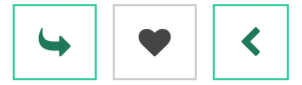


1 2 3

Animal behaviourist

Also called: Pet behaviourist

Animal behaviourists understand why animals act the way they do, and help pet owners and animal handlers deal with behaviour problems.



What you'll do

You'll study the way animals behave and try to determine what causes certain types of behaviour and what factors can prompt behaviour change. You'll specialise in certain types of animals, for example fish, birds, large animals, wild animals, livestock, or household pets. You could also specialise in certain types of behaviour, such as hunting, mating, or raising offspring.

You might be helping pet owners or animal handlers deal with problematic behaviour, like dogs barking excessively, aggressiveness, or fearful behaviours. You could also offer an animal training service.

Your day-to-day duties might include:

- studying animals and researching them
- observing problem behaviours, and figuring out likely causes
- writing a behaviour modification programme
- communicating with owners and animal handlers
- taking referrals from vets
- holding consultations

Record relevant activities you've already done on the [Activities tool](#) >

Working hours and environment

You might need to work during evenings and weekends. You'll likely be visiting new places often, which means managing your own time and being punctual.

You could be based at home or at your own workspace, in veterinary surgeons' clinics, on farms or zoos, or remotely visiting clients' homes. You'll be meeting new people regularly and having lots of face-to-face conversations.

You may spend lots of time working outside or in cold conditions.

Career path and progression

With the right qualifications and experience you can apply to the [Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour](#) for Certified Clinical Animal Behaviourist (CCAB) status. This will allow you entry onto the Register of Certified Clinical Animal Behaviourists.

You could set up your own practice or consultancy, or move into teaching or lecturing.

Skills required

You'll need:

- to be confident and comfortable handling animals
- good spoken and written communication skills, so you can write up and discuss behaviour plans with clients
- a caring nature, in order to empathise with clients and gain their trust
- the enthusiasm to motivate pet owners
- leadership skills, in order to coach clients
- to be keen to solve problems and learn new things

Got evidence of these skills? Record your examples on the [Skills tool](#) >

Entry requirements

You'll usually need a degree in a related subject like:

- animal behaviour and welfare
- animal management
- zoology with animal behaviour

You'll also need paid or unpaid experience of working with animals, like dog training or handling, or working in a kennel or veterinary surgery. It can help to have a driving licence as you might be visiting clients in their homes.

It may also be useful to work towards national standards or membership of a professional body. Find out more about training and certification from:

- The International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants (global)
- The Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors (UK)
- The Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers (US)

Related university subject profiles

These university subjects are related to this career; check out their profiles on the Subjects library:

- [Animal science](#) >
- [Veterinary medicine](#) >
- [Zoology](#) >

Related career profiles

You may also be interested in:

- [Kennel worker](#) >
- [Veterinary nurse](#) >
- [Animal care assistant](#) >

Explore

Want to see what relevant education and training opportunities are available right now? Search here:

Animal science at uni:

[USA >](#)
[UK >](#)
[Canada >](#)
[Europe >](#)
[Asia >](#)
[Australasia >](#)
[Middle East and Africa >](#)
[Ireland >](#)

Veterinary medicine at uni:

[USA >](#)
[UK >](#)
[Canada >](#)
[Europe >](#)
[Asia >](#)
[Australasia >](#)
[Middle East and Africa >](#)
[Ireland >](#)

Zoology at uni:

[USA >](#)
[UK >](#)
[Canada >](#)
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[Asia >](#)
[Australasia >](#)
[Middle East and Africa >](#)
[Ireland >](#)

Apprenticeships:

[UK >](#)

College / Sixth Form:

[UK >](#)

Labour Market Information (LMI)

Current and predicted figures relating to the Animal behaviourist profession. Median averages are shown, each with the specific career, or group of careers, that they apply to.

UK
 USA

Jobs

Therapy professionals

169,927

 **1,439** in your local area of Liverpool

Top 5 local areas

1	Kent	4,680
2	Surrey	4,612
3	Hertfordshire	4,105
4	Hampshire	4,061
5	Essex	3,760

Salaries

Therapy professionals n.e.c.

£34,448

Therapy professionals

£38,184

📍 £35,572 in your region of North West

Top 3 regions

1	Scotland	£42,181
2	West Midlands	£40,767
3	London	£39,785

Growth

2020-2035

Health professionals

+7.2% ↑ 118,954 jobs

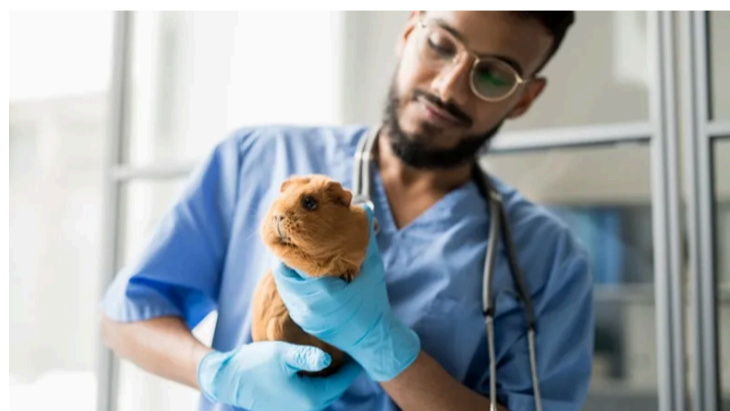
📍 +9.3% in your region of North West, an increase of 15,821 jobs

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You haven't favourited any Careers library profiles yet

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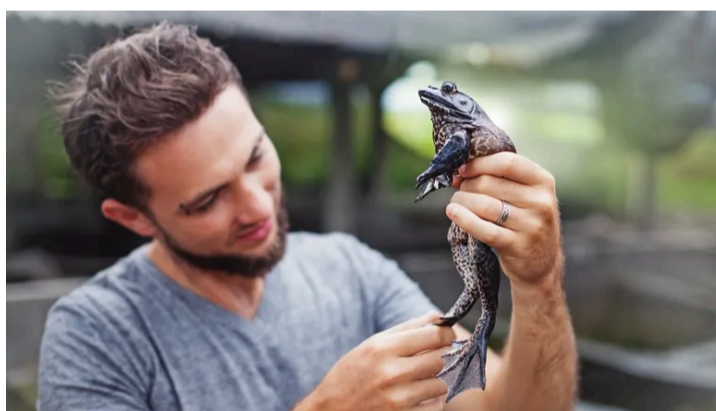


Animal care assistant



Animal care assistants look after animals in places like kennels, rescue centres, or sanctuaries.

[Read the profile >](#)



Zoologist



Zoologists study animals and their behaviours, including topics like evolution, physiology, and classification.

[Read the profile >](#)



Vet

Vets diagnose and treat sick or injured animals.

[Read the profile >](#)