gait, asymmetry, compensatory patterns and their relationship to soft-tissue injury and functional change.

### Module 9: Orthopaedic Pathologies

Key musculoskeletal and joint conditions, their clinical presentation, compensatory patterns and the therapist's role within multimodal management.

### Module 10: Clinician Skills and Professional Ethics

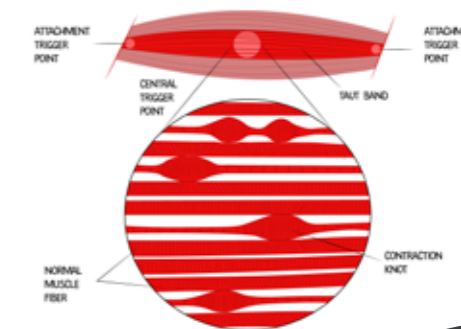
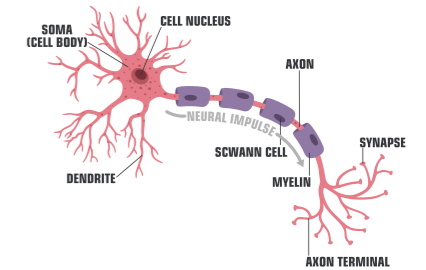
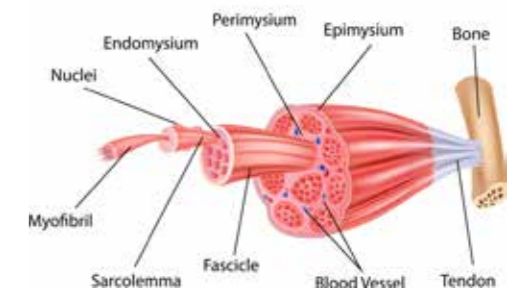
Clinical reasoning, communication, client history-taking, vet liaison, record-keeping and professional standards expected in clinical practice.

### Module 11: Business Planning for Clinical Practice

Foundations for establishing and sustaining a professional practice, including marketing, client management and operational considerations.

### Module 12: Fascia, Myofascial Pain and Trigger Point Physiology

A detailed exploration of fascial anatomy, connective-tissue behaviour; the mechanisms underlying myofascial pain and the physiology of trigger points. This module provides the theoretical basis for advanced palpation and the neuromyofascial principles underpinning the Lenton Method®.



## At a glance...

### Year 1

- Personal tutor support
- Modules 1-9
- Face to face online tutorials every 4-6 weeks
- Access to our comprehensive online school
- Video library of techniques and lessons
- Foundational massage practice

### Year 2

- Gross anatomy online practicals
- On site practicals begin
- Advanced massage skills
- The Lenton Method®
- Module 10, 11 & 12
- Assessed externship
- Practical & theory assessments
- Portfolio submission

### Start your own business

## PART 2: Practical Training

**Mind blowing. That's probably the most frequent thing our students say about our in person training. Our training is dynamic and fast paced but with equal time for absorption and practice.**

Remember, you aren't learning traditional massage, you are learning an integrated blend that encompasses 4 disciplines of massage plus the groundbreaking Lenton Method®.

**Year 1**  
Monthly live tutorials online with the tutor team  
90-120 minutes per tutorial

**Year 2**  
10 full days in person in Bromsgrove, Worcestershire (spaced throughout the year as either 5 weekends or choose the weekday option)  
+  
4 half days online  
+

Monthly and bi-monthly live tutorials with the tutor team  
90-120 minutes per tutorial

The practical component of the **Clinical Canine Massage Therapy Level 5 Diploma** develops the advanced manual skills, palpation accuracy and clinical reasoning required for safe and effective practice.

Training is delivered through intensive, tutor-supervised in-person sessions designed to consolidate and apply the theory learned in the home-study modules.

Throughout the practical phase, students learn and refine more than 60 techniques drawn from Swedish massage, sports therapy, deep-tissue work and both direct and indirect myofascial release.

