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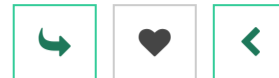
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Kennel worker

Also called: Animal caretaker

Kennel workers care for dogs and cats in kennels or catteries.



What you'll do

You could work in:

- boarding kennels and catteries, which provide care for animals when their owners are away for a short time
- organisations like the RSPCA, which look after stray, abandoned or mistreated animals
- kennels run by organisations like Guide Dogs
- breeding or quarantine kennels
- other kennels such as hunt or racing kennels

Your day-to-day tasks might include:

- preparing food and feeding the animals
- keeping animals clean and grooming them
- exercising dogs in a yard or taking them for walks
- cleaning out kennels and cages
- maintaining cages, runs, and grounds
- looking after animals which are elderly, ill, or distressed
- answering telephone calls and greeting visitors to the premises

Your other duties may include keeping records, taking bookings, and handling payments.

You could also give advice to people who wish to adopt an abandoned animal.

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

Working hours and environment

If you're full time, you'll work about 40 hours a week. You may be expected to start early in the morning and work some weekends, evenings, and public holidays.

A lot of the work will be outdoors and you'll be required to work in all weather conditions.

In larger kennels, you'll be provided with accommodation and work clothes like protective overalls and safety boots.

Career path and progression

With experience, you could become a supervisor or manager, or set up your own kennels or cattery.

You could move into other kinds of work with animals, like dog trainer, RSPCA inspector or veterinary nurse.

Skills required

You'll need:

- the practical skills to handle a range of animals
- good teamwork skills, as you'll likely spend most of your time working with others
- to pay close attention to detail, so you can notice changes in animals' behaviour
- a caring nature, as you'll need to be motivated to look after animals
- good communication skills, as you may work on a reception desk or take calls from the public

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

Entry requirements

There are no set entry requirements, but the following may help:

- high school qualifications like National 5s, GCSEs, or a high school diploma
- paid or voluntary experience of working with animals, for example in a shelter, kennels, or veterinary practice
- a qualification in a relevant subject like animal care, animal management, or dog grooming. You could complete this through your local college (where you could, for example, study a diploma or certificate), or through an animal charity or employer (where you could complete an internship or apprenticeship).

You may need a driving licence for some jobs.

Related university subject profiles

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

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

Related career profiles

You may also be interested in:

- [Dog trainer](#) >
- [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 >

Apprenticeships:

UK >

College / Sixth Form:

UK >

Labour Market Information (LMI)

Current and predicted figures relating to the Kennel worker 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

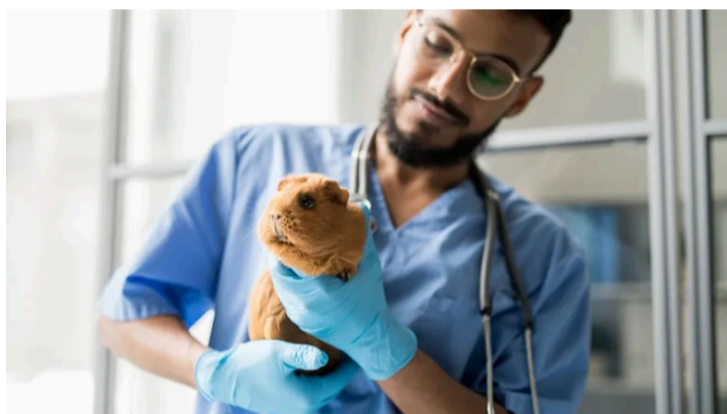
📍 **+17.7%** in your region of North West, an increase of 52,031 jobs

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



Animal care assistant

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

[Read the profile >](#)



Dog groomer

Dog groomers wash and trim dogs' coats, and advise their owners on grooming and diet.

[Read the profile >](#)



Zookeeper

Zookeepers work in zoos, safari parks, and sanctuaries. They feed, clean out, and look after animals.

[Read the profile >](#)