

Job of The Week

Veterinary Physiotherapist

Key Skills

- analytical thinking skills
- sensitivity and understanding
- to be flexible and open to change
- to enjoy working with other people
- counselling skills including active listening and a non-judgemental approach
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently
- customer service skills
- knowledge of psychology

Salary

£24,000 - £48,000

Working hours

38-40 a week
on call
as customers demand

Aspire | Challenge | Achieve

Veterinary Physiotherapist

Other Routes

You could train in animal massage or animal hydrotherapy, if you do not have a degree but want to work in a related area.

You can get more details about training from the:

- Equine Sports Massage Association
- National Association of Registered Canine Hydrotherapists
- Canine Massage Therapy Centre

Post 16

It's important to check different university entry requirements as these vary between institutions. It would be a good idea to take Biology along with 2 other A Levels

Apprenticeship

You could start by doing a physiotherapist degree apprenticeship. You could go on to complete a postgraduate award in veterinary physiotherapy.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need 2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, preferably including Biology, for a degree apprenticeship

University

You'll need one of the following qualifications:

- a degree in veterinary physiotherapy
- a degree in human physiotherapy, approved by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy

Entry requirements

You'll usually need 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4, or equivalent, including English, Maths and Science or 2 or 3 A levels, or equivalent, including Biology for a degree or a degree in a relevant subject for postgraduate study





Career path and progression

With experience, you could become a senior physiotherapist, or a specialist physiotherapist for breathing conditions or problems affecting the nervous system.

You could also set up your own animal physiotherapy practice or move into research

Day to Day tasks

In this role you could:

- plan exercise programmes
- write reports on the animal's progress
- visit animals in zoos, farms and homes
- apply massage and hydrotherapy techniques
- give advice on changes to animals' environments
- talk to owners and keepers to take the animal's case history
- attend clinics to see animals in need of physiotherapy after operations or an accident
- use manual and electro-therapy methods to reduce pain and help with movement

Working conditions

You could work at a veterinary practice or at a university.
Your working environment may be 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'.

Veterinary nurses

Weekly Pay £420	Annual Pay £21,840
Hours/Week 33h	Hourly Pay £13

Workforce Change (projected)

Growth 7.5%	Replacement 54.9%
-----------------------	-----------------------------

The workforce is projected to grow by 7.5% over the period to 2027, creating 1,300 jobs.
In the same period, 54.9% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 9,200 job openings.

You might find this job in
Veterinary
Health

[More info](#)

[Clear card](#)

Veterinarians

Weekly Pay £740	Annual Pay £38,480
Hours/Week 36h	Hourly Pay £21

Workforce Change (projected)

Growth 5.3%	Replacement 52.1%
-----------------------	-----------------------------

The workforce is projected to grow by 5.3% over the period to 2027, creating 1,400 jobs.
In the same period, 52.1% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 13,900 job openings.

You might find this job in
Veterinary
Social work

[More info](#)

[Clear card](#)

Physiotherapists

Weekly Pay £750	Annual Pay £39,000
Hours/Week 34h	Hourly Pay £22

Workforce Change (projected)

Growth 5.3%	Replacement 52.1%
-----------------------	-----------------------------