These are integrated with the 7 neuromyofascial release protocols of the Lenton Method®, enabling students to build a comprehensive and clinically robust therapeutic skill set.

You will develop an integrated and advanced skill set found nowhere else in the world

You will begin by working with your own dog, tutors dogs and other students dogs. If you are unable to bring a dog, we supply the dogs for you. If you are able to bring your own dog you get massive insights into their own muscular and fascial health and much more.

### Working with Real Visiting Dogs

Clinical competence is built through supervised sessions with real, visiting canine clients presenting with soft-tissue injury, mobility changes, orthopaedic-related discomfort and performance issues. Students carry out assessment, palpation, body mapping and treatment planning under close tutor guidance.

### Clinic Days

Dedicated clinic days simulate real-world practice. Students work one-to-one with visiting dogs and their owners, gaining experience in case handling, professional communication, treatment delivery and clinical justification.

### Progressive Skill Development

Early practical sessions focus on refining touch, palpation accuracy and anatomical orientation. Students work with tutors, student dogs and demonstration dogs to develop consistency, precision and confidence before progressing to full clinical application.

### Live Applied Anatomy

Throughout the practical blocks, anatomy is continuously revisited and applied. It's not something just skimmed over; we help you to develop the high level of accuracy necessary for working with soft tissue injuries and myofascial pain, not just second guessing. Students learn to integrate structural knowledge with palpatory findings, assessment outcomes and clinical decision-making.

### Structured Tutor Support

Practical days are delivered with a high tutor-to-student ratio, ensuring continuous support, feedback and skill refinement. This environment allows each student to progress at a safe and appropriate pace while developing a clinically competent approach to treatment.



**EWA BRANICKA**  
Dogs Health Canine Massage Therapy

*I have always wanted to have a career involving dogs, whilst completing my Swedish massage course I read on the Internet about massaging dogs and the benefits dogs can gain from it. I found Canine Massage Therapy Centre website and attended a 1 day workshop and this is how it started. I was completely hooked by dog massage and I quickly decided to change my career path.'*



Now for the part where the Clinical Canine Massage Diploma really excels on the focus of your learning - a truly advanced skill set of massage tools...

The **Clinical Canine Massage Therapy Level 5 Diploma** delivers the most comprehensive hands-on training available in the field. Students learn and refine more than **60 advanced manual techniques**, supported by anatomical study, clinical reasoning and continuous tutor supervision. No other canine massage qualification offers this breadth, depth or level of technical rigour.

Training draws from four major therapeutic disciplines – each taught systematically and then integrated into a clinically reasoned approach tailored to the individual dog:

#### Swedish Massage

Students develop competency in foundational soft-tissue techniques that facilitate relaxation, warm the tissues, influence circulation and prepare the body for deeper therapeutic work.

#### Sports Massage

This includes techniques for injury management, muscle isolation, origin-insertion-action work, cross and parallel fibre applications and tissue mobilisation. Trigger point release and passive range of movement is also coached. Students learn to identify and address strain patterns, adhesions and compensatory loading.

#### Deep Tissue Massage

Techniques applied with precision and control to work through deeper muscle layers. These approaches are essential for chronic patterns of tension, long-standing myofascial restriction and complex compensatory structures. The student is taught specific deep tissue access points for this work.

#### Myofascial Release (Direct and Indirect)

Students learn both approaches in detail, developing sensitivity to fascial behaviour, restrictions and tissue response. These skills underpin accurate palpation, body mapping and clinical decision-making.



Above: In person teaching takes place in small groups

Right: Student performing a gait analysis with a client dog

Across all four disciplines, students are taught **variations, adaptations and positional changes** to tailor each technique to:

- the dog's breed and morphology
- the presenting issue or pathology
- the dog's temperament and comfort
- the therapist's own biomechanics and injury-prevention needs
- the clinical intention of the session

This ensures that techniques are never applied as routines or generic sequences, but as flexible, anatomically informed interventions selected through clinical reasoning.

