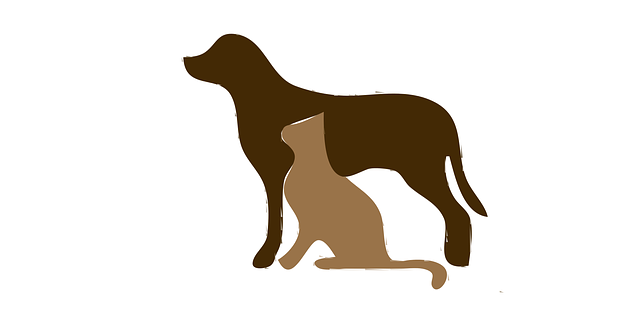
veterinary assistant Program



This program will start your future animal care career by ensuring you have the skills to successfully certify as a Veterinary Assistant.

As of last January, the hourly wage for a Veterinary Assistant in the United States ranged from $17.00 to $23.00, with an average of $22.00/hour or $44,000 annually.

Why Become a Vet Assistant? You may want to pursue a vet assistant position if you want an occupation working with animals in a short amount of time. In as few as 9 months, you can earn a Veterinary Assistant certification and learn animal care skills including animal nursing fundamentals, animal handling and laboratory procedures. At the conclusion of this program, you will have the opportunity to take one or more industry recognized certification exams that validate your skills.

# What Does a Veterinary Assistant Do?

Vet assistants typically work under the supervision of veterinarians and veterinary technologists and technicians. They perform routine animal care tasks. Their duties may include:

* Administering medication and immunizations
* Collect samples such as blood, tissues and urine samples
* Bathing and exercising animals
* Cleaning and disinfecting veterinary facilities, including cages, examination and kennels
* Communicating with veterinarians regarding animal progress
* Examining animals for signs of clinical symptoms or behavioral changes that could indicate injury or illness
* Restraining animals for examinations and lab procedures
* Moving animals during procedures
* Sterilizing instruments for surgery
* Performing Aseptic assistance in surgery, such as passing instruments or opening surgical packs
* Providing first aid
* Providing care before and after surgery and medical procedures
* Sterilizing and maintaining surgical equipment and instruments
* Treating animals who are sick or who have been mistreated

Veterinary assistants may also perform animal intake sessions before a pet owner meets with a veterinarian. In addition to being adept at performing animal care effectively, vet assistants must also be good at communication and show empathy and understanding to pet owners

# benefits of being a veterinary assistant

If you want to work with animals, a vet assistant position typically requires less training time than what’s required of roles like veterinary technologist and technician or veterinarian.

Veterinarian school typically takes 4 years to complete at a graduate level after achieving a 4-year undergraduate degree, while a 4-year bachelor’s degree is typically required for veterinary technologists. Veterinary technicians typically need a 2-year associate degree. The greatest benefit of the Veterinary Assistant program is you can earn certification and begin working in as few as 9 months.

Since a vet assistant position is an entry-level role in animal care, it’s a role that enables professionals to determine whether they want to further their education and career in the field.

The following lists are the benefit of being a veterinary assistant:

1. Hands-On Animal Care: Veterinary assistants work closely with animals, giving them a unique opportunity to directly help and care for pets and other animals.
2. Career in Animal Welfare: It’s a rewarding career for those passionate about animal health and welfare, providing a sense of purpose and fulfillment.
3. Pathway to Advancement: The role can serve as a stepping stone to becoming a veterinary technician, veterinarian, or other advanced roles in animal care.
4. Diverse Daily Tasks: Veterinary assistants handle a range of duties, from preparing animals for surgery to assisting with exams, keeping the job dynamic and varied.
5. Skill Development: They learn essential skills like administering medications, cleaning wounds, and handling various animals, which are valuable in both professional and personal settings.
6. Team Environment: Veterinary assistants work as part of a veterinary team, building strong relationships with veterinarians, technicians, and clients.
7. Flexible Job Opportunities: Veterinary assistants can work in a variety of settings, including clinics, animal shelters, research facilities, and zoos.
8. Improved Health and Safety Knowledge: They gain knowledge in areas like animal behavior, health, and safety protocols, which is useful both in and out of the workplace.
9. Job Growth Potential: The demand for veterinary assistants is expected to grow, providing good job security in an expanding field.
10. Emotional Satisfaction: Being part of a pet’s recovery or improving its quality of life brings a strong sense of accomplishment and emotional reward.
11. Learning Animal Anatomy and Physiology: Veterinary assistants get to learn about animal anatomy and physiology, which can be fascinating and provide a solid foundation for future studies.
12. Public Interaction and Education: Veterinary assistants often educate pet owners on animal care, which enhances communication skills and helps them advocate for animal welfare.
13. Daily Exercise: The physical demands of the job, including lifting and restraining animals, keep veterinary assistants active.
14. Reduced Stress for Animals: They provide comfort and reduce stress for animals during visits, making a positive impact on the animals’ experience in clinics.
15. Personal Growth: Working with animals in various health conditions can help build patience, empathy, resilience, and adaptability, valuable traits for personal development.

**States with the highest employment levels of veterinary assistant and laboratory animal caretakers, as of May 2020 (pre-pandemic):**

State Employment Employment per thousand jobs

California 13,040 0.79

Texas 6,950 0.57

Florida 5,190 0.62

New York 4,810 0.55

Virginia 4,140 1.12

**States with the** **highest employment levels of veterinary assistant and laboratory animal caretakers, as of May 2022 (post-pandemic):**