

Pet Behaviour Counsellor

Pet behaviour counsellors help pet owners deal with animal behaviour problems.

Annual Salary

£15,000 to £50,000

Working hours

Variable

5%

Future employment

There will be 5% more Pet behaviour counsellor jobs in 2023.
In your local area

What's it all about?

What you'll do

You'll work with animal behaviour problems like:

- inappropriate noise, like excessive barking
- aggression towards people or animals
- destructive behaviour
- toileting issues
- chasing livestock, cars or cyclists
- phobias and fearful behaviours
- general control

Your day-to-day duties might include:

- taking referrals from vets
- holding consultations in your own centre, in veterinary surgeries or in owners' homes
- talking to owners and observing animals
- looking at the nature of the problem and likely causes
- writing a behaviour-modification programme
- checking progress
- adapting the modification programme if necessary

You might also offer an animal training service.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need a degree in a related subject like:

- animal behaviour
- animal behaviour and welfare
- animal management
- zoology with animal behaviour

You'll also need paid or unpaid experience of working with animals, like dog training or handling, or working in a kennels or vets.

It may help to work towards national standards or membership of a professional body.

The [Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors \(APBC\)](#) has information about careers in pet behaviour counselling.

The [Cambridge Institute of Dog Behaviour and Training \(CIDBT\)](#) and [Pet Education, Training and Behaviour Council](#) have information on specialist training courses.

The [PDSA](#), [RSPCA](#) and [Blue Cross](#) have information on voluntary opportunities.

Employment by region

02,0004,0006,0008,000South WestWalesYorkshire and the HumberSouth EastNorth WestWest MidlandsScotlandEast MidlandsEast of EnglandNorthern IrelandLondonNorth East

Region	Jobs
South West	4,462
Wales	2,022
Yorkshire and the Humber	2,921
South East	5,933
North West	4,583
West Midlands	3,998
Scotland	3,583
East Midlands	3,634
East of England	4,645
Northern Ireland	1,101
London	7,879
North East	1,582

Salary

£15,000 to £50,000

Starter salary: £15,000 to £17,000

Experienced salary: £25,000

If you're self-employed, you'll charge around £85 to £250 for consultations.

Full time salaried posts are rare. You might supplement your income with related work, like animal training or writing articles on animal behaviour.

These figures are a guide.

Working hours

Variable

You'll need to fit in with your clients, which could mean working evenings and weekends.

You could be based in your own premises, in veterinary surgeons' clinics or visit owners' homes.

You may spend time working outside.

A driving licence will be useful.

Career path and progression

With the right qualifications and experience you can apply to the [Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour](#) for Certified Clinical Animal Behaviourist (CCAB) status. This will allow you entry onto the Register of Certified Clinical Animal Behaviourists.

You could set up your own practice or consultancy, or move into teaching or lecturing.

Veterinary Physiotherapist

Alternative titles for this job include Animal physiotherapist

Veterinary physiotherapists work with injured animals, or animals with movement problems, to help reduce pain and improve their health.

Average salary (a year)

£18,500 Starter

to

£65,000 Experienced

Typical hours (a week)

38 to 40 a week

You could work

on call as customers demand

1. [How to become](#)
2. [What it takes](#)
3. [What you'll do](#)
4. [Career path and progression](#)
5. [Training opportunities](#)

How to become a veterinary physiotherapist

You can get into this job through:

- a university course
- an apprenticeship
- specialist courses run by private training organisations

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](#), and a postgraduate course in veterinary physiotherapy
- a postgraduate Advanced Certificate in Veterinary Physiotherapy through [Canine and Equine Physiotherapy Training](#)

Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C) including a science subject
- 2 or 3 A levels, including a biological science for a degree
- a degree in a relevant subject for postgraduate study

More information

- [equivalent entry requirements](#)
- [student finance for fees and living costs](#)
- [finance for postgraduate courses](#)
- [university courses and entry requirements](#)

Apprenticeship

You can start by doing a physiotherapist degree apprenticeship. You will then complete a postgraduate award in veterinary physiotherapy.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- 2 to 3 A levels, preferably including biology, for a degree apprenticeship

More information

- [equivalent entry requirements](#)
- [guide to apprenticeships](#)

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 Massage Association](#)

- [National Association of Registered Canine Hydrotherapists](#)
- [Canine Massage Therapy Centre](#)

More information

Professional and industry bodies

You can join the [Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Animal Therapy](#) for professional development and training opportunities.

Further information

You can find out more about becoming a veterinary physiotherapist from:

- [The Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Animal Therapy](#)
- [National Association of Veterinary Physiotherapists](#)
- [The Institute of Registered Veterinary and Animal Physiotherapists](#)

What it takes

Skills and knowledge

You'll need:

- sensitivity and understanding
- to enjoy working with other people
- customer service skills
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- analytical thinking skills
- counselling skills including active listening and a non-judgemental approach
- to be flexible and open to change
- knowledge of psychology
- to be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held device

What you'll do

Day-to-day tasks

On a day-to-day basis you'll be:

- planning exercise programmes
- using manual and electro-therapy methods to reduce pain and help with movement
- applying massage and hydrotherapy techniques
- giving advice on changes to animals' environments

Working environment

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.

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.

Training opportunities

Apprenticeships in England

We can't find any apprenticeship vacancies in England for a veterinary physiotherapist right now.

The [Find an apprenticeship service](#) can help you with your search, send alerts when new apprenticeships become available and has advice on how to apply.

Courses in England

[Health and Physiotherapy Access to Higher Education Diploma Level 3](#)

- **Provider:** MANCHESTER COLLEGE (THE)
- **Start date:** 16 September 2019
- **Location:** Manchester

[Access to HE Health & Human Sciences \(Physiotherapy\)](#)

- **Provider:** Richmond and Hillcroft Adult and Community College
- **Start date:** 16 September 2019
- **Location:** Richmond