The combination of over 60 techniques, multidimensional palpation training and the structured integration of Swedish, sports, deep-tissue and myofascial disciplines is unique worldwide. This breadth allows graduates to work confidently with complex cases, achieve meaningful therapeutic outcomes and practise to a standard that stands apart within the animal-care and rehabilitation sector.

If you are looking to seriously practice in canine massage therapy, no other course rivals the skillset and tuition that we offer.



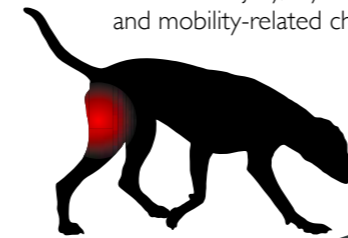
## PART 3:

# The Externship: Developing Autonomous, Clinically Competent Practice

The externship represents the final applied component of the **Level 5 Diploma** and provides the opportunity for students to demonstrate autonomous practice, clinical reasoning and professional competency in a real-world context.

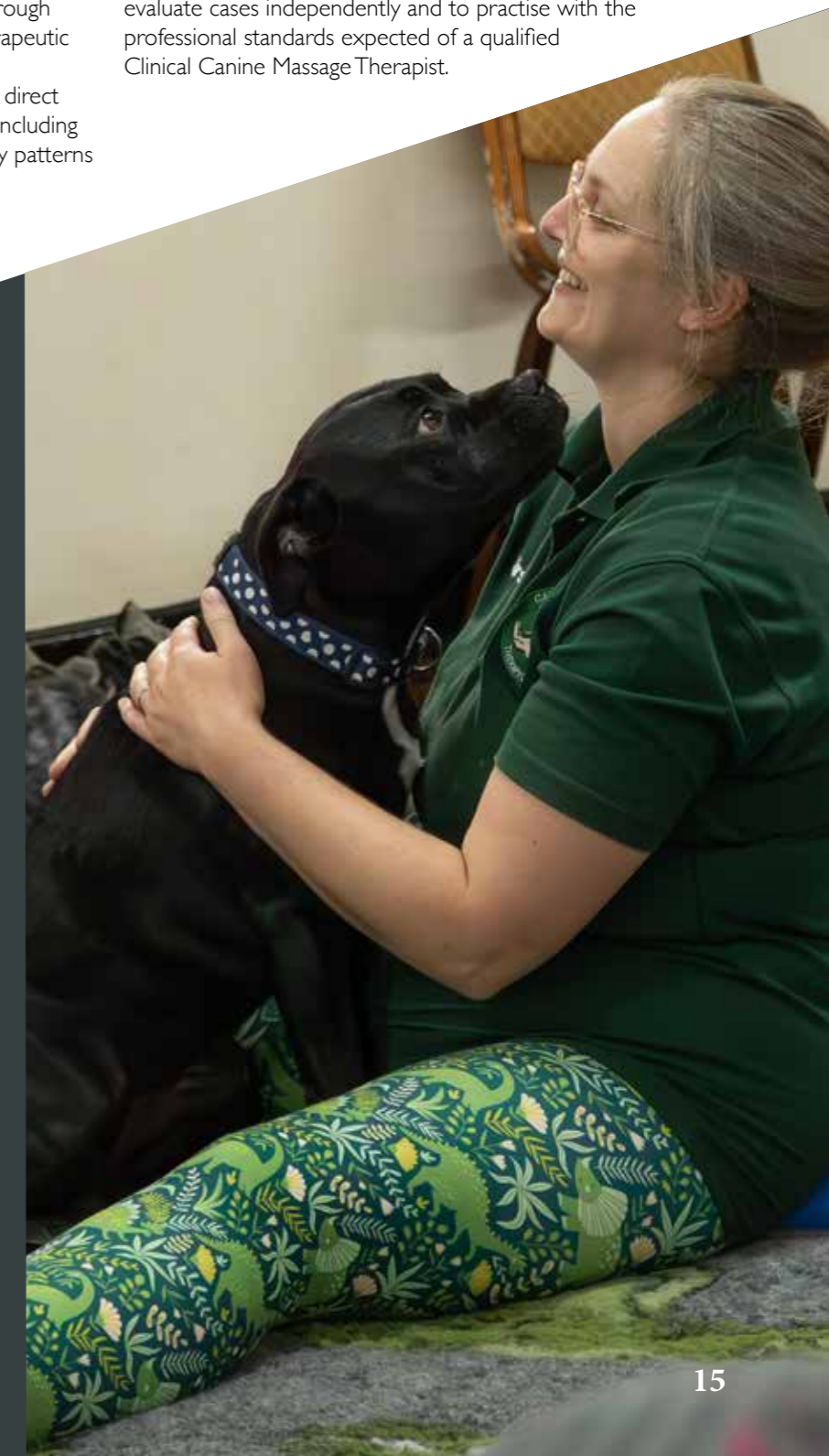
During this phase, students source and manage their own caseload, completing 12 case studies, each involving three structured treatments per dog.

