Veterinary Science
Preparatory Training for the Veterinary Assistant
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The Veterinary Assistant

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Objectives

- Describe the job requirements of a veterinary assistant
- Describe the different career opportunities open to the veterinary assistant
- Discuss the role of the veterinary assistant in the veterinary practice
- Describe the scholastic requirements for achieving certification as a veterinary assistant
Veterinary Assistant (VA) Basic Job Requirements

- Veterinary Assistant Graduate (VA)
- Study course
  - 4-H Veterinary Science Program
  - Ag Sc Veterinary Medical Applications Course
  - Online Veterinary Science Program
- Clinical apprenticeship
  - >500 clinical work hours
  - Veterinary experience
  - Animal experience
Participate in extra-curricular leadership and citizenship activities

- 4-H Veterinary Science Program
- Ag Sc Veterinary Medical Applications Course
- Online Veterinary Science Program
- 4-H animal projects
- FFA animal projects
- Ag Co-op program
- Animal associations/societies memberships
- Animal publication subscriptions
- Animal show/performance clubs
Career Opportunities

- Large and small animal clinical practices
- State/Federal regulatory agencies
- Diagnostic laboratories
- Research laboratories
- Education institutions
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Pet food/equipment suppliers
- Pet stores
- Aquariums
- Zoos
- Animal shelters
Patient Care Support Skills
Clinical Practice

- Clinic (Hospital), Field (Ambulatory), Zoo (Exotic)
  - Communicating with clients on admitting animals
    - Taking reasons, history
  - Handling animals
    - Calming, moving
    - Weighing
    - Restraining
  - Examining animals
    - Temperaturing
  - Recording medical records
    - History
    - Examination
    - Vital signs
  - Handling instruments
- Collecting lab samples
  - Feces, blood, urine, skin
- Taking radiographs
- Medicating animals
- Bandaging animals
- Monitoring behavior of animals
- Assisting in surgery
- Recording medical records
  - Treatment
- Preparing surgical packs
- Monitoring drug inventory
- Cleaning and exercising animals
- Communicating with clients on dismissing animals
  - Instructions, educational materials
Laboratory Support Skills
Diagnostic, Research, Education

- Diagnostic – Research – Teaching Laboratory
  - Microbiology
  - Parasitology
  - Hematology
  - Urology
  - Radiology
One Health Support Skills
Regulatory Medicine

- Integrated animal health, human health, and environmental health
  - Disease surveillance
  - Disease investigation
  - Disease control
  - Disease eradication
  - Homeland biosecurity
  - Farm biosecurity
  - Home biosecurity
  - Food safety
  - Zoonosis
Scholastic Requirements

- Plan HS curriculum with advanced sciences
  - Calculus
  - Physics
  - Chemistry
  - Zoology (genetics, nutrition, biology)
  - Microbiology
  - Animal science (Ag Sc)