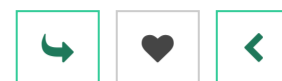
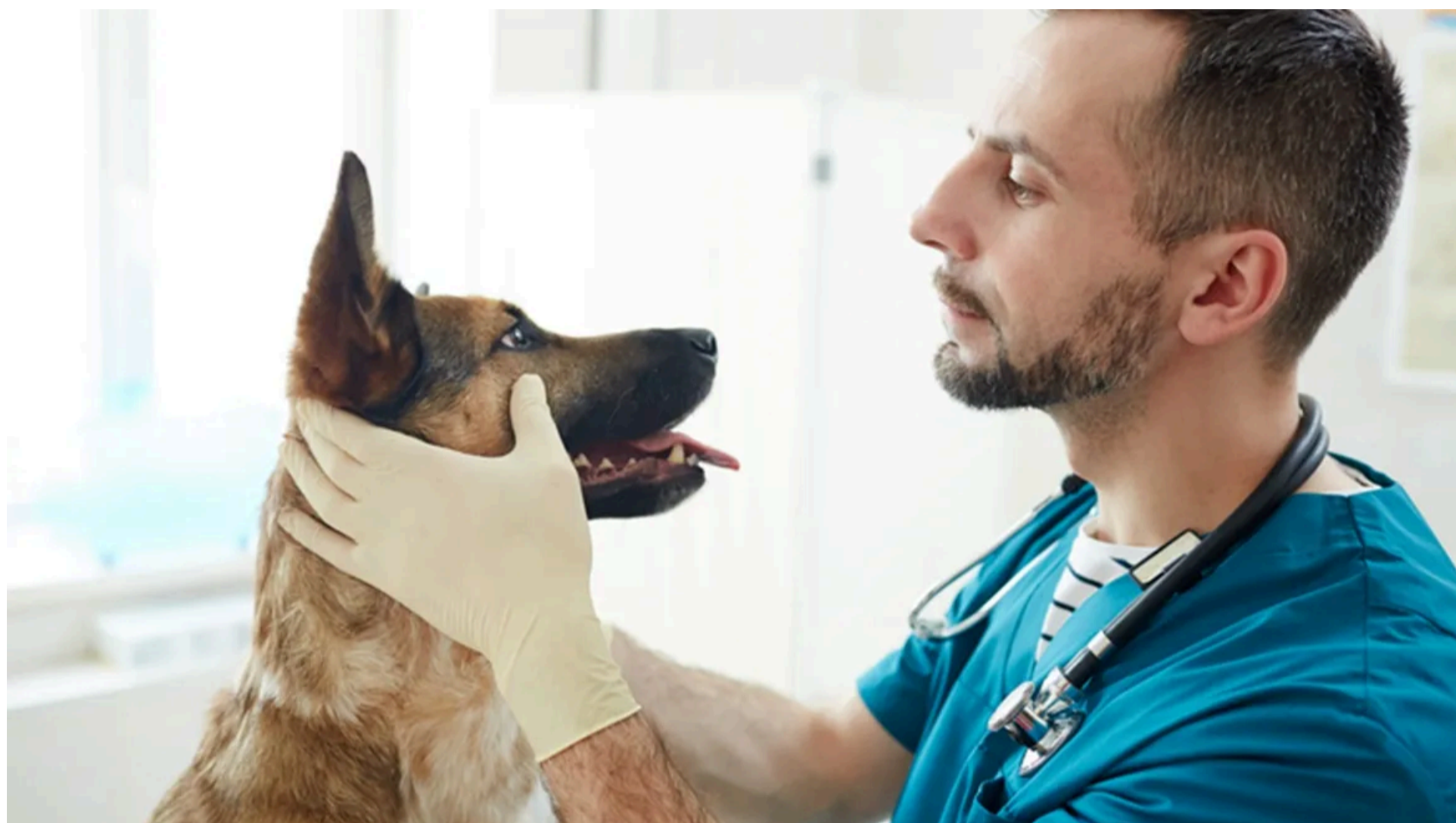


1 2 3

Veterinary nurse



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



What you'll do

You'll usually work in a general veterinary practice. You'll need to care about animal welfare without being too sentimental.

Your day-to-day tasks may include:

- speaking to animal owners to find out the problem
- taking blood and urine samples from animals
- taking x-rays
- preparing animals for treatment and assisting vets during treatment
- giving injections, medication, and removing stitches
- talking to pet owners about how to care for their animals
- taking care of in-patient animals
- supervising and helping to train other assistants
- updating records

In smaller practices you may also work on reception.

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

Working hours and environment

You'll usually work 35 to 40 hours a week, including some evenings and weekends.

You'll be meeting new pet owners regularly and having lots of face-to-face conversations.

You'll spend some time working outdoors if you're treating farm animals or horses. You'll also usually get a uniform and protective clothing.

Career path and progression

With experience, you could take on more responsibility, like practice management, supervising and training new staff, or working in veterinary supplies.

You could also train to specialise in working for a zoological/wildlife park, charity, pharmaceutical company or breeding/boarding kennels.

With further study you could work towards becoming a lecturer or researcher.

Skills required

You'll need:

- the practical skills to handle animals in a calm, confident manner
- a caring nature, so you're tactful and sympathetic with pet owners
- technical skills, to use hardware like x-ray machines
- teamwork skills, as you'll be supporting a wider veterinary team in your work
- 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:

- complete high school or secondary school-level qualifications (in some countries, like the US, this must include a science subject and/or biology)
- study a Level 3, foundation degree, or degree level qualification in veterinary nursing
- complete work experience in an animal setting, like a veterinary practice, kennels, or animal welfare centre
- be registered with an accredited veterinary organisation in your country, like the RCVS (UK) or EAEVE (Europe), which can include taking an exam (in the US)

In the US, some states will require registration whilst others will not. In those that do, like Indiana or Tennessee, you'll also need to complete a postgraduate qualification which can take two to four years.

If you study a lower level qualification than a degree, you may then need to complete on-the-job training. Alternatively, in the UK, you could train through an apprenticeship.

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

UK
 USA

Jobs

Veterinary nurses

18,683

 93 in your local area of Liverpool

Top 5 local areas

1	Hampshire	752
2	Kent	644
3	Essex	586
4	Hertfordshire	458
5	Norfolk	444

Salaries

Veterinary nurses

£24,370

Veterinary nurses

£24,370

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

Top 3 regions

Growth

2020-2035

Health and social care associate professionals

+87.5%

↑ 597,005 jobs

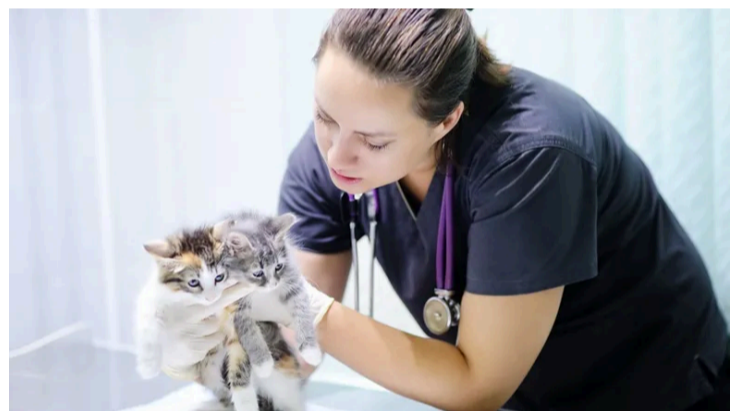
📍 +95.2% in your region of North West, an increase of 74,371 jobs

Save to Favourites? ❤️

You haven't favourited any Careers library profiles yet

People also liked...

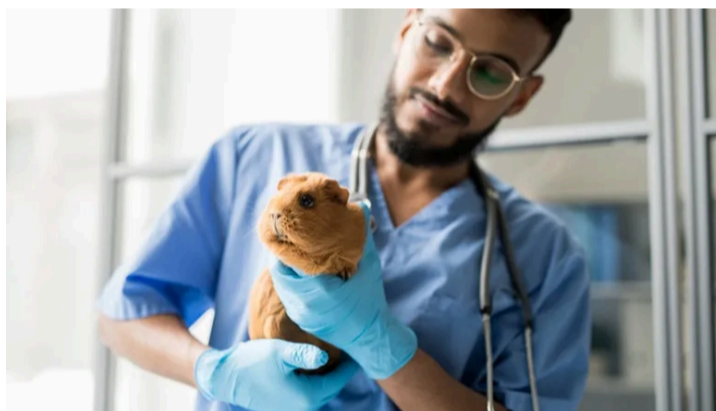
Those that liked this career profile also liked the following



Vet

Vets diagnose and treat sick or injured animals.

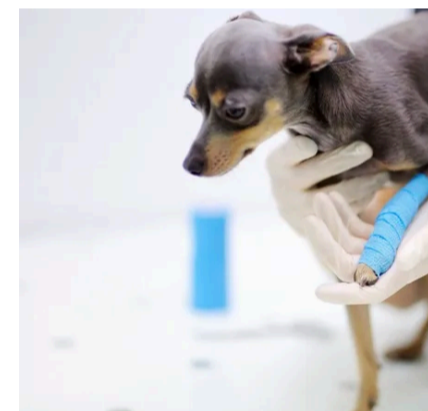
[Read the profile >](#)



Animal care assistant

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

[Read the profile >](#)



Veterinary physioth

Veterinary physiotherapists help with movement problems, to help reduce their health.

[Read the profile >](#)