Across these cases, students are required to undertake full assessment, develop clinically reasoned treatment plans, apply advanced manual techniques, record findings through body mapping and produce reflective analyses of therapeutic outcomes. This process enables students to integrate theoretical knowledge with hands-on practice, gaining direct experience of working with a range of presentations including soft-tissue injury, myofascial dysfunction, compensatory patterns and mobility-related change.



Structured debriefs form an essential part of the externship. At designated intervals, students return to practical days for case study reviews, where they receive tutor-led mentoring focused on clinical justification, technique refinement, professional communication and adherence to the Veterinary Act. These sessions ensure students are supported, challenged and guided as they develop confidence and consistency in their approach.

By completing the externship, students produce a substantive portfolio evidencing their ability to assess, treat and evaluate cases independently and to practise with the professional standards expected of a qualified Clinical Canine Massage Therapist.



We teach you the skills you need to become a successful Clinical Canine Massage Practitioner working with owners, dogs and vets to produce actual, tangible results.

This isn't a 'strokey strokey' massage course. We teach remedial bodywork that addresses real problems, such as soft tissue injury and orthopaedic issue management that requires a vast knowledge of anatomy and physiology.

**Are you ready to make a difference?**

# The Lenton Method®

**The Lenton Method® is a clinically proven, evidence-informed approach to assessing and treating soft-tissue and myofascial dysfunction in dogs.**

Developed by course Director Natalie Lenton over many years of clinical practice with dogs as well as an extensive background working in clinical human massage work, it blends advanced palpation, detailed anatomical injury mapping and a series of specialised neuromyofascial release protocols into a coherent, structured therapeutic system. It is taught exclusively within this Level 5 Diploma.

The Lenton Method® is the first and only canine massage methodology to undergo formal clinical trials in partnership with Winchester University. The study, published in the *Vet Record* by the British Veterinary Association, demonstrated that 95% of dogs responded positively within one to three sessions. This evidence base underpins the scientific and professional credibility of the technique.

The method is built on three core components:

## **1. Advanced Palpation Assessment - Master the art of 'seeing with your fingers'**

Students learn a systematic palpation protocol designed to accurately detect soft-tissue injury, myofascial restriction, trigger points and structural patterns of dysfunction. This requires precise touch, anatomical accuracy and refined sensory awareness, developed progressively throughout the programme. You learn anatomy in braille with a tutor at your side to help you discern meaning of what it is you are feeling.

## **2. Body Mapping**

A structured anatomical injury mapping system created by Natalie to identify primary and secondary areas of muscular injury, strain, myofascial tension and compensatory patterns. This approach enables clear clinical reasoning, consistent findings between practitioners and precise treatment planning.

