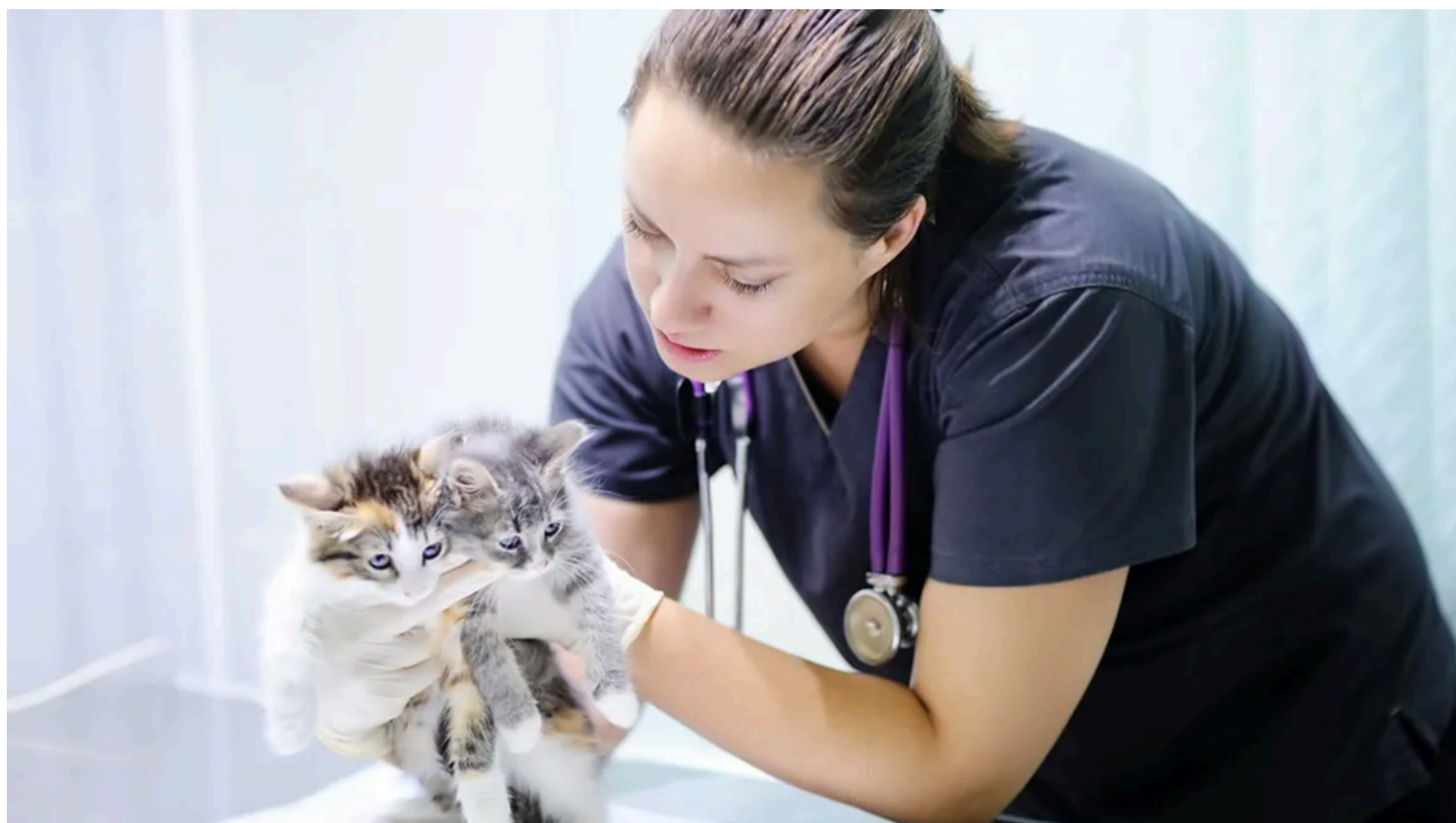
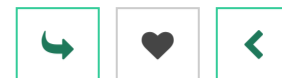


1 2 3

Vet

Also called: [Veterinary surgeon](#), [veterinarian](#)

Vets diagnose and treat sick or injured animals.



What you'll do

You could work in general practice, or for a public and animal health department like the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) or the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA). You could also work in teaching or research.

In general veterinary practice your day-to-day tasks will include:

- diagnosing and treating sick and injured animals
- performing operations
- carrying out tests such as blood analysis, X-rays and scans
- providing care for an animal in veterinary hospitals
- carrying out regular health checks and giving vaccinations
- checking farm animals and advising how to stop diseases spreading
- supervising veterinary nurses and support staff
- keeping records of treatments
- communicating with pet owners and insurers
- neutering animals to stop them breeding
- putting severely injured or terminally ill animals to sleep

In public health, your day-to-day tasks will include investigating human and animal disease outbreaks like foot and mouth disease.

As a vet in industry, you'll develop and test drugs, chemicals and biological products. You may also check hygiene and care in stables, kennels or pet shops.

You'll follow public health and hygiene laws.

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

Working hours and environment

At a vets' practice, you'll usually work about 43 hours a week. You could also be on call, day or night.

The job can be physically and emotionally demanding. You'll be responsible for making important decisions, and you may have to have difficult conversations with pet owners.

