

## Veterinary Nurse

### Key Skills

- knowledge of animal health
- the ability to work well with others
- knowledge of biology
- the ability to work well with your hands
- excellent verbal communication skills
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently
- customer service skills
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations

### Salary

£18,000 - £26,000

### Working hours

35-40  
a week  
Evenings/weekends  
on a rota

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# Veterinary Nurse

## Post 16

Most universities require you to have an A Level in Biology

## College

You can study for a Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing at college

You'll spend some time in the classroom and periods of training on placement in veterinary practice

## Entry requirements

You'll need 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4, or equivalent, including English, Maths and Science

## Volunteering

You'll need some work experience before you start training. You could volunteer with a vet, a local kennel or animal welfare centre, or with animal charities like the PDSA or RSPCA

## Apprenticeship

You can do a veterinary nursing advanced apprenticeship

## Entry requirements

You'll usually need 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 or equivalent, including English, Maths and Science

## University

You could do a foundation degree or degree in veterinary nursing accredited by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons

## Entry requirements

You'll usually need at least 1 A level, or equivalent, for a foundation degree and 2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree



## Career path and progression

Look at progression in this role and similar opportunities.

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

## Day to Day tasks:

In this role you could:

- take x-rays
- keep the practice and equipment clean and hygienic
- prepare animals for treatment and assist vets during procedures
- give injections, medication and remove stitches
- take care of in-patient animals
- support and talk to pet owners about treatment and care of their animals
- do reception and administrative duties

## Working conditions

You could work at a veterinary practice or at an animal welfare centre. Your working environment may be physically and emotionally demanding. You may need to wear a uniform and protective clothing



# 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 <b>£420</b>	Annual Pay <b>£21,840</b>
Hours/Week <b>33h</b>	Hourly Pay <b>£13</b>

### Workforce Change (projected)

Growth <b>7.5%</b>	Replacement <b>54.9%</b>
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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](#)

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## Veterinarians

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

### Workforce Change (projected)

Growth <b>5.3%</b>	Replacement <b>52.1%</b>
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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](#)

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## 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>7.5%</b>	Replacement <b>54.9%</b>
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The workforce is projected to grow by 7.5% over the period to 2027, creating 5,900 jobs. In the same period, 54.9% 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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# Labour Market Information

## 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;

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## 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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## 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;

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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...

## Useful Websites

[Veterinary Nurses | Career profile | UCAS](#)

<https://jobs.army.mod.uk/roles/army-medical-service/veterinary-technician/>

[BSc Veterinary Nursing - BSc Veterinary Nursing - Undergraduate - Study - Royal Veterinary College, RVC](#)

[Careers - British Veterinary Nursing Association](#)  
[British Veterinary Nursing Association \(bvna.org.uk\)](#)

[Working for you - British Veterinary Nursing Association](#)  
[British Veterinary Nursing Association \(bvna.org.uk\)](#)

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

### Veterinary Nurse Apprentice



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cF6c2XZAy0Y>

### A day in the Life of a Equine Veterinary Nurse



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BfZBkQjVVMs>

### Veterinary Nurse



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sg8wbhDcB70>

### Being a Wildlife Veterinary Nurse



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mxZb-JYAwQ0>

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