

Animal Care Worker

Animal care workers look after animals in places like kennels, rescue centres or sanctuaries.

Annual Salary

£11,000 to £15,000 or more

Working hours

Variable

7%

Future employment

There will be 7% more Animal care worker jobs in 2022.

[In your local area](#)



What's it all about?

What you'll do

You'll look after animals in places like kennels, animal rescue centres and sanctuaries. You could also work in animal hospitals, [Blue Cross](#) adoption centres or as an animal collection officer for the [RSPCA](#).

Your day-to-day duties may include:

- preparing food and feeding, cleaning and grooming the animals
- exercising dogs in a yard or taking them for walks
- cleaning out kennels, pens and cages, and changing bedding
- looking after animals who become ill or distressed
- answering queries from colleagues and visitors
- ensuring that animal enclosures are maintained

Depending on your role, you may also have to keep records, take bookings and advise owners on how to look after their animals.

You may specialise in animal massage or hydrotherapy, working with animals recovering from injury or undergoing treatment for mobility problems.

Entry requirements

There are no set requirements, but some employers may ask for qualifications like GCSEs.

Experience of working with animals will help. You could gain this through [voluntary work](#) or work experience in year 10.

Taking a college course in an area like animal care could help you gain some of the

skills and knowledge you need in this job.

You could get into this job through an [apprenticeship](#).

[Lantra](#) has more information on being an animal care worker.

Salary

£11,000 to £15,000 or more

Starter salary: £11,000

Experienced salary: £13,000

These figures are a guide.

Working hours

Variable

Working hours, patterns and environment

You may work shifts, including early starts and some evenings and weekends.

Working with animals can involve hard physical work, and you may work outdoors in all weathers.

Career path and progression

With experience, you could progress to supervisor or manager, or become self-employed.

You could also use your experience to move into other animal care careers, like veterinary nursing.

For further information and case studies on video, log on to www.careerpilot.org.uk

Courses can be done at Duchy College, Stoke Climsland