## **3. The Seven Series - Neuromyofascial Release Protocols**

At the heart of the Lenton Method® lies the Seven Neuromyofascial Release Protocols - a suite of highly specialised myofascial interventions designed to address complex patterns of dysfunctional fascia and chronic soft-tissue imbalance to improve comfort, mobility and joint range of motion.

Neuromyofascial release refers to a targeted approach that blends fascial mechanics, neurophysiology and advanced palpatory skill to influence the body's connective-tissue matrix and its associated sensory pathways. These protocols are specifically engineered to modulate tension, restore gliding between fascial planes and recalibrate the neuromuscular feedback loops that underpin posture, locomotion and pain perception.

Through these techniques, practitioners work with deeply embedded patterns of restriction that often persist beyond traditional massage approaches. Each protocol is constructed to produce measurable changes in mobility, joint range, comfort and tissue integrity, forming a central pillar of the method's proven clinical effectiveness.

Students learn to apply these protocols with precision, using specific anatomical access points aligned with fine structural landmarks. Training includes the development of grip modulation, directional sensitivity and highly controlled force application to ensure therapeutic intent is achieved while remaining within the dog's physiological and behavioural comfort thresholds. This level of accuracy requires advanced touch discrimination and a scientific understanding of fascial behaviour under load.

Together, the Method's three core components - Advanced Palpation, Body Mapping and the Seven Neuromyofascial Release Protocols - create a rigorous, reproducible and evidence-supported system of practice. The Lenton Method® is not a routine or a sequence; it is a clinically reasoned framework that trains practitioners to identify, interpret and treat soft-tissue and myofascial dysfunction with accuracy, depth and professional integrity in real clinical environments and you won't learn it anywhere else.



# Clinical Trials Research into the Lenton Method® – the first of its kind in the world

Published in the *Vet Record*, the peer-reviewed journal of the British Veterinary Association (BVA)  
December 2021 | Volume 189 | Issue 11

The Lenton Method® is the only canine massage approach to be evaluated in a large-scale clinical study. Working with researchers from the University of Winchester, 527 dogs were assessed across multiple dimensions of pain, mobility and behavioural function. The study demonstrated statistically significant improvements in all measured categories, with many dogs transitioning from moderate to mild pain over a short sequence of treatments. These findings provide rare, published evidence for the effectiveness of a manual therapy approach in canine soft-tissue care.

What makes this particularly impactful is the real-world nature of the trial. The dogs represented a typical clinical caseload: soft-tissue injuries, compensatory patterns, age-related stiffness, performance issues and orthopaedic-related discomfort. The study evaluated a complete therapeutic system - not isolated techniques - confirming the method's relevance and reliability in day-to-day practice.

This level of evidence sharply distinguishes the Lenton Method® from many other canine massage offerings, which often cover only a small number of basic techniques with no clinical assessment, no advanced palpation skills and no research foundation.

In contrast, the Lenton Method® provides practitioners with a structured, anatomy-informed and clinically reasoned approach that is both teachable and demonstrably effective.

For students, this means training in a method that stands alone in its evidence, depth and professional credibility providing a genuine advantage in a growing and increasingly scrutinised field.

Don't settle for anything less...  
Become the best you can...





### Qualification Level

- Ofqual-regulated Level 5 Diploma
- 96 Credits

#### Total Qualification Time

- 960 hours

### Guided Learning Hours

- In-person practical intensives
- Tutor-led online sessions
- Supervised clinic days
- Structured online learning

#### Total Guided Learning Time

- 254 hours

### Independent Study

- Theory and anatomy learning
- Online video library study
- Assessment preparation
- 12 case studies, 3 treatments each
- Reflective practice and portfolio work

#### Total Self-guided Study Time

- 706 hours approximately

## Your Hours & Study Commitment

What this means for you:

- ✓ Flexible blended learning  
Study at home, online and in person
- ✓ Professional-level commitment  
Structured, supported, achievable
- ✓ Designed for real clinical practice with clear progression  
Guided from theory → skills → independent case work
- ✓ Access to Canine Massage Guild upon successful completion  
Professional representation, therapist register, access to CPD
- ✓ This training teaches the only method of canine massage  
tested by large scale clinical trials
- ✓ Reliable, proven and historical background in canine  
massage training since 2010.

