

SECTOR: ANIMAL CARE

The Animal Care Sector is worth about

£1 BILLION

per year to the UK Economy

More than

10,000

businesses and many more charities

About

80,000

paid employees work in it plus lots of volunteers



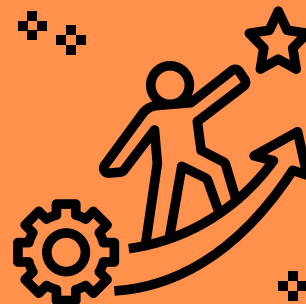
Qualifications

Many roles do not require high-level qualifications



High Job Satisfaction

Financial rewards for many roles are lower than other sectors but job-satisfaction is very high as people are doing something they love



Work-experience

Work experience opportunities for students can be easier to find than in other sectors



Jobs and careers

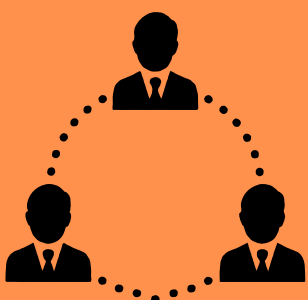
It's a broad sector with roles relating to different types of animal care for animals in catteries, fisheries, kennels, stables, veterinary practices, wildlife parks and zoos.

There are jobs and careers at all levels from school or college leaver through to graduate and post-graduate. Examples of roles include:

* **Animal Care Assistant** * **Dog Handler** * **Groomer** * **Nurse** *
* **Nutritionist** * **Physiotherapist** * **Veterinary Surgeon** * **Walker** *
* **Welfare Officer** *

The National Careers Service provides an A-Z of dozens of job roles ranging from Bee Keeper to Zoo Keeper here:

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-categories/animal-care>



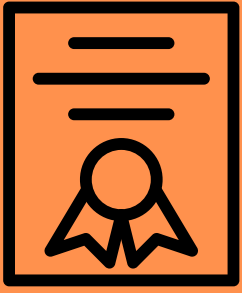
The icould.com website provides case studies of individuals working in roles in specific roles and settings. They include information about how much the individuals are paid by those organisations and whether the roles are increasing or decreasing in demand. While roles and pay will vary between organisations these case studies provide a useful guide:

<https://icould.com/explore/categories/job-types/animal-care/>

Other jobs in sector

Large and medium size employers (see below) also need a range of employees to support the animal care specialists. For example, the major retailer, Pets at Home, says on its website it employs people in roles including

*** Customer Service * Data Analysis * Finance * Human resources *
* Marketing * Warehousing ***



Qualifications & Skills

Most entry level jobs require a GCSEs in English and Maths as a minimum. For these type of roles, training on the job will be provided by the employer.

Apprenticeships are available at Intermediate, Advanced and Higher levels including:

Animal care and Welfare, Animal Trainer, Dog Grooming Stylist, Equine Groomer, Veterinary Nurse

For example, the RSPCA offers apprenticeships in its animal centres and the retailer, Pets At Home, offers Dog Grooming and others. There is more information here:

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprentices/browse-by-interests/agriculture-environment-animal-care>



Some Further Education Colleges offer vocational qualifications at levels 1 to 3 in subjects including Animal Care, Dog Grooming and Horse Care.

Students achieving 'A' levels in Science subjects may be able to become vets who are required to achieve a degree or higher qualification specified by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. Full details of this route can be found here:

<https://animalowners.rcvs.org.uk/veterinary-careers/>

*** Customer service * Determination * Enthusiasm *
* Oral Communication * Experience of caring for animals *
* Love of animals * Resilience * Teamworking ***



Employers

There are large national employers who are household names such as:

The Army * Battersea Dogs Home * Dogs Trust * RSPCA * Pets At Home * RSPB * Wildlife Trust

Veterinary practices are mostly small or medium size (SMEs) operating in a local or regional area. They have teams of nurses, assistants and customer service employees supporting the Vets.



There are thousands of local animal charities and while most do not offer paid employment, some do and all will provide Volunteer opportunities which provide great experience which can help young people to see if a career in the sector would suit them and also provide important skills to add to their CVs.

The best way to find out about jobs any employers and charities offer is to research the Careers, Job Vacancies or Work for Us areas of national and local employer and charity websites.

This summary provides a high-level introduction to the sector with references and links to other sources of information to enable young people to find out more. It is based on a wide range of sources which were up-to-date at the time it was created but are subject to change. The third-party web links and their content may also change beyond our control. Accessing these links is done so entirely at your own risk.