# Working with Animals

## Introduction

A love for animals can lead to a rewarding career

Let’s take a look at some interesting jobs

### Rancher

Raise animals for food, leather, and other byproducts

Attend college to major in:

Agriculture

Animal Science

Range Management

Requires large investment to buy the land, animals, and equipment

### Ranch manager

Works for the ranch owner

Manages the ranch operations

Usually a college graduate

Salary can be $50,000 or more

### Cow Hand

Performs day-to-day chores on the ranch

Lifestyle more important than salary

Salary range is $12,000 to $16,000

### Pet Store Owner

Animal lovers with good business skills

Requires initial investment to acquire store

Jobs in the pet store usually earn minimum wage

Store clerk

Kennel worker

Dog grooming

### Horse Trainer

Top horse trainers can charge $500-$1000 per month per horse

May show horse as well as train

Can work for a horse breeder to avoid self-employment

### Animal breeder

Good second job or a job for a stay-at-home parent

Good puppies can be sold at 6-8 weeks of age for $200-$400

Requires knowledge of:

Hereditary diseases

Birthing problems

Disease recognition and prevention

Must have facilities that are sanitary and environmentally controlled

### Park Ranger

Work in remote forests or popular tourist attractions

Oversee stocking of lakes with fish

Ensure campers, fishermen, and hunters follow regulations

### Zoo Keeper

Care for the animals on a day-to-day basis

Involves cleaning, feeding and day to day husbandry

There are waiting lists for employment in the better zoos

Requires a degree in zoology, animal science, or veterinary technology

Previous animal care experience a must

### Veterinarian

4 year post-baccalaureate to obtain D.V.M. or V.M.D. degree

1-year internship before going into practice

Starting salary around $30,000

Established practices may make $70,000-$100,000 per year

Specialists can make over $100,000/year

### Veterinary assistants

Help vets with the care and treatment of animals

2 or 4-year college programs in animal health science, veterinary science, animal science

Trade school programs provide 8-12 month course in veterinary technology

Learn on the job in a veterinary clinic

Starting salary usually at minimum wage

Experienced may eventually earn $8-$12/hour or more

## Closing

Choosing a career is one of the most important decisions you will make

Talk to people doing the job to hear how they got started

Use the Internet to research a career

Volunteer to see if you will like a job

The Animal Rescue Foundation is a great place to start!