Humane Society

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Futures Forum

Table of Contents

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Heading | Page |
| Introduction | 1 |
| Career Path | 2 |
| Skills/Education | 3 |
| Personality Traits | 4 |
| Compensation | 5 |
| High School Benefits | 6 |
| Citations | 7 |

Introduction

One of the jobs humane society looks for is a veterinarian; some of the duties of the veterinarian are to provide daily veterinarian care, as needed to, to rescue animals. Other duties of a veterinarian are to examine individual animals to identify existing, potential medical issues, to observe the animals for daily signs of diseases or injuries, performing routine surgeries as needed, and to make sure that the animals are in the best care that they need. If a veterinarian is unable to perform a surgery, they would have to refer the animal to a specialist. Also today's veterinarians are members of an important health profession. In taking the veterinarian's oath, a doctor solemnly swears to use his or her scientific knowledge and skills "for the benefit of society, through the protection of animal health, the relief of animal suffering, the conservation of animal resources, the promotion of public health, and the advancement of medical knowledge."

Page #1

Career Path

Veterinarians have many career paths they can take; the six main ones they usually take in veterinary medicines are private practice, teaching and research, regulatory medicine, public health and uniformed services and industry. To become a veterinarian a person would have to A, D.V.M. or V.M.D. degree from an authorized school of veterinary medicine required along with extensive experience in routine veterinary surgery, medicine, and experience in equine management including hoof, dental, and geriatric care.



Page #2

Skills/Education

In order to be a veterinarian you must have a strong heart which will allow you to take on hard cases. You should also be patient and kind-hearted towards the animals you are treating. Friendliness will lead the animals you treat to trust you. You will also need knowledge of animals, including anatomy and pathology. Then the need to have an ethical compass to make the right decisions regarding euthanization and mercy killing. Finally veterinarians must have patience to deal with owners who do not accept that not all of their pet's problems can be fixed.



Page #3

Personality Traits

A veterinarian's day-to-day work can be emotionally and physically challenging. It's hard to tell someone that his beloved companion will need to be put down, or to restrain a 90-pound dog for a shot. As a veterinarian, you'll encounter demanding situations that require compassion and authority. That requires solid communication skills and the ability to work well with others. Emergency situations are bound to arise, and a successful veterinarian must be able to communicate effectively with colleagues and support staff. Although you will be caring for animals, you'll also be working closely with their owners. Maintaining a professional and caring bedside manner is an essential part of the job. Beyond the challenges inherent of becoming a veterinarian, the positives are endless. You will have the chance to care for pets and help their owners.

Page #4

Compensation

A veterinarian’s earnings on average is $91,250 per year as of May 2011. However that average pay range is $50,480 to $141,680 per year. A typical full-time annual salary for this occupation is $90,000 – $110,000.

Page #5

High School Benefits

High school students should take courses that will prepare and admit you to a university degree program. Most students who wish to apply to veterinary medicine take all the major science subjects such as: Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Advanced Functions or Calculus. It is also a good idea to volunteer at an animal shelter and help out with the animals.



Page #6

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Page #7