

Veterinarians

SOC: 29-1131 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

<div>\$125,510</div> <div>Median Salary</div>	<div>86,400</div> <div>Employment</div>	<div>+10.0%</div> <div>Growth Rate</div>
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■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Doctoral

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 8.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.
This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■■ Work-Life Balance

9.0/10 - Excellent work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	5.4/10	Investigative	8.6/10
Artistic	4.8/10	Social	9.0/10
Enterprising	5.4/10	Conventional	6.2/10

■ Top Skills Required

Communication skills, Compassion, Decision-making skills, Manual dexterity, Problem-solving skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Veterinarians diagnose, treat, and prevent **diseases and injuries in animals, providing medical care to pets, livestock, and wildlife**. They perform examinations, prescribe medications, conduct surgeries, and advise on nutrition and health management. Their work is critical in animal health, public health, and food safety.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy working with animals, solving medical problems, and providing care and guidance.

What Do Veterinarians Do?

These professionals provide medical services, perform procedures, and counsel animal owners on health and welfare.

Common responsibilities include:

- Examining animals and diagnosing health conditions
- Prescribing medications, vaccines, and treatment plans
- Performing surgeries and other medical procedures
- Advising owners on nutrition, behavior, and preventative care
- Monitoring recovery and providing follow-up care
- Keeping detailed medical records and documentation
- Collaborating with veterinary technicians, staff, and specialists

Key Areas of Veterinary Practice

Veterinarians may focus on specific species, medical specialties, or practice types:

- Small Animal Care: Treating pets such as cats, dogs, and exotic animals
- Large Animal and Livestock Care: Managing farm animals and herd health
- Surgery and Medical Procedures: Performing operations and specialized treatments
- Preventive Medicine and Wellness: Vaccinations, nutrition, and disease prevention
- Research and Public Health: Studying animal diseases and advising on food safety and epidemiology

Skills and Abilities Needed

These professionals combine medical knowledge, technical skill, and interpersonal abilities.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

This role requires extensive education, training, and licensure:

- Bachelor's Degree (minimum): Pre-veterinary studies, biology, or related field
- Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM): Accredited veterinary school program
- Clinical Internship or Residency (optional): Specialized practice training
- State Licensure: Required to practice as a veterinarian
- Continuing Education: Staying current with medical advancements, procedures, and regulations

Where Do Veterinarians Work?

They are employed in organizations providing animal care, research, and public health services:

- Private Veterinary Clinics and Hospitals
- Animal Shelters and Rescue Organizations
- Farms, Ranches, and Livestock Operations
- Zoos, Aquariums, and Wildlife Conservation Centers

- Government Agencies and Research Institutions

Work environments include clinics, hospitals, farms, laboratories, and field locations.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires extensive education, technical skill, and emotional resilience. Veterinarians must manage complex medical cases, handle emergencies, and communicate effectively with animal owners.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy working with animals and providing medical care
- Have strong problem-solving and analytical skills
- Are compassionate, patient, and detail-oriented
- Can handle emotionally challenging situations
- Want a career promoting animal health, welfare, and public safety

How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in biology, chemistry, and animal science
- Volunteer or intern in veterinary clinics, shelters, or farms
- Gain experience in animal care and handling
- Explore undergraduate and veterinary school programs
- Develop skills in communication, problem-solving, and medical procedures

Veterinarians provide essential medical care for animals, protect public health, and contribute to the well-being of both pets and livestock through diagnosis, treatment, and preventive care.