

Veterinary Technologist & Technician

What do they do?

Veterinary technologists and technicians, supervised by licensed veterinarians, do medical tests that help diagnose animals' injuries and illnesses. Veterinary technologists typically work in more advanced research-related jobs, usually under the guidance of a scientist or veterinarian. Veterinary technicians generally work in private clinical practices under the guidance of a licensed veterinarian.

Where do they work?

Veterinary technologists and technicians work in private clinics, laboratories, and animal hospitals. Their jobs may be physically or emotionally demanding. Many work evenings, weekends, or holidays.

Pay:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average yearly income for Veterinary technologists and technicians is \$36,260.



Education:

Veterinary technologists usually have a 4-year bachelor's degree in veterinary technology. Veterinary technicians usually have a 2-year associate's degree in a veterinary technology program. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) accredits veterinary technology programs. Most of these programs offer a 2-year associate's degree for veterinary technicians; others offer a 4-year bachelor's degree for veterinary technologists



High School students interested in becoming a veterinary technologist or technician can prepare by taking biology and other science courses.

Training Programs in Madison:

Madison College

<https://madisoncollege.edu/program/veterinary-technician>

Globe University (various Wisconsin locations)

Certification:

Although each state regulates veterinary technologists and technicians differently, most candidates must pass a credentialing exam. Most states require technologists and technicians to pass the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE), offered by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards.



Professional Associations:

National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America



American Association for Laboratory Animal Science



Duties:

Veterinary technologists and technicians typically do the following:

- Observe the behavior and condition of animals
- Provide nursing care or emergency first aid to recovering or injured animals
- Bathe animals, clip nails or claws, and brush or cut animals' hair
- Restrain animals during exams or procedures
- Administer anesthesia to animals and monitor their responses
- Take x rays and collect and perform laboratory tests, such as urinalyses and blood counts
- Prepare animals and instruments for surgery
- Administer medications, vaccines, and treatments prescribed by a veterinarian
- Collect and record animals' case histories

Job Outlook:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for Veterinary Technologists & Technicians is expected to grow 15 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*, Veterinary Technologists and Technicians, on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/veterinary-technologists-and-technicians.htm> (visited September 08, 2021).