## Frequently asked questions

### Who is this qualification designed for?

This diploma is intended for individuals who wish to train to a professional clinical standard in canine soft-tissue therapy. Learners typically come from canine, veterinary, human therapy or animal-related backgrounds, as well as those seeking a purposeful career change. A genuine interest in anatomy, movement and clinical practice is essential.

### Are there formal entry qualifications?

Applicants must be able to engage with Level 5 study, work independently, and produce written material to a professional standard.

### Do I need prior experience with dogs?

Yes. You must be confident handling dogs safely and appropriately. Learners must also have regular access to a suitable dog for home-based practice and initial skills development.

### How much study time is involved?

The diploma carries **960 Total Qualification Hours**, including **254 Guided Learning Hours**. Learners should expect a sustained, structured commitment across home study, online learning, practical training and externship case work.

### What academic and practical support is provided?

Support includes tutor-marked written modules, scheduled live tutorials, a personal tutor, an online community page, access to our extensive online school and video library, supervised practical intensives and tutor-led case study supervisory reviews during the externship as well as online clinics for support during the externship.

### Is the programme physically demanding?

Clinical canine massage requires controlled and empathetic pressure application, stable positioning and effective therapist biomechanics. Learners should be comfortable working at floor level and applying manual techniques safely and consistently as well as standing and sitting at a massage couch.

### How will I be assessed?

Assessment includes written assignments, structured practical observation, reflective analysis and completion of **12 case studies**, each involving three treatments. Assessment is designed to evaluate theoretical understanding, clinical reasoning and practical competency.

### How does this diploma differ from short massage courses?

Short courses typically teach limited techniques and routine-based sequences. This diploma delivers more than **60 clinically applied techniques**, full anatomical theory, structured assessment skills, supervised hands-on training and the Lenton Method® - the only canine massage approach supported by large-scale clinical research. It provides a level of preparation that is not available through short-format training. Our history speaks for itself, we are the trainers of the majority of actual working and successful canine massage therapists in the UK.

### Will I be ready to practise professionally on completion?

Yes. Graduates are trained to a professional clinical standard and are equipped to establish their own practice, work with veterinary referral, and integrate within multimodal rehabilitation settings.

### What if I have not studied recently?

Many learners join the programme after a long break from formal study. The qualification is structured, well-supported and progressive. With commitment and engagement, learners can build confidence quickly.

### What if unexpected circumstances arise during my studies?

If your circumstances change, please contact the Centre. We aim to support learners in completing the programme wherever reasonable and academically appropriate.



## How do I apply?

Please note you can choose whether you want weekend practicals 5 blocks of 2 days spread throughout the year OR weekdays – 2 blocks of 3 days followed by 2 blocks of 2 days.

You receive a further 5 online tuition sessions throughout the 2nd year and regular online support sessions in your first year too plus Externship support.

The same curriculum is covered regardless of your preferred option.

Complete the online self-assessment and email to: [admin@k9-massage.co.uk](mailto:admin@k9-massage.co.uk)  
Your application will be acknowledged via email.

In the Autumn you will be sent an Interview Qualifier – a small amount of written work on massage therapy.

A telephone interview will then be arranged for Autumn of the year you applied. If successful you will begin your first module in the following January with your in person practical's taking place the year after that.

