

## CAREER PROFILE

### VETERINARY ASSISTANT

#### **JOB DESCRIPTION**

Veterinary assistants handle routine animal care and help veterinarians and veterinary technicians.

- Feed, bathe and exercise animals
- Clean and disinfect cages and exams and operating rooms
- Restrain animals during exams and procedures
- Sterilize surgical instruments and equipment
- Care for animals after surgery
- Provide emergency first aid to sick and injured animals
- Give medication or immunizations prescribed by veterinarian
- Assist in collecting blood, urine, and tissue samples

#### **PAY**

\$36,440 per year (\$17.52 per hour) as of May 2023

#### **JOB OUTLOOK**

20% (Much faster than average) 2022-32

#### **EDUCATION/TRAINING**

Most workers entering the occupation have a high school diploma or equivalent and receive short-term on-the-job training.

#### **VET TECHS & VET ASSISTANTS NEED SIMILAR SKILLS:**

- **Communication skills**—To communicate with staff and effectively explain instructions and procedures to animal owners.
- **Compassion**—To treat animals with kindness and sensitivity when dealing with owners of sick pets.
- **Detail-oriented**—in order to follow instructions exactly as directed.
- **Manual dexterity**—To carefully handle animals, medical instruments, and laboratory equipment.
- **Physical strength**—To handle, move, and restrain animals.

### VETERINARY TECHNICIAN

#### **JOB DESCRIPTION**

Registered veterinary technicians (RVTs) provide a wide range of care for animal patients. Their duties are a combination of the veterinary equivalent of a nurse, surgical technician, anesthetist, medical technologist, dental hygienist, pharmacy technician, and x-ray technician. They:

- Observe the behavior and condition of animals through patient assessments
- Provide nursing care or emergency first aid to recovering or injured animals
- Bathe animals, clip nails or claws, and brush or cut animals' hair
- Restrain animals during exams or procedures
- Administer anesthesia to animals and monitor them
- Take x rays
- Collect and perform laboratory tests, such as urinalysis and blood counts
- Prepare animals, instruments and equipment for surgery
- Prepare, dispense and administer medications, vaccines, and treatments prescribed by a veterinarian
- Perform dental cleaning and simple extractions
- Educate clients about home care for wounds, bandages, dental health, etc.
- Assist with emergency care
- Collect and record animals' case histories

#### **PAY**

\$36,850 per year (\$17.72 per hour) as of May 2023.

#### **JOB OUTLOOK**

21% (Much faster than average) 2022-32

#### **EDUCATION/TRAINING**

A two-year associate's degree is needed in Ohio, along with successful completion of the Veterinarian Technician National Exam (VTNE).

#### **LICENSING REQUIREMENTS**

Must be licensed with the Ohio Veterinarian Medical Licensing Board (OVMLB) to practice in Ohio.

## CERTIFICATE/DEGREE PROGRAMS

*A vet tech program is not meant to be a “stepping stone” to another program. Vet tech coursework does not transfer to a veterinarian degree. It is much like a program for an RN compared to an MD on the human side. At The Ohio State University, for example, veterinary technology courses do not qualify as entrance requirements for The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine, nor do they apply toward a veterinary degree there.*

### **CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

*Metropolitan Campus, Cleveland*

#### **Associate of Applied Science degree in Veterinary Technology (2-year program)**

24 students per year are accepted into the program. Typically there is a waitlist. Once accepted into the program, full-time students attend Tri-C's Western Campus for five semesters of study, including a 10-week summer session between the first and second years. Most terms, full-time students attend classes four-to-five days a week.

Graduates of the Tri-C Veterinary Technology Program are fully approved for registry in Ohio by the state's Veterinary Medical Licensing Board (OVMLB). Graduates must receive a passing score on the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE) and pass a criminal background check in order to become registered.

[www.tri-c.edu/programs/health-careers/veterinary-technology/index.html](http://www.tri-c.edu/programs/health-careers/veterinary-technology/index.html)

### **KENT STATE TRUMBALL AND TUSCARAWAS BRANCH CAMPUSES**

*Warren and New Philadelphia*

#### **Associate of Applied Science degree in Veterinary Technology (2-year program)**

Prepares graduates to serve as veterinary technicians performing support functions, including routine laboratory and clinical procedures. Other growing employment opportunities are expected in biomedical research, diagnostic laboratories, wildlife facilities, humane societies, and animal control facilities.

Upon completion, graduates are eligible to take the Veterinary Technician National Examination.

[catalog.kent.edu/colleges/ap/veterinary-technology-aas/#text](http://catalog.kent.edu/colleges/ap/veterinary-technology-aas/#text)

### **STAUTZENBERGER COLLEGE**

*Brecksville, on-campus and on-line*

#### **Veterinary Technician Associate Degree (2-year program)**

The program is fully accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). Students are prepared to take the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE).

**Animal Welfare Administration diploma program (9 months on-line)** with option to continue to earn an **Animal Welfare Business Administration Associate Degree (additional 7 months)**.

**Veterinary Assistant and Grooming Diploma (12-month on-line program)**

[https://www.sctoday.edu/programs/animal\\_science](https://www.sctoday.edu/programs/animal_science)

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**What is a Vet Tech? Video from Tri-C:** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=12V1AG6lJuo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12V1AG6lJuo)

**Ohio Association of Vet Technicians:** [ohiorvt.org/index.htm](http://ohiorvt.org/index.htm)

FAQs: [ohiorvt.org/faq.htm](http://ohiorvt.org/faq.htm)

**Differences Between a Vet Tech and Vet Assistant Article:**

<https://www.avma.org/resources/pet-owners/yourvet/veterinary-technicians-and-veterinary-assistants>