

## Key Skills

- physical skills like movement, coordination and dexterity
- the ability to teach people and animals how to do something
- the ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- the ability to work on your own
- the ability to work well with others
- excellent verbal communication skills
- to be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held device
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail

**Salary**  
£16,000 - £30,000

**Working hours**  
38-40 per week  
Evenings/ weekends/ bank  
holidays/ shifts

# Police Officer

## College

You could take a course that will increase your knowledge and skills to handle and work with animals like a Level 2 or 3 Diploma in Animal Care or Animal Management or a T Level in Animal Care and Management

## Entry requirements

You'll usually need 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4, for a level 3 course or 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4, or 5, including English and Maths for a T Level

## Volunteering

You can gain confidence with dogs and develop your training skills through volunteering.

Organisations like the National Search and Rescue Dog Association and dog rescue charities may be useful places to search for opportunities.

## Direct Application

You can apply to work with a private security firm as a dog handler. You'll need a Security Industry Authority licence to do this.

You'll have an advantage when you apply for jobs if you've got experience of working with dogs.

## Apprenticeship

You could do an animal trainer higher apprenticeship.

Some employers may expect you to have previous experience of working with animals.

## Entry requirements

Employers will set their own entry requirements. 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 and A levels, or equivalent, for a higher or degree apprenticeship

## Work

You can train to be a dog handler if you work or have worked in the uniformed services.

Check the entry requirements for applying to be a dog handler in the:

- Police
- British Army
- Royal Air Force
- Ministry of Defence Guard Service







## Career path and progression

Look at progression in this role and similar opportunities.

Promotion opportunities will depend on the service or organisation that you work for. In the police and armed forces, you may have to move out of dog handling to get promoted to the higher ranks.

In security, you could go on to be head of canine services, where you lead teams of dog handlers. You might also become a trainer, working with organisations like search and rescue, to help train dogs and their handlers.

## Day to Day tasks:

Depending on the service you work for, you could:

- control crowds
- search for lost or missing people
- detect drugs, firearms or explosives
- patrol premises and protect property
- look after your dog in your own home
- attend training courses with your dog

## Working conditions

You could work in kennels.

Your working environment may be outdoors in all weathers and physically demanding.

You may need to wear a uniform.

# Labour Market Information

In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'.

Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.

## Animal care services occupations n.e.c.

Weekly Pay <b>£430</b>	Annual Pay <b>£22,360</b>
Hours/Week <b>26h</b>	Hourly Pay <b>£17</b>

### Workforce Change (projected)

Growth <b>5.4%</b>	Replacement <b>53.8%</b>
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The workforce is projected to grow by 5.4% over the period to 2027, creating 4,300 jobs.  
In the same period, 53.8% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 42,900 job openings.

You might find this job in  
Agriculture, etc  
Veterinary  
Sport & recreation  
Education  
Libraries, etc

[More info](#)

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## Vocational and industrial trainers and instructors

Weekly Pay <b>£670</b>	Annual Pay <b>£34,840</b>
Hours/Week <b>38h</b>	Hourly Pay <b>£18</b>

### Workforce Change (projected)

Growth <b>2.9%</b>	Replacement <b>48.7%</b>
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The workforce is projected to grow by 2.9% over the period to 2027, creating 5,200 jobs.  
In the same period, 48.7% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 89,400 job openings.

You might find this job in  
Education  
Public admin. & defence  
Health  
Retail trade  
Food & beverage services

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## Police officers (sergeant and below)

Weekly Pay <b>£910</b>	Annual Pay <b>£47,320</b>
Hours/Week <b>40h</b>	Hourly Pay <b>£23</b>

### Workforce Change (projected)

Contraction <b>-0.2%</b>	Replacement <b>38.3%</b>
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The workforce is projected to contract by -0.2% over the period to 2027, losing 400 jobs.  
In the same period, 38.3% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 65,100 job openings.

You might find this job in  
Public admin. & defence  
Computer programming, etc  
Sport & recreation  
Rental & leasing  
Metal products

[More info](#)

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# Labour Market Information

## Animal care services occupations n.e.c.

Workers in this unit group care for animals held in kennels, stables, zoos and similar establishments, provide specialised training, grooming, clipping and trimming services for animals, and searches for and captures stray or nuisance dogs in public areas and perform a variety of animal care tasks not elsewhere classified in MINOR GROUP 613: Animal Care and Control Services.

- Common tasks in this job:
- feeds, washes, grooms, trims and exercises animals;
  - cleans animals' quarters and renews bedding as necessary;
  - houses, feeds, exercises, trains, grooms horses, dogs and other animals in preparation for entry to shows, races and other events;
  - checks animals for illness, treats minor ailments or calls for vet if further treatment is required;

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## Police officers (sergeant and below)

Police officers (Sergeant and below) co-ordinate and undertake the investigation of crimes, patrol public areas, arrest offenders and suspects and enforce law and order. Officers of the British Transport Police operate within the specialised police service for the railway network across Britain.

- Common tasks in this job:
- receives instructions from senior officers and patrols an assigned area on foot, horseback, motorcycle, motor car or boat to check security and enforce regulations;
  - directs and controls traffic or crowds at demonstrations and large public events;
  - investigates complaints, crimes, accidents, any suspicious activities or other incidents;
  - interviews suspects, takes statements from witnesses and stops, searches and/or arrests suspects;

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## Vocational and industrial trainers and instructors

Vocational and industrial trainers provide instruction in manual, manipulative and other vocational skills and advise on, plan and organise vocational instruction within industrial, commercial and other establishments.

- Common tasks in this job:
- assesses training requirements and prepares lectures, demonstrations and study aids;
  - supervises trainee development, assists trainees with difficulties and prepares regular progress reports on each trainee for management;
  - arranges work experience and instructional visits for trainees;
  - plans curriculum and rota of staff duties and updates or amends them in light of developments;

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Keep looking...

Use these links to learn more about our Job of The Week, consider the various pathways leading to the career, what you can be doing now to help yourself and other roles in the industry...

Take a look at these short videos for inspiration...

## Useful Websites

[Dog Handler | CAW Careers Advice](#)

[Dog handler | Join The Police \(joiningthepolice.co.uk\)](#)

[Dog Handler \(mod.uk\)](#)

[Military Working Dogs | Royal Air Force \(mod.uk\)](#)

[MOD Guard Service - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Animal Management Extended Diploma Level 3 - Boston College](#)

[Dog handler | Explore careers | National Careers Service](#)

The Dog Handler  
Highland Cops



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUESkGqGM8&pp=ygUzRE9hIEhIRMRVigSUgVgVhIFBPTTEjODQ%3D%3D>

Military dogs in the Arctic



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ofQ8wyOT5Dc&pp=ygUzRE9hIEhIRMRVigSUgVhFIEjSSVRJU0%3D%3D>

Hero sniffer  
at Heathrow airport



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kelmMHICv88&pp=ygUzYm9hcmRicjBpZjZ5ODcm9jIGRvZyBoYVW5kbGvYyHw>

A day in the life



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yoYwQXm633U&pp=ygUzZGF5IGluIHRob29kaWZlIGRvZyBoYVW5kbGvYyHw>