

Veterinary Nurse

What Veterinary Nurses do:

Veterinary nurse responsibilities are varied from admitting patients, supporting clinical examination, laboratory testing and preparing animals for surgical procedures. Nurses support veterinarians in treating hospitalised patients, monitoring fluids, observations and using technical monitoring equipment. Scrubbing in for surgical procedures, monitoring anaesthetics and assisting in dental procedures are daily tasks of a nurse.



Instrument cleaning and sterilising, theatre preparation and maintaining patient cleanliness is a major part of the role. Reception work, maintaining patient records, financial transactions, scheduling appointments and work flow is part of the job. Communication with clients about medical updates, empathy in times of grief and enjoying satisfaction when a long-term patient goes home fit and well. Client education on all aspects of pet care including nutrition, preventative health care, dental care and training/behavioral advice.

Veterinary nurses provide technical, surgical and medical care to sick and injured animals under the direction of a veterinarian. Veterinary nurses may be employed in many types of veterinary practice including small animal, large animal, zoos, exotics, specialist, emergency and teaching hospitals. They may be required to work shift work and weekends or be on call for emergencies. They work in the veterinary industry.

You will like this job if...

You like working with animals and people as you will be required to interact with clients regularly. Can work well as part of a team, but also takes initiative to work independently. You like variety in your day and are a good organiser with attention to detail. You have a caring compassionate nature and enjoy helping people and their pets. You have good communication skills and can work well under pressure.

A day in the life...

Work as a Veterinary Nurse may involve these tasks:

- Admitting and discharging patients, reception duties
- Caring for hospitalised patients and restraining animals
- Preparing theatre and patients for surgery, monitoring anaesthetics, assisting in theatre and recovering patients
- Pathology testing, laboratory work
- Assisting in a range of medical and imaging procedures
- Laundry and cleaning duties, instrument care and sterilisation

VET Qualifications

The following government-subsidised qualifications are available in NSW

Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing (ACM40418)

- Nationally recognised base qualification required to be a Veterinary Nurse
- Average course duration: 30 months (full time)
- Available as a traineeship
- Both face to face and online study options
- Must complete work placement hours

Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (ACM50519)

- 4 Diplomas available – General Practice, Surgery, Emergency and Critical Care, Dentistry
- Average course duration: 12 – 18 months part time
Must complete work placement hours and for specialised Diplomas there are specific working requirements

Skills Required:

- Communicate with clients
- Comply with WHS guidelines and legislation
- Operate, clean and maintain a variety of anesthetic, surgical, medical and laboratory equipment
- Animal handling skills
- Knowledge of animal anatomy and physiology
- Reception and administration skills

For more information visit: <https://nswagrifooditab.com.au> or

<https://www.vnca.asn.au/about-veterinary-nursing/becoming-a-veterinary-nurse/>

Will I get a job?

- There has been a huge influx of student and new graduate veterinary nurses in recent years making it difficult for veterinary nurses to gain employment. Casual and part time employment is common. Many job advertisements are looking for Veterinary Nurses with a minimum of 2 years experience.

What will I earn?

- The award full-time weekly salary for a qualified veterinary nurse is \$ 941.10 (before tax, excluding super).

Main Employing Industries

- Veterinary Practices
- Veterinary pharmaceutical and food companies

Roles to Look For

- Veterinary Nurse
- Practice Manager



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