

ANIMAL ATTENDANT

Job summary

Animal attendants care for animals in many places such as pet shops, kennels, catteries, veterinary practices, research centres and animal care centres.



This is one of the jobs you do when you're an animal attendant (bathing the animals.)

Tasks

You have to do things such as feed, bathe, groom and exercise some of the animals. In some occasions you can treat minor injuries and illnesses under supervision. You have to keep the enclosures clean and with some animals train them. You get to help with research/studies on animals and record their behaviour. You may also keep animal's records and do some office work.

Personal requirements

You have to be passionate about animals and be caring. You have to have an interest in animals and their health. You need to be responsible and listen to what you're told so everything runs smoothly. You need to be able to communicate with people and know an animal's body language. You also need to be fit and strong because on this job you move around a lot and you have to lift heavy things like cages.



This is a kitten getting bottle fed. If you work in a cattery this is what you will have to do.

How to get into the job

There are no required subjects you have to take to become an animal attendant but English and Science are useful to take. It also helps if you have had previous jobs where you've worked with animals.

Working conditions and job opportunities

In this job you would work both indoors and outdoors. You would work in any type of weather if you were outdoors. The job opportunity is average because most people have it as a part time job or they quit because of low pay. The most common places in New Zealand where you can get this job are in Canterbury and at the top of the North Island.

Pay and progression

If you are new to the job and don't have much experience you will get around \$14 an hour but if you're more experienced you get around \$19 an hour. You can work up to 40 hours a week but this includes being on call.

Related jobs

- Agricultural technician
- Veterinary nurse
- Zookeeper
- Science technician

Bibliography

<http://www.jobguide.thegoodguides.com.au/occupation/Animal-Attendant>
<https://www.careers.govt.nz/jobs/animal-care/animal-attendant/>