You'll spend some time working outdoors if you're treating farm animals or horses.

Career path and progression

You could focus on treating particular animals, or specialise in areas such as dermatology or cardiology, by taking [RCVS-approved postgraduate courses](#).

You could join the [British Equine Veterinary Association \(BEVA\)](#) if you work with horses.

Experience in veterinary surgery could also help you to get a job in environmental conservation.

You could also move into a career in research and teaching with a university or research body.

Skills required

You'll need:

- excellent communication skills, as you'll meet lots of new people
- problem-solving skills, to work out how to treat animals
- practical skills to handle animals
- the resilience to cope with upsetting situations
- accountability, as you'll be responsible for animals' wellbeing
- good ethical judgment, to help you make difficult decisions

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

Entry requirements

You'll usually need to:

- study at least two science subjects, ideally including biology, at Level 3 (for example, Scottish Highers or A levels), and achieve very high grades as places can be limited
- pass entry exams (in Europe, these are usually in chemistry and biology) or an interview
- complete work experience in a veterinary practice
- study an approved veterinary degree
- be registered with an accredited veterinary organisation in your country, like the RCVS (UK) or EAEVE (Europe)

Full-time degrees usually take five or six years. If you already have a degree in a subject related to veterinary science, you may be able to take a four-year degree course.

Related Know-how guides

Explore Know-how guides related to this career:

- [Employer profile: British Army, the land branch of the British Armed Forces](#) >

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:

- [Animal welfare inspector](#) >
- [Veterinary nurse](#) >
- [Animal behaviourist](#) >

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 Vet profession. Median averages are shown, each with the specific career, or group of careers, that they apply to.

UK
 USA

Jobs

Veterinarians

19,620

 **104** in your local area of Liverpool

Top 5 local areas

1	Hampshire	651
2	Devon	598
3	Kent	527
4	Surrey	474
5	Hertfordshire	458

Salaries

Veterinarians

£48,062

Veterinarians

£48,062

(Not enough data for this region) in your region of North West

Top 3 regions

Growth

2020-2035

Health professionals

+7.2% ↑ 118,954 jobs

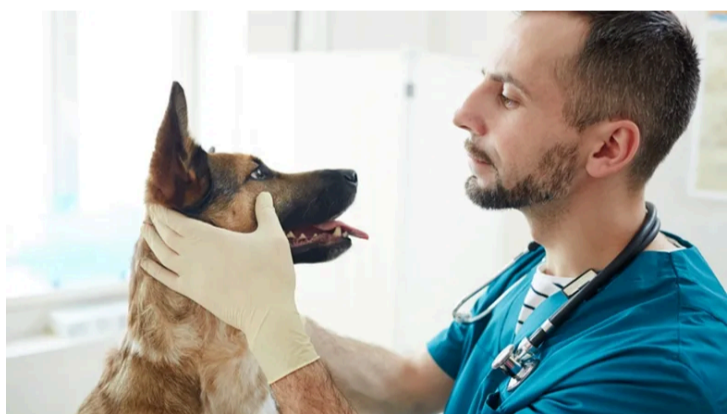
+9.3% in your region of North West, an increase of 15,821 jobs

Save to Favourites? ♥

You haven't favourited any Careers library profiles yet

People also liked...

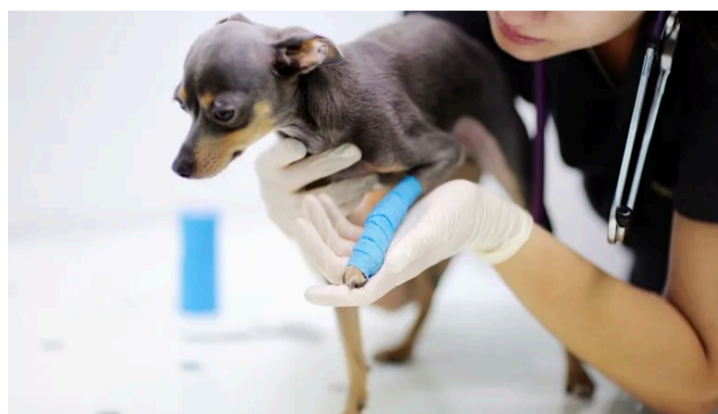
Those that liked this career profile also liked the following



Veterinary nurse ♥

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

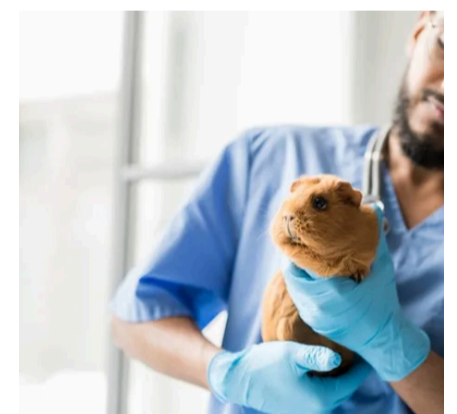
[Read the profile >](#)



Veterinary physiotherapist ♥

Veterinary physiotherapists help animals with injuries or movement problems, to help reduce pain and improve their health.

[Read the profile >](#)



Animal care assistant ♥

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

[Read the profile >](#)