



SPCA Veterinary Nurse

Veterinary (Vet) Nurses, play a vital role in the health and wellbeing of animals in the care of SPCA and other animal shelters, as well as veterinary clinics.

SPCA Vet Nurses carry out a variety of tasks including giving animals medication, doing diagnostic testing, assisting vets with surgeries, consults, and other procedures, cleaning tools and equipment, caring for and monitoring animals, providing advice about animal care, administration tasks, etc.

Staff Interview:

We interviewed Barbara Coles about her experience as an SPCA Vet Nurse and here's what she had to say:

3 What do you enjoy most about being an SPCA Vet Nurse?

The most rewarding part is when sick animals get better – it's really nice to be able to help them and see them happy.

1 Why did you want to become an SPCA Vet Nurse?

I wanted to become a vet nurse because I've loved animals all my life. I knew a lovely lady who was a vet nurse, so after learning about her role, I knew working in a vet clinic was what I wanted to do.

2 What are the main responsibilities or tasks as an SPCA Vet Nurse?

Dealing with public questions and providing advice, monitoring anaesthetics, looking after hospitalised animals, assisting vets, running blood tests, taking x-rays, booking appointments, ordering supplies and lots and lots of cleaning.





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4 What did you have to do to become an SPCA Vet Nurse?

When I became a vet nurse, I attended Otago Polytechnic to obtain a National Certificate of Veterinary Nursing for a year. However, now it's a 2-year full-time diploma course. There are several providers across NZ that offer the Certificate Level 5 and Diploma Level 6.



5 What skills do you think you need to be an SPCA Vet Nurse?

You need to be hard working, love learning new things, be a good team player, and have good people skills!



6 What advice would you give to someone who wants to become an SPCA Vet Nurse?

Being a vet or vet nurse isn't all cuddles and fluffy kittens. It is really hard work so it's a great idea to get some work experience before you do the course to make sure it's something you actually want to do.





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How to become an SPCA Vet Nurse:



To become a Vet Nurse, a great place to start is by studying useful secondary school subjects such as chemistry, biology, English and maths.

Next, you will need to meet the below requirements:

- Complete the New Zealand Certificate in Animal Technology – Veterinary Nursing Assistant (Level 5) then complete the New Zealand Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (Level 6).
- OR some people enter veterinary nursing after completing a Bachelor of Veterinary Technology.
- You can find where you can study to be a Veterinary Nurse on the New Zealand Veterinary Nursing Association website.

Fun Vet Nurse Fact:

Vet Nursing became an accepted profession in 1961.

