Veterinary Technician

What They Do

Veterinary Technicians are responsible for the well-being of animals. They work hand-in-hand with veterinarians providing the essential medical procedures to ensure that animals are healthy.

Job Duties

- Provide health care for pets, livestock, zoo, sporting & laboratory animals
- Examine animals to determine nature of illness or injury
- Perform laboratory tests such as urinalysis and blood counts
- Expose & develop X-Rays and radiographs
- Treat injuries for pets and/or farm animals
- Assist veterinarian in treatments and surgeries
- Advise animal owners of animal care and feeding
- Responsible for ensuring sanitary measures before, during, & after all procedures
- Operate medical equipment
- Stock & maintain medicines and supplies
- Euthanize animals when necessary
- Provide prevention care to maintain animal health
- Communicate with veterinarian about the progress of animal treatments & recovery
- Document for each specific animal treated

Job Earnings
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (2019 Median Annual Salary)

$35,320 per year
$16.98 per hour

Education/Training

Veterinary Technicians must complete a post-secondary program in veterinary technology. Technicians in NYS need a 2-year associate's degree in a program approved by the American Veterinary Medicine Association (AVMA) and must pass the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE).

Job Outlook

Employment of veterinary technicians is projected to grow 19% from 2018 to 2028, much faster than the average for all occupations. Employment is expected to grow as veterinarians continue to use technicians to do general care and lab work on household pets.

Veterinary Technician - Career Pathway

Ways to Start Preparing for Your Future Career TODAY!

1 Middle/High School Classes to Take:

- Agriculture Classes
- Animal Science & Biology
- Chemistry
- Physical Science
- Mathematics

2 Clubs/Extracurricular Activities:

- Future Farmers of America (FFA) Club (www.FFA.org)
- 4-H (www.4-H.org)
- Animal Science/Vet Camp for Grades 6-9 (www.BEAGenesee.com)

3 Local BOCES/Career & Technical Education Programs:

- Genesee Valley BOCES Animal Science Program (Batavia & Mount Morris Campuses) (www.GVBOCES.org)

4 Volunteer Opportunities:

- **Genesee County:**
  - Genesee County Animal Shelter (www.VOL4Animals.org/volunteering)
  - Purple Pony Therapeutic Horsemanship (www.PurplePony.org/volunteer)
- **Livingston County:**
  - Humane Society of Livingston County (www.humanesocietylivco-ny.org)
  - Livingston County Dog Control (www.livingstoncounty.us/196/Dog-Control)
- **Orleans County:**
  - Orleans County Animal Shelter (www.FriendsoftheOCAS.org)
  - PAWS of Orleans County (www.paws14411.com)
- **Wyoming County:**
  - A New Start Kitty Shelter (Phone: #585-493-5206)
  - Wyoming County SPCA (www.wyomingcountyspca.org)

5 Local Colleges/Training:

- Alfred State College (www.alfredstate.edu)
- Genesee Community College (www.genesee.edu)
- Medaille College (www.medaille.edu)