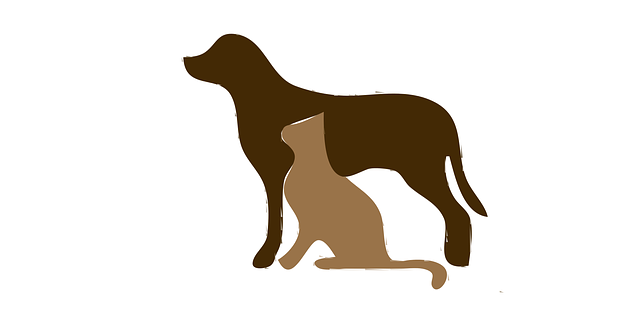
veterinary assistant Program



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.

**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):**