



# VETERINARY ASSISTANT

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## Job Description

Veterinary assistants and laboratory animal caretakers handle routine animal care and help scientists, veterinarians, and veterinary technologists and technicians with their daily tasks.

Veterinary assistants and laboratory animal caretakers typically do the following:

- Feed, bathe, and exercise animals
- Clean and disinfect cages, kennels, and examination and operating rooms
- Restrain animals during examination and laboratory procedures
- Maintain and sterilize surgical instruments and equipment
- Monitor and care for animals after surgery
- Help provide emergency first aid to sick and injured animals
- Give medication or immunizations that veterinarians prescribe
- Assist in collecting blood, urine, and tissue samples

Veterinary assistants and laboratory animal caretakers also provide nursing care before surgery and other medical procedures. They may prepare equipment and pass surgical instruments and materials to veterinarians during surgery. They also move animals during testing and other procedures

## Employment Outlook

Employment of veterinary assistants and laboratory animal caretakers is projected to grow 14 percent from 2020 to 2030, faster than the average for all occupations. In CT, Vet Assistants earn \$29,780 a year.

About 19,800 openings for veterinary assistants and laboratory animal caretakers are projected each year, on average, over the decade. Many of those openings are expected to result from the need to replace workers who transfer to different occupations or exit the labor force, such as to retire.

## Admission Requirements

Students must be 18 years of age and have a high school diploma or GED to enroll in this course.

## Students participating in this program must be able to:

- Observe, monitor, and/or assess client, and read fine print on monitors, devices, and gauges.



- Move quickly from place to place and perform direct care.
- Tolerate walking and standing for sustained and prolonged periods of time (85% of workday).
- Lift from floor to waist level and/or carrying up to 40 pounds unassisted frequently, and up to fifty pounds or more with assistance occasionally.
- Bend over at the waist, twist the trunk, squat, kneel, reach above the head, and have sufficient grip strength.
- Have the body size, conformation, and fitness to do the physical work required of a veterinary medical professional.
- Perform multiple motor tasks simultaneously.
- Possess fine and gross motor skills sufficient to handle equipment and provide safe and effective client care; keen sense of touch; awareness of self in relationship to surroundings, steady arm and hand movements while manipulating objects or assisting the veterinarian, veterinary technician and/or patients (a variety of animal species).
- Complete basic math and algebra calculations.

### **Program Description**

The Veterinary Assistant program includes 150 hours of classroom instruction, and 50 hours of clinical training which train people for a career working as a veterinary assistant. Students will learn veterinary terminology, feline and canine behavior and restraint, husbandry of exotics and pocket pets, exam room procedures, pharmacology, and inventory, as well as nursing skills, vaccine protocols, treatment, and prevention of internal and external parasites, and much more. Students will gain an understanding of a variety of common diseases and medical conditions seen in clinical practice. Students will also learn nursing skills, such as taking vitals, bandage application, and ear/eye medicine administration, vaccine protocols, treatment, and prevention of internal and external parasites. Hospitalized patient care including cleaning, feeding, walking, fluid therapy, and pain management, as well as the importance of teamwork in veterinary practice will be discussed. Finally, students will learn about the assistant's role in surgical procedures including patient prep and recovery, surgical room conduct, and surgical instrument and supply care.

### **Learning outcomes**

- Define the roles and responsibilities of the veterinarian, veterinary technician, and veterinary assistant
- Knowledge of the veterinary code of ethics as defined by the AVMA
- Ability to schedule appointments according to the appointment requirements
- Follow appropriate check in, admission and discharge procedures including confirming client information and creating an invoice with taking a payment
- Properly apply and utilize directional terms in relation to body position
- Observe feline behavior to provide a less stress environment and utilize appropriate handling techniques for safety of the patient and technician/veterinarian
- Knowledge of vaccinations for cats and dogs and the location of administration

- Observe canine behavior to provide a less stress environment and utilize appropriate handling techniques for safety of the patient and technician/veterinarian
- Obtain a patient history to include weight, body condition score, diet information from the client and when applicable for emergency triage to include temperature, respiration rate, pulse/heart rate and capillary refill time/mucous membrane color
- Identifying anatomy and physiology of dogs and cat body systems
- Proper positioning and restraint techniques in radiology
- Follow simple bandage application and removal, as well as nutritional support
- Restraint for blood and urine collection and result recording
- Prepare the following lab procedures; blood smear prep, SNAP test set up, urine test strip use, refractometer use and set up, urine sediment set up (not required to read), ear cytology slide prep
- Collection of fecal samples for flotation and smears
- Restraint techniques for assisting in anesthetic induction and intubation
- Identify common surgical instruments found in a general surgery pack/spay pack including suture and scalpel blade size
- Knowledge of large animals and regular practice in the care of a large animal

***The Essential Job Skills & Career Development course is REQUIRED to receive a certificate of completion for the Veterinary Assistant program.***

Please be aware that students with previous convictions may find it difficult to secure employment within a healthcare setting.

### **Time Commitment**

This 6-month program includes 150 hours of classroom instruction, 50 hours of clinical and a 14-hour Essentials Job Skills & Career and Development course. This training is scheduled upon successful completion of the Veterinary Assistant course.

**CRN: 1539/ 1540 HMED M7077**

**Dates: March 30, 2023 to September 21, 2023 (no class 5/29, 6/19, 7/3, 7/31, 8/3, 8/7, 8/10, 9/4)**

**Day: Mondays and Thursdays**

**Time: 6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.**

**Fee: \$3,135 (cost includes textbooks)**

**Instructor: Michelle Anderson**

**Room: 230**

**Instruction type: On Campus**

**HYBRID:** This type of course delivery includes on-site and online instruction (combination of LRON and on ground or ONLINE and on ground) with a focus on scheduling limited number of class

sessions on campus. Blackboard use is the same as online or LRON, depending on the mode of delivery.

### **Payment Information**

Total cost including the Veterinary Assistant course, textbooks, MANDATORY clinical and the Essentials Job Skills & Career Development course is \$3,308. Payment plans are available for this program.

This program is **CT SNAP** & **CT WIOA** approved.

### **Contact Information**

For more information or to register please call 860.253.3028 or email [AS-continuinged@asnuntuck.edu](mailto:AS-continuinged@asnuntuck.edu)

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