

Just the Job

Information Sheet

Veterinary Nurse

Job description

Veterinary nurses may do some or all of the following:

- clean the cages and surgery areas, and carry out general cleaning duties at a veterinary clinic
- carry out administrative and receptionist duties at a clinic and give advice to clients over the phone
- liaise with clients
- order stock and help to look after the retail sales side of the practice
- feed and exercise animals
- perform diagnostic tests and keep records
- perform duties on behalf of veterinarians, such as taking and developing radiographs, collecting blood samples, and testing animals for pregnancy
- care for sick and injured animals, and look after them before and after an operation
- clean, sterilise and prepare surgical instruments and other equipment used during operations
- assist during surgical operations including monitoring the anaesthetic
- administer medication and injections
- accompany and assist veterinarians on call-outs to locations such as houses and farms
- run or help to run support services including animal weight loss clinics and dog training classes.

Qualifications required

National Certificate in Animal Care

National Certificate in Veterinary Nursing

National Diploma in Veterinary Nursing

Certificate in Rural Animal Technology

Training

Training in Veterinary Nursing is provided throughout New Zealand. There are ten providers. Six of them provide the National Certificate and National Diploma in Veterinary Nursing. These providers offer their own local courses – UCOL, UNITEC, WINTEC and VetNurse Plus.

Other NZVA Accredited Courses

Certificate in Veterinary Nursing

Vet Nurse Plus

Diploma in Veterinary Nursing
Unitec

Diploma in Veterinary Nursing
UCOL

Diploma in Veterinary Nursing
WINTERC

Salary range

Certificate in Veterinary Nursing 2011

New graduate* \$16
1 – 3 years experience in the profession \$19
3 – 5 years experience in the profession \$19 – \$21
5 years plus \$21 plus

Diploma in Veterinary Nursing 2011

New graduate* \$19
1 – 3 years experience in the profession \$19 – \$21
3 – 5 years experience in the profession \$21 - \$24
5 years plus \$24 plus

The wage scale recommendations are only guidelines and the wage offered to veterinary nurses varies between each clinic. What you might be paid could fall below or above this recommendation.

Benefits

- Uniform to be supplied
- Membership of NZVNA
- Continuing Education – both release from work to attend and registration paid

Veterinary Nurse Receptionists

Veterinary Nurse Receptionists are the first point of contact for clients:

- Pay should be at Veterinary Nursing Rates
- Use of knowledge gained from qualification
- Trained in triage

Other careers this profession could lead to

Veterinary nursing - small, mixed, equine or specialist clinics
Ministry of Primary Industries
Welfare organizations

Zoological gardens
Laboratories
Teaching
Industry e.g. representative for companies

How to increase the chances of successfully entering this industry

Enthusiasm
Initiative
Volunteering for work experience at veterinary clinics and other other relevant work places
Not afraid to get your hands dirty
Ability to communicate in a clear, precise manner in both written and verbal skills

Other places to source information about this job

www.NZVNA.org.nz

International Veterinary Organisations

- American Animal Hospitals Association
- British Veterinary Nursing Association
- International Veterinary Nurses and Technicians Association
- National Association of Veterinary Technicians of America
- Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, United Kingdom
- Veterinary Nurses Council of Australia

Employment Agencies

- Australian Employment Agency
- Vets and Nurses Jobline
- UK Locum Agency
- Veterinary Locum Agency
- Vetlink Employment Service