



### Job Situation

Busy clinic, examination rooms, surgery and kennels. Close co-operation with vet. Dealing with animals and their owners. Risk of bites and scratches. Reporting to Veterinarian. Part-time.

### Weekly Hours of Work

25

### Overtime

As required

### Monthly Salary

\$2,200

### Student Loan – Owing

\$25,000

### Student Loan – Monthly Payment

\$360

### Duties

Assisting vet in surgery and other procