



Is loving animals  
enough to become a  
veterinarian?



*We're here to help!*



## I have a dream...

*Where I play with puppies and kittens all day!*

But... having a dream is easy. Making a choice and figuring out all of the implications of that choice is a lot harder.

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# What do veterinarians do?

Most veterinarians work in private practice providing medical care for pets such as dogs and cats.

But they also....

- ✓ Teach
- ✓ Do research
- ✓ Work in private industry
- ✓ Help the government
- ✓ Expand scientific knowledge
- ✓ Find solutions to human and animal health problems



# Is veterinary school the right choice for me?

Veterinary medicine is a big commitment,  
both academically and personally.



A prospective veterinarian should be:

- ✓ A good student with strong science, math and communication skills.
- ✓ Compassionate towards animals and people
- ✓ Enjoy working with people
- ✓ Willing to advise clients on decisions that will have significant financial and emotional impact.

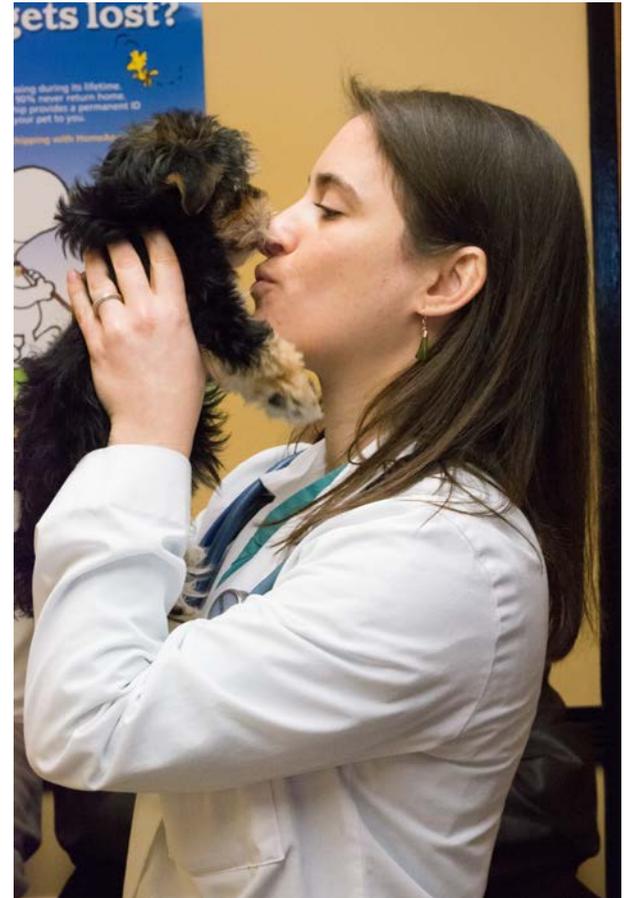
# Since I love animals, isn't veterinary medicine a perfect career for me?

While veterinary medicine can be richly rewarding, a veterinarian's day is not filled solely with adorable animals.

Veterinarians must also be prepared to handle:

- ✓ Failure
- ✓ Loss
- ✓ Grieving
- ✓ Angry clients
- ✓ And sometimes neglected animals

Veterinary education is equivalent to that of a physician (MD) in time, cost, and intensity but veterinarians typically earn lower salaries than MDs.



# How long do I have to go to school?



In the United States, veterinary school is a four-year degree program.

You will need an undergraduate Bachelor's degree level education (a total of 7 to 9 years: 3 to 5 years undergraduate plus 4 years of veterinary school).

You also have the option of:

- ✓ An additional year of general or specialty clinical training as an intern
- ✓ 2 to 5 years of additional residency training leading to board certification and practice within a wide variety of medical or surgical specialties

# How do I prepare for veterinary school?

Each veterinary school's website lists the school's application process and pre-requisites.

In general you will need the following classes:

- ✓ Math
- ✓ Biology
- ✓ English
- ✓ Chemistry
- ✓ Physics

Most schools also require you to:

- ✓ Take the GRE
- ✓ Get letters of recommendation
- ✓ Submit a personal statement



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# Is there a good major? What experience do I need?



There are generally no specific experience requirements.

But it is a good idea to acquire animal experience through working for or shadowing a veterinarian:

- ✓ In a private practice
- ✓ During a research study
- ✓ At a zoo
- ✓ On a farm
- ✓ In an animal shelter

# How much does it cost to attend veterinary school?

Veterinary school costs vary depending upon whether you attend a private or a public school, and whether you have residence in that state.

For students entering veterinary school in the Fall of 2016 for four years:

- ✓ In-state public schools range from \$147,000 to \$250,000
- ✓ Non-resident public schools range from \$191,000 to \$338,000
- ✓ Private schools range from \$264,000 to \$393,000

Positioning yourself to pay in-state tuition can make a big difference in your life.



# WOW! That's a lot of money!

## What is a veterinarian's salary?



Average salaries for new graduates in private practice range from \$50,000 to \$70,000 depending upon practice type and species focus.

Increases in the cost of education far outpace starting salaries of veterinarians.

Most veterinary graduates expect to be repaying their student loans over a 20 to 30 year period.

# Is becoming a veterinarian worth it?

For many veterinarians, the positives of the profession far outweigh the negatives.

Things to be aware of:

- ✓ Cost of school is increasing
- ✓ The hours can be long
- ✓ Physical effort can be grueling
- ✓ Emotional impact treating ill and injured animals can be difficult

But... as long as there are animals there will be a need for veterinarians to care for them.

The career of a veterinarian offers interest, challenge, excitement and unparalleled opportunities to celebrate the human-animal bond.



# THANK YOU



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Learn more at [IWanttoBeAVeterinarian.org](https://www.IWanttoBeAVeterinarian.org)

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