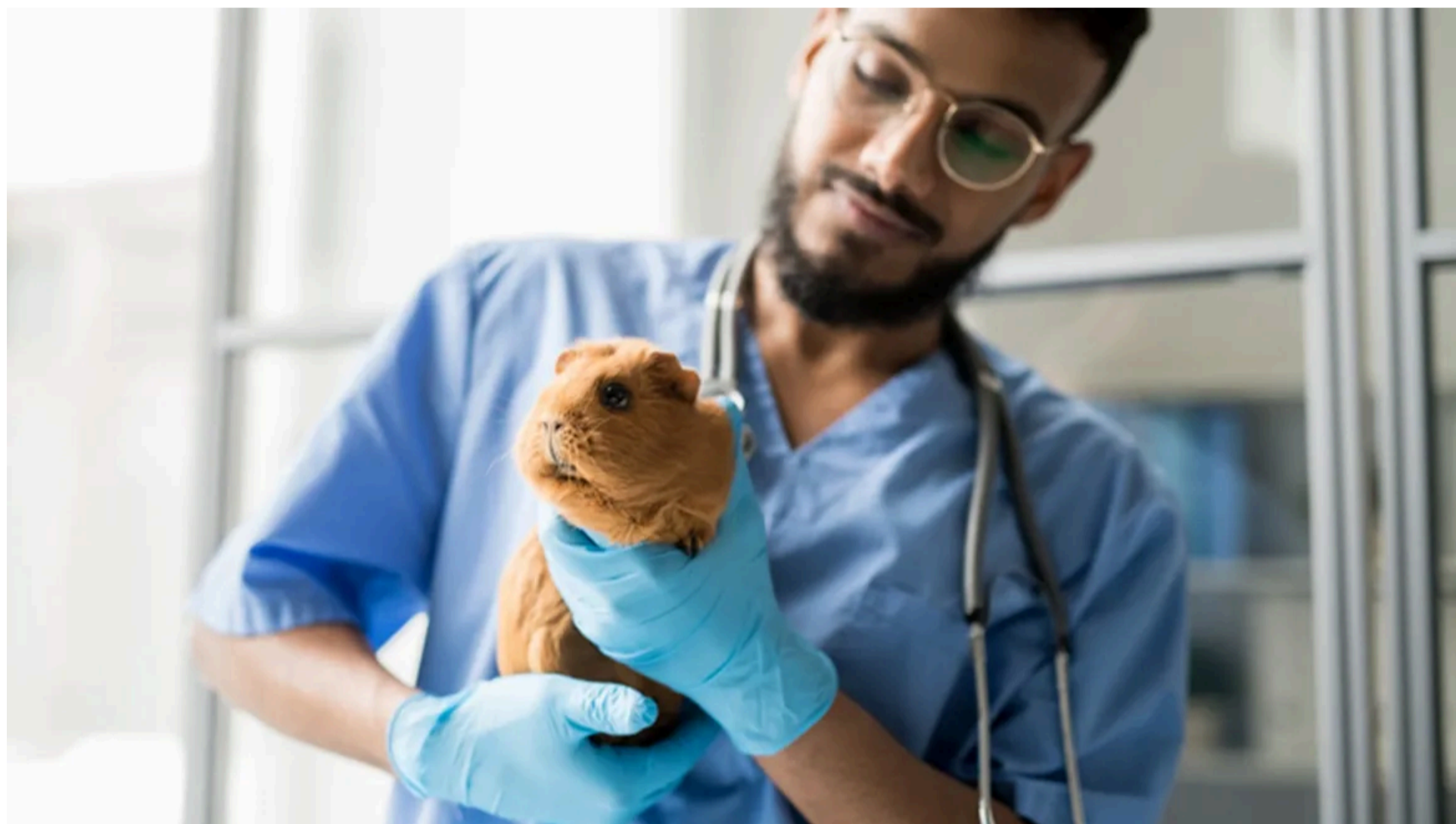
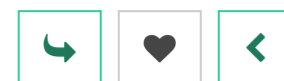


1 2 3

Animal care assistant

Also called: Animal care worker

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



What you'll do

You'll look after animals in places like kennels, animal rescue centres and sanctuaries. You could also work in animal hospitals, Blue Cross adoption centres, or as an animal collection officer for the RSPCA.

