



# Veterinarian.



Vets work with many animals all different shapes and sizes.



## Job Summary

Veterinarians have a job that is centred around animals. They do everything from treating sick and injured animals to retraining a dog how to do something to vaccinating cattle and back to prescribing medicines. Vets have to have a wide range of skills and knowledge about animals that they have to treat. They may work long tiring hours but they do it because they like seeing the outcome, an animal that is healthy and safe.

## Tasks Involved

- Working with clients and their animals
- Carry out examinations to find out causes of death in animals
- Work with farmers to help them reach their breeding goals for certain herds.
- Treat animals for various diseases, illnesses and syndromes.
- Research and provide information on animal welfare.
- Teach people about their animals and how to treat them themselves.
- Help companies develop appropriate medicines and remedies for diseases.
- Co-ordinate national disease outbreaks – prevention and action plan for if the disease breaks out.

(These are not all of the tasks involved.)

## Related Jobs

As being a vet requires working with animals there is a few jobs that can be related.

### Animal Attendant

- Helps around veterinary clinics and does jobs. For example they clean animal enclosures, feed animals, treat animals for minor injuries under the supervision of a vet and many more various jobs.

### Veterinary Nurse

- Next step up from being an animal attendant. Vet nurses do jobs such as cleaning up surgery area, taking x-rays, taking blood samples, assisting vets when they are treating animals offsite and many more various jobs.

### Zookeepers

- Zookeepers work at zoos/animal wildlife parks and do jobs such as cleaning animal enclosures, feeding animals, treat animals for minor injuries and illnesses, answer questions from the public and many more different jobs.

### Dog trainer

- Train dogs to have discipline and do many various tricks.

### Agriculture/Horticulture Scientist

- Study the biological chemical and physical properties of animals and plants.

## Pay and Progression

Being a veterinarian is generally classed as a high-paying job.

A new vet with less than 5 years of experience will be payed on average \$58 000 a year. This may range from \$48 000 - \$ 74 000. However, a vet with more than 5 years of experience will be payed on average \$86 000 a year. This may range from \$75 000 to \$125 000.

Veterinarians may progress through the job ladder. Their first few years will be spent learning new skills with their fellow vets that have plenty of years of experience. They will then be able to treat animals on their own and as more experience is gained, will move on to teaching new vets their own skills. As you progress, you will learn much more complicated procedures.

## How to get into the job.

Many small and major things are required to be a New Zealand vet. In high school it is highly recommended to get your NCEA Level 3 in biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics and a Level 2 in English is required. From there you have to enrol to have a chance at being accepted into Massey University's Veterinary studies programme. Only 84 students get accepted into this programme a year.

## Personal Requirements.

Some of the personal requirements for being a veterinarian are

- They have to be mature
- They have to be very responsible as they are dealing with other people's animals
- They have to work well under pressurising circumstances.
- Have to be confident enforcing with clients.
- Good at communicating their thoughts, ideas and actions.
- Has to be very well organised with equipment, time and other things.
- They have to be decisive as making half-hearted decisions will not work.

Some physical requirements that vets require are good eyesight, hearing and good hand-eye co-ordination. They also have to remain a certain level of fitness as long periods of time are spent on their feet.

## Working Conditions

You cannot be a vet in New Zealand unless you are registered with the Veterinary Council of New Zealand. Being a vet is not an easy task and there is also a lot of irregularities.

- Hours are not set in stone. You may have to work night shifts, weekends or even public holidays.
- You do have to travel a fair bit. Not all animals will come to your clinic.
- Working as a vet can be very emotional as not all animals that you have a bond with and are treating survive.



When treating an animal, a vet becomes very close to that animal.

Vets have to work with family's pets.