Have you got any questions?  
Drop us an email at [info@k9-massage.co.uk](mailto:info@k9-massage.co.uk)

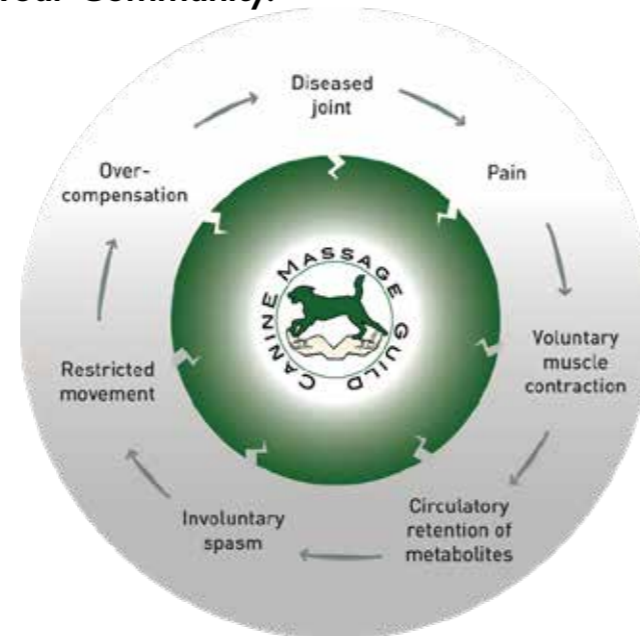
# Professional Representation in the Canine Massage Guild

**Your Professional Identity. Your Clinical Standard. Your Community.**

Graduates of the Clinical Canine Massage Therapy Level 5 Diploma gain exclusive access to the Canine Massage Guild, the UK's professional body for therapists trained to an evidence-based clinical standard.

Guild membership is reserved solely for graduates of this diploma, we do not accept therapists trained elsewhere. This ensures absolute quality control, consistency of care and public confidence in the Guild name.

Guild therapists are uniquely able to represent themselves as trained in the Lenton Method®, the only canine massage approach validated through large-scale clinical research. This distinction gives members a powerful professional advantage when working with owners, vets and referral partners.



## Professional Representation

### International Therapist Register

Your profile page appears on the Guild's practitioner directory, increasing visibility to dog owners, vets and rehabilitation teams seeking qualified, evidence-based therapists.

### Online & Industry Presence

Members benefit from digital representation across Guild platforms, participation at major shows and events, and inclusion in national educational campaigns. The Guild actively promotes the role of clinical canine massage within the veterinary and rehabilitation sector.

## Ongoing Support & Development

### Specialist Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Guild members have exclusive access to an progressive and evolving CPD programme provided by the Canine Massage Therapy Centre.

Workshops include:

- Ventral & Visceral Myofascial Release
- Neuromuscular Facilitation
- Manual Lymphatic Drainage
- Facilitated Stretching for the Canine Patient
- Advanced Indirect Myofascial Release
- Advanced Spinal Neuromyofascial Release... and more

### Marketing & Practice Support

Members receive guidance on business development, client communication, branding and ethical marketing to support a thriving, professional practice.

### Community Forum for Therapists

An online hub for collaboration, clinical discussion and shared problem-solving among Guild therapists

## National Initiatives

### Integrated Veterinary Care Initiative (IVCI)

An initiative offering veterinary teams education and structured referral pathways to work confidently with Guild therapists within integrated, evidence-informed soft-tissue care.

### Muscular Health Awareness Month

A nationwide Guild-led campaign raising public and veterinary awareness of soft-tissue injury and myofascial dysfunction, with members taking part in outreach, education and industry events.

