

Top 10 careers by Yr. 11

No.10: Work with Animals

The work

There are many opportunities to work with animals. Vets and veterinary nurses care for sick and injured animals in veterinary practices, animal hospitals and clinics. Technicians care for animals used in research. Other jobs include those in pet shops, on farms, in zoos and wildlife parks and in riding stables, kennels and catteries.

Education and training

Entry requirements and training routes vary with the job. Apprenticeships offer a training route into some careers. College courses in subjects such as animal care or animal management can provide a useful background. In many jobs, qualifications can be gained mainly through assessment in the workplace.

What it takes

Depending on the job, to work with animals you need:

- a love of animals and an interest in their welfare
- an unsentimental attitude in many cases
- to be prepared to work in dirty, smelly or physically demanding conditions
- to be aware of health and safety issues
- to be good at dealing with people as well as with animals.

Prospects

With training and experience, farm workers may be able to progress to unit manager or supervisor posts. Technicians, zookeepers and veterinary nurses may also work their way up to senior or supervisory positions. In some jobs, with experience, it may be possible to move into instructing and lecturing on animal-related college courses.

Pay

Animal-related jobs that do not require many qualifications for entry (e.g. stable hands, kennel workers and farm hands) generally pay around the National Minimum/Living Wage, perhaps with extra for weekend work and overtime. On the other hand, the average pay for veterinary nurses is around £21,000 and animal technicians are paid around £19-25,000+; more for senior technologists. Experienced vets can earn up to around £70,000.

For further information

Lantra - tel: 02476 696996. Lantra's careers website includes information about careers, Apprenticeships and qualifications, and job vacancies:
www.lantra.co.uk/careers

Animal Care College - tel: 01344 636436. Offers distance-learning courses.

www.animalcarecollege.co.uk

Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors - tel: 01269 831144. Careers information is available on:
www.apbc.org.uk

Animal Behaviour & Training Council - sets and oversees standards of professional competence for behaviour therapy and training of animals.
www.abtcouncil.org.uk

The College of Animal Welfare - tel: 01480 422060. Offers a range of animal care courses; has campuses in Leeds, Potters Bar, Huntingdon and Edinburgh.
www.caw.ac.uk

International Cat Care - tel: 01747 871872. Offers distance-learning courses in cat health and welfare, and feline behaviour.
www.icatcare.org

Pet Industry Federation - tel: 01234 273933. See website (click on 'PIF Education') for information on qualifications in pet retail work, and dog and cat grooming:
www.petcare.org.uk

Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) - tel: 01582 831818.
www.ufaw.org.uk

For links to **land-based colleges** that may offer courses related to animals, see:
www.landex.org.uk

For information on the range of careers with animals, click on 'Cave' on the website of the VETNET Lifelong Learning Network:
www.vetnetln.ac.uk

Careers information and case studies on people working with animals can be found on:
www.careerwithanimals.co.uk

Animal Jobs Direct is an independent training provider offering courses relating to animals:
www.animal-job.co.uk
Job vacancies can be found on the associated website:
www.animaljobsdirect.com