Your day-to-day duties may include:

- preparing food and feeding, cleaning, and grooming the animals
- exercising dogs in a yard or taking them for walks
- cleaning out kennels, pens and cages, and changing bedding
- looking after animals who become ill or distressed
- answering queries from colleagues and visitors
- ensuring that animal enclosures are maintained

Depending on your role, you may also have to keep records, take bookings, and advise owners on how to look after their animals.

You may specialise in animal massage or hydrotherapy, working with animals recovering from injury or undergoing treatment for mobility problems.

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

Working hours and environment

You may work shifts, including early starts and some evenings and weekends.

Working with animals can involve tough physical and messy work, and you may work outdoors in all weathers. You could be on your feet most of the day or in uncomfortable positions.

You could also be working independently a lot of the time, so you'll be responsible for your own tasks.

Career path and progression

With experience, you could progress to supervisor or manager, or become self-employed.

You could also use your experience to move into other animal care careers, like veterinary nursing.

Skills required

You'll need:

- practical skills to handle animals patiently and confidently
- a caring nature, to handle animals gently and speak to their owners with empathy
- resilience, to be able to cope with upsetting situations like working with injured or badly treated animals
- a willingness to do dirty or unpleasant tasks
- accountability, as you'll be responsible for the duty of care of animals

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

Entry requirements

There are no set requirements for this role, but some employers may ask for high school level qualifications like a high school diploma, GCSEs, or Scottish National 5s.

Experience of working with animals will help, which you could gain through volunteering. Taking a practical qualification in an area like animal care could also help you gain some of the skills and knowledge you need.

You could get into this job through an apprenticeship or traineeship in a field like animal care, veterinary care support, or agriculture.

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:

- [Dog groomer](#) >
- [Kennel worker](#) >
- [Dog trainer](#) >

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 >](#)[Europe >](#)[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 care assistant profession. Median averages are shown, each with the specific career, or group of careers, that they apply to.

 UK USA

Jobs

Animal care and control services

80,659 **318** in your local area of Liverpool**Top 5 local areas**

1	Hampshire	2,906
2	Essex	2,505
3	Kent	2,448
4	Suffolk	2,378
5	Surrey	2,320

Salaries

Animal care services occupations n.e.c.

£21,933

Animal care and control services

£22,734 **(Not enough data for this region)** in your region of North West**Top 3 regions**

1	East of England	£25,421
2	South East	£22,933

Growth 2020-2035

Caring personal service occupations

+13.9% ↑ 328,648 jobs

📍 **+17.7%** in your region of North West, an increase of 52,031 jobs

Save to Favourites? ♥

You haven't favourited any Careers library profiles yet

People also liked...

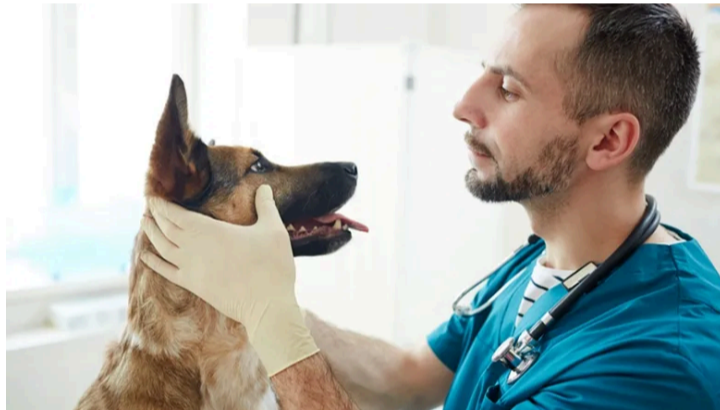
Those that liked this career profile also liked the following



Zookeeper

Zookeepers work in zoos, safari parks, or aquariums to feed, clean out, and look after animals.

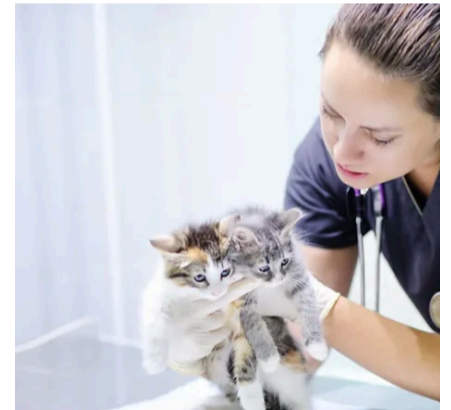
[Read the profile >](#)



Veterinary nurse

Veterinary nurses work alongside vets to provide medical care to sick and injured animals.

[Read the profile >](#)



Vet

Vets diagnose and treat sick or injured animals.

[Read the profile >](#)