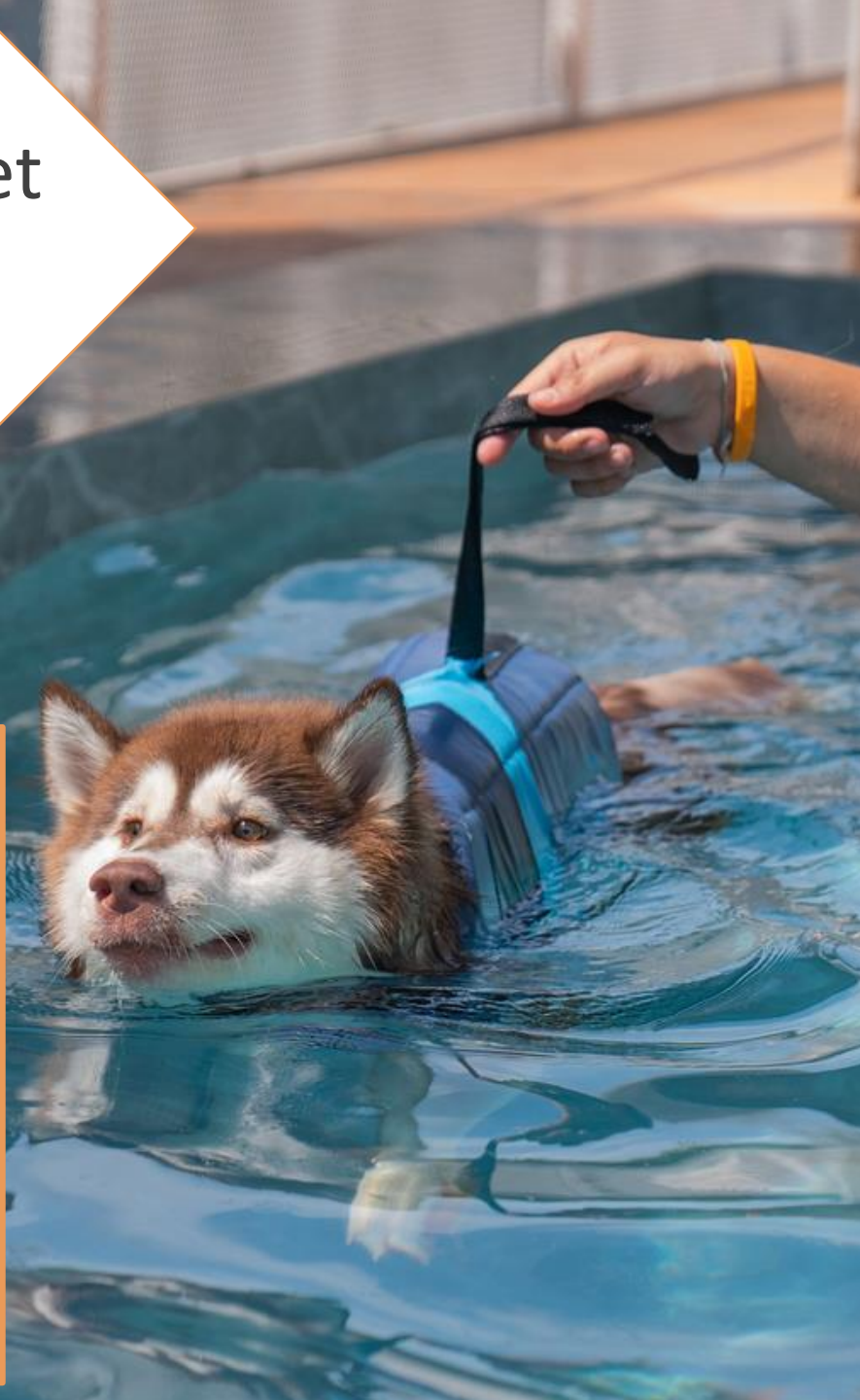
The workforce is projected to grow by 5.3% over the period to 2027, creating 3,700 jobs.
In the same period, 52.1% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 36,200 job openings.

You might find this job in
Health
Residential care
Social work
Public admin. & defence
Sport & recreation

[More info](#)

[Clear card](#)

Labour Market Information



Physiotherapists

Physiotherapists plan and apply massage, promote and encourage movement and exercise, use hydrotherapy, electro-therapy and other technological equipment in the treatment of a wide range of injuries, diseases and disabilities in order to assist rehabilitation by developing and restoring body systems.

Common tasks in this job:

- examines medical reports and assesses patient to determine the condition of muscles, nerves or joints in need of treatment;
- writes up patients' case notes and reports, maintains their records and manages caseload;
- plans and undertakes therapy to improve circulation, restore joint mobility, strengthen muscles and reduce pain;
- explains treatment to and instructs patient in posture and other exercises and adapts treatment as necessary;

Back

Clear card

Veterinarians

Veterinarians diagnose and treat animal injuries, diseases and disorders, and advise on preventative action. They may work in practices, specialising according to their location in either a rural or urban area, or in the public sector or associated industries such as pharmaceuticals, food production or drug regulation.

Common tasks in this job:

- examines animals, diagnoses condition and prescribes and administers appropriate drugs, dressings, etc., and arranges or undertakes any necessary x-ray or other tests;
- inoculates animals against communicable diseases;
- administers local or general anaesthetics and performs surgery;
- investigates outbreaks of animal diseases and advises owners on feeding, breeding and general care;

Back

Clear card

Veterinary nurses

Veterinary nurses provide assistance to veterinarians in the treatment and care of sick or injured animals.

Common tasks in this job:

- assists the veterinary surgeon during surgical and medical treatments of animals;
- prepares operating theatre, sterilises equipment and assists in theatre as required;
- dispenses and administers medication and applies dressings to animals under direction from the veterinarian;
- handles animals during treatment;

Back

Clear card

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...

Your guide to veterinary physiotherapy



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VbL-otApHL8&pp=ygUaVmV0ZXJpbmFyeSBwaHlzaW90aGVyYXBC3Q%3D>

Preparing the racehorse: Equine physiotherapy



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPnYmI3Awvg&pp=ygUaVmV0ZXJpbmFyeSBwaHlzaW90aGVyYXBC3Q%3D>

SG Veterinary Physiotherapy



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y6Db0kTj8hM&pp=ygUaVmV0ZXJpbmFyeSBwaHlzaW90aGVyYXBC3Q%3D>

Case Study | Amy Jones Veterinary Physiotherapy



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RkquGfCJlQ&pp=ygUaVmV0ZXJpbmFyeSBwaHlzaW90aGVyYXBC3Q%3D>

Useful Websites

[Veterinary physiotherapist | Explore careers | National Careers Service](#)

[Animal physiotherapist job profile | Prospects.ac.uk](#)

[Undergraduate - Veterinary Physiotherapy - Writtle University College](#)

[Find a physiotherapy programme | The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy \(csp.org.uk\)](#)

[EQUINE SPORTS MASSAGE ASSOCIATION | Equine Sports Massage Association \(equinemassageassociation.co.uk\)](#)

[Join ACPAT | ACPAT](#)