



Careers Education



Aspire | Challenge | Achieve

# JOB

OF THE WEEK

Our Job of the week this week is:

**Vet**



# Job of the Week – Vet

## WHAT YOU DO

In general veterinary practice you could:

- diagnose and treat sick and injured animals
- perform operations
- carry out blood analyses, X-rays and scans
- provide care for animals in veterinary hospitals
- carry out regular health checks and give vaccinations
- check farm animals and advise on how to stop diseases spreading
- supervise veterinary nurses and support staff
- keep records of treatments
- communicate with pet owners and insurers
- neuter animals to stop them breeding
- put severely injured or terminally ill animals to sleep
- follow public health and hygiene laws

## SKILLS REQUIRED

You will need:

- knowledge of animal medicine and dentistry
- knowledge of biology
- customer service skills
- excellent verbal communication skills
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- the ability to work well with your hands
- the ability to use your judgement and make decisions
- to use a computer and the main software packages competently

## WHAT YOU WEAR

You may need to wear a uniform and protective clothing which are usually provided unless you are self-employed



## WORKING CONDITIONS

You could work at a veterinary practice, in remote rural areas or in a laboratory.

Your working environment may be physically and emotionally demanding and outdoors some of the time

## WORKING HOURS

**40-45**

Evenings/ weekends. You will be required to be on-call

## ANNUAL LEAVE

Usually the standard 27 days plus bank holidays unless self-employed



## ANNUAL INCOME

**£30,000- £50,000**



## EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE

### University

You'll need to complete a veterinary degree approved by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) which, full-time, usually take 5 years

If you already have a degree in a related subject, you may be able to take a 4-year graduate entry veterinary degree course.

You can also apply to join the Army Medical Service while completing your degree at university. On selection, you would receive further training to become a veterinary officer in the Army

### Entry requirements

You'll need 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C), or equivalent, including English, Maths and Science followed by 3 A levels to include usually Biology and Chemistry

### Volunteering

You'll need to get experience of working in a veterinary practice, plus experience of handling different animals from small domestic pets to larger livestock You could also volunteer with a local kennel or animal welfare centre, or with animal charities like the PDSA or RSPCA

### Additional information

You could join the British Veterinary Association and British Small Animals Veterinary Association or the British Equine Veterinary Association (if you work with horses) for further professional development and networking opportunities



# Labour Market Information

In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'

Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.

Veterinarians		Animal care services occupations n.e.c.		Veterinary nurses	
Weekly Pay <b>£660</b>	Annual Pay <b>£34,320</b>	Weekly Pay <b>£260</b>	Annual Pay <b>£13,520</b>	Weekly Pay <b>£350</b>	Annual Pay <b>£18,200</b>
Hours/Week <b>36h</b>	Hourly Pay <b>£18</b>	Hours/Week <b>26h</b>	Hourly Pay <b>£10</b>	Hours/Week <b>33h</b>	Hourly Pay <b>£11</b>
<b>Workforce Change</b> (projected)		<b>Workforce Change</b> (projected)		<b>Workforce Change</b> (projected)	
Growth <b>8.7%</b>	Replacement <b>53.7%</b>	Growth <b>11.6%</b>	Replacement <b>57%</b>	Growth <b>11.6%</b>	Replacement <b>57%</b>
The workforce is projected to grow by 8.7% over the period to 2027, creating 2,300 jobs. In the same period, 53.7% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 13,900 job openings.		The workforce is projected to grow by 11.6% over the period to 2027, creating 8,700 jobs. In the same period, 57% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 42,900 job openings.		The workforce is projected to grow by 11.6% over the period to 2027, creating 1,900 jobs. In the same period, 57% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 9,200 job openings.	
You might find this job in Veterinary Social work		You might find this job in Agriculture, etc Veterinary Sport & recreation Education Libraries, etc		You might find this job in Veterinary Health	
<a href="#">More info</a>	<a href="#">Clear card</a>	<a href="#">More info</a>	<a href="#">Clear card</a>	<a href="#">More info</a>	<a href="#">Clear card</a>

## Veterinarians

Veterinarians diagnose and treat animal injuries, diseases and disorders, and advise on preventative action. They may work in practices, specialising according to their location in either a rural or urban area, or in the public sector or associated industries such as pharmaceuticals, food production or drug regulation.

Common tasks in this job:

- examines animals, diagnoses condition and prescribes and administers appropriate drugs, dressings, etc., and arranges or undertakes any necessary x-ray or other tests;
- inoculates animals against communicable diseases;
- administers local or general anaesthetics and performs surgery;
- investigates outbreaks of animal diseases and advises owners on feeding, breeding and general care;

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Clear card

## Animal care services occupations n.e.c.

Workers in this unit group care for animals held in kennels, stables, zoos and similar establishments, provide specialised training, grooming, clipping and trimming services for animals, and searches for and captures stray or nuisance dogs in public areas and perform a variety of animal care tasks not elsewhere classified in MINOR GROUP 613: Animal Care and Control Services.

Common tasks in this job:

- feeds, washes, grooms, trims and exercises animals;
- cleans animals' quarters and renews bedding as necessary;
- houses, feeds, exercises, trains, grooms horses, dogs and other animals in preparation for entry to shows, races and other events;
- checks animals for illness, treats minor ailments or calls for vet if further treatment is required;

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## Veterinary nurses

Veterinary nurses provide assistance to veterinarians in the treatment and care of sick or injured animals.

Common tasks in this job:

- assists the veterinary surgeon during surgical and medical treatments of animals;
- prepares operating theatre, sterilises equipment and assists in theatre as required;
- dispenses and administers medication and applies dressings to animals under direction from the veterinarian;
- handles animals during treatment;

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Powered by LMI For All.

To compare the Labour Market Information of different job roles that you might be interested in please visit the Careers section on the school website.

# JOB OF THE WEEK

Discover more about Veterinary opportunities with these videos:

A day in the life of a  
Large Animal Vet



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Np6vM8aqzE>

Life as a Vet in the Army



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXMtAZDgVPU>

Insight in to being a Vet in a zoo



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Ghu\\_byzyH0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Ghu_byzyH0)

Veterinary Medicine at Surrey  
University



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QtKr6YAeWGY>

A Day in the life of a  
Veterinary Nurse



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-E59LT7JQw>

Veterinary Nursing  
students tell all



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8cFiOcu9dl0>

# JOB

OF THE WEEK

Click on the website links to research the job role further:

[Vet | Explore careers | National Careers Service](#)

[Veterinary nurse | Explore careers | National Careers Service](#)

[Veterinary Officer - British Army Jobs \(mod.uk\)](#)

[Veterinary Science Subject Guide | About Vet Science At Uni | UCAS](#)

[Hints and tips for successful studying at vet school \(bva.co.uk\)](#)