

# **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!