



## Veterinary Assistant

### The Veterinary Assistant Profession

Veterinary Assisting is a rewarding career in a growing field. As a Veterinary Assistant, students can work with animals and be a part of a professional veterinary staff. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the demand for professional veterinary assistants will rise 39% by 2020.

### Veterinary Assistant Program

Enjoy the rewards of working with animals! This exciting new Veterinary Assistant Program can help students make a difference by learning to keep animals healthy, care for them when they are ill, and assist veterinarians in their offices. This Veterinary Assistant program provides students an opportunity to obtain the necessary knowledge and skills to succeed in an entry-level position in the field of veterinary technology. Through classroom lectures and hands on labs, students who complete this program will be prepared to assist veterinarians and veterinary technicians in providing quality animal care including:

- Obtaining and recording patient information;
- Preparing patients, instruments and equipment for surgery;
- Collecting samples and perform certain lab procedures;
- Dressing wounds; assisting in diagnostic and medical procedures;
- Communicating with animal owners; and
- Feeding and caring for animals.

### Education & Certification

This program provides instruction and training in the Veterinary Assistant field. This course includes but is not limited to the knowledge and skills necessary to participate in the care of animals as well as an understanding of the clerical/accounting duties necessary to maintain an efficient and competent front office.

Educational Requirements: People interested in becoming Veterinary Assistants should have a high school diploma or GED equivalent.

### Detailed Course Topics Covered

- Veterinary terminology; Anatomy & Physiology
- Veterinary ethics; patient care & communication
- Assisting with veterinary procedures and surgery,
- Nursing care of hospitalized animals and administering medications as directed
- Applying bandages and splints
- Sterilizing instruments; microbiology, cytology, parasitology and serology; lab tests
- IV initiation and fluid therapy
- Veterinary pharmacology & filling prescriptions
- Understanding animal behavior
- AKC, common canine and feline breeds
- Office procedures, booking appointments, billing and collections; Interact with animals and their owners; obtain animal health histories and records; recognize signs and symptoms of illness and disease in animals
- Veterinary facility cleanliness and orderliness
- Health hazards in the veterinary practice
- Restraining and transporting animals to/from cages and stalls; bathing & exercising animals
- Identification, handling, and care of various exotic animal species

