

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!