

Veterinarian

What do they do?

Veterinarians care for the health of animals and work to protect public health. They diagnose, treat, and research medical conditions and diseases of pets, livestock, and other animals. Most veterinarians work full time, often working more than 40 hours per week. Some work nights or weekends, and they may have to respond to emergencies outside of scheduled work hours.

Where do they work?

Most veterinarians work in private clinics and hospitals. Others travel to farms or work in settings such as laboratories, classrooms, or zoos.

Pay:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average yearly income for a Veterinarian is \$99,250.



Education:

Veterinarians must complete a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM or VMD) degree at an accredited college of veterinary medicine. A veterinary medicine program generally takes 4 years to complete and includes classroom, laboratory, and clinical components. Admission to veterinary programs is competitive. Most applicants to veterinary school have a bachelor's degree. Some veterinary medical colleges prefer candidates to have experience such as previous work with veterinarians in clinics, or working with animals on a farm, at a stable, or in an animal shelter.

Veterinarian Programs in Madison:

UW-Madison- School of Veterinary Medicine
<https://www.vetmed.wisc.edu/>



High School students interested in becoming a Veterinarian should take classes in biology, chemistry, math, and animal science.

Types of Veterinarians:

Companion animal veterinarians treat pets and generally work in private clinics and hospitals.

Food animal veterinarians work with farm animals such as pigs, cattle, and sheep, which are raised to be food sources.

Food safety and inspection veterinarians inspect and test livestock and animal products for major animal diseases.



License & Certification:

Veterinarians must be licensed in order to practice in the United States. Licensing requirements vary by state, but prospective veterinarians in all states must complete an accredited veterinary program and pass the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination.

In addition to passing the national exam, most states require that veterinarians pass a state licensing exam. However, veterinarians employed by state or federal government may not need a state license, because government agencies differ in what they require.

Each state's exam covers its laws and regulations. Few states accept licenses from other states, so veterinarians usually must take exams for the states in which they want to be licensed.

The American Veterinary Medical Association has an Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) certification program, which allows foreign graduates to fulfill the educational prerequisites for licensure.



Professional Association:

Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges



Job Outlook:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for Veterinarians is expected to grow 17 percent between 2020-2030, which is much faster than the average across all occupations.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, Veterinarians, on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/veterinarians.htm> (visited September 08, 2021).