Signs of Pain	Resistance to be petted	Agility drops - pain
Reluctance to get on/off from sofa	Appetite / enjoyment	Agility drops - pain
Reluctance to get on/off from car	Discomfort in life / isolating themselves / clenching	Agility drops - pain
Reluctance to get on/off from bed	Self mutilation e.g. rubbing their hind area	Agility drops - pain
Reluctance to get on/off from stairs	Loss of grace e.g. excessive lurching of front	Agility drops - pain
Reluctance to get on/off from car	Snapping when touched or teased	Agility drops - pain
Reluctance to get on/off from car	Snapping at other dogs as a pre-warning for them to stay away	Agility drops - pain
Reluctance to get on/off from car	Reluctance to walk on uneven surfaces	Agility drops - pain
Reluctance to get on/off from car	Reluctance to walk on uneven surfaces	Agility drops - pain
Reluctance to get on/off from car	Reluctance to walk on uneven surfaces	Agility drops - pain

## Why It Matters

Guild membership is an intrinsic part of long-term professional success. It offers representation, credibility, clinical alignment and access to a community of practitioners who share a commitment to excellence, evidence-based practice and canine wellbeing.



SARA ALAN SMITH  
Complete Canine Massage

*After completing a Degree in Animal Behaviour & Welfare, I went on to work for a rehoming charity, where I took a particular interest in dog behaviour and its relationship with injury and disease. Running my own business as a canine massage therapist is deeply rewarding. I feel very privileged to have the opportunity to interact with so many wonderful dogs and their caring owners. It is a joy helping dogs to live healthier, happier lives, and as always they continue to teach me more and give so much back. I have found my calling!*

# IN CLINICAL TRIALS WITH WINCHESTER UNIVERSITY 95% OF DOGS RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO CLINICAL CANINE MASSAGE THERAPY\*

\*as published in the 'Vet Record' by the British Veterinary Association

## The Five Principles of Pain

Practitioners' classification of issues with input from owner. Gait, Posture, Daily Living, Behaviour, Performance. Assessment is made before each treatment.

1

### Advanced Palpation

A specialised procedure whereby therapists read and translate muscle / fascia injury / dysfunction using precise palpatory techniques, grip modulation and force control to comfortably

2

### Body Mapping

A comprehensive standardised anatomical map of primary and secondary areas of muscular injury and fascia dysfunction, used with palpation. Promotes consistency between practitioners.

## The Lenton Method®

3

### Seven Protocols

A unique set of complex, direct myofascial releases utilised to address chronic structural imbalance and presenting pain.

Preceded by sports, deep tissue and Swedish massage.

**"This groundbreaking study is set to revolutionise the way we think about clinical canine massage therapy."**

Natalie Lenton, founder of the Canine Massage Guild and Canine Massage Therapy Centre, and creator of the Lenton Method®



Scan the QR code to read the full results of the Clinical Trials, as printed in the peer-reviewed *Vet Record*



Visit our website to find your local Canine Massage Guild registered therapist trained in these tested techniques.  
[www.k9massageguild.co.uk](http://www.k9massageguild.co.uk)



Start your new career...  
one that has real purpose

Every day, dogs struggle with undetected muscular pain...  
Skilled therapists make the difference.

If you're motivated to engage in meaningful, evidence-informed clinical work, addressing mobility dysfunction, age-related changes, performance challenges and emotional stress through advanced myofascial techniques, then this diploma has been designed for you.

Places are limited, standards are high.  
The transformation, *both personal and professional*, is extraordinary!



Apply today (see page 19) and begin your journey toward a career working with dogs, one that really matters.



CATHERINE RYAN  
Dog's Body - Canine Massage Therapy

*After working for a large bank for 20 years I had been unhappy with the my job and it was affecting all aspects of my life. I had a human sports massage qualification and wanted to work with dogs, I came across this course and can honestly say I have never looked back!*

*I had a new vigour for life and my job. Just knowing that I was going to make a difference, spurred me on. I left my bank job in 2011 as I was committed to changing my life. I now have a thriving business which I am very very proud of. Most of my clients are now recommendations and a local vet also refers clients to me. I love what I do which means life is great!*



Any questions?  
Drop us an email at  
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[www.k9-massage.co.uk](http://www.k9-massage.co.uk)