



SPCA Veterinarian

Veterinarians (vets) are similar to doctors, but instead of treating people, they treat and care for animals. Just like when you need to see a doctor when you're sick, injured, or need a check-up, animals need to visit their veterinarian.

Vets also provide general care (such as spaying and neutering operations) and critical animal care (such as life-saving surgery), and advise about health care and disease prevention for animals.

Additionally, vets carry out such duties as: prescribing and giving medical treatments, performing surgeries, microchipping, using diagnostic techniques such as laboratory tests and X-ray examinations, and vaccinating against disease.

Staff Interview:

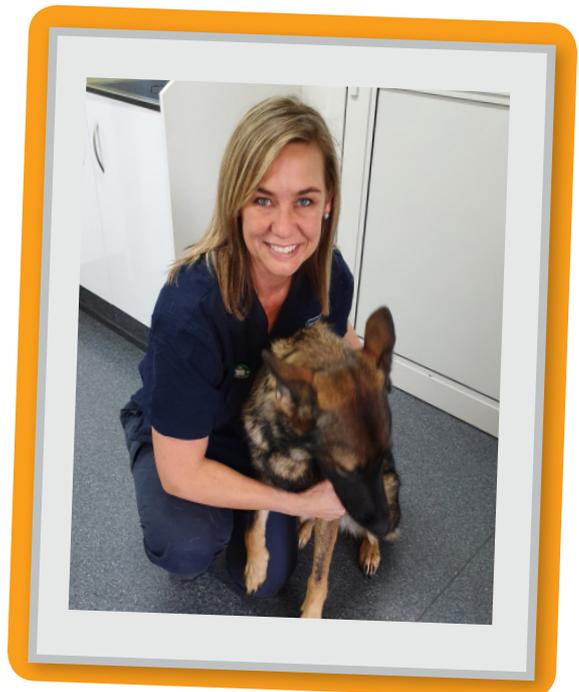
We interviewed Annalisa Pope, an SPCA Head Veterinarian, about her experience as a Veterinarian and here's what she had to say:

The main responsibilities I have in my role are preventing, diagnosing, and treating injury/ illness in animals, and educating people/owners on how best to care for their fur babies.

1 Why did you want to become an SPCA Veterinarian?

I wanted to become a vet because I have had a genuine love for all animals from a young age. I had a realisation at the age of 13 that I could do something about making this my job!

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





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3 What do you enjoy most about being an SPCA Veterinarian?

Any affection I receive from the animals! The real reward is being able to relieve an animal of their suffering by providing medications/treatments, and watching an animal improve after seeing them at their absolute worst.



4 What did you have to do to become an SPCA Veterinarian?

First, I had to study hard at high school (Maths and Sciences) in order to be able to go to University. Massey University in Palmerston North is the only place in New Zealand that has a Veterinary Programme, so it was essential to work hard to get accepted. The first six months is a set programme, but then there is a strict selection process to get into the 2nd semester of the first year, which cuts down the high number of applicants to a class of approximately 100 new vet students. The veterinary degree (a Bachelor of Veterinary Science) is then another 4.5 years of full-time study, and then work experience on farms and in vet clinics.

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

A passion for animals, human communication skills, an interest in science, and an understanding of maths. An interest in problem solving is an absolute must too!

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

Study hard and stick at it! It can be a very challenging profession but being a vet is so rewarding in so many ways. I love my job, and I couldn't imagine doing anything else!





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How to become an SPCA Veterinarian:

To become a Veterinarian, a great place to start is by studying useful subjects such as chemistry, biology, physics and maths in secondary school.

Next, you will need to meet the below requirements:

- Complete Bachelor of Veterinary Science (Massey University is the only place in New Zealand to study Veterinary Science. Before being accepted, applicants must complete a pre-veterinary semester and have at least 10 days of veterinary work experience).
- Register with the Veterinary Council of New Zealand
- Obtain an Annual Practising Certificate.



Fun Veterinarian Fact:

“Veterinarian” comes from the word “veterinae,” which is latin for “working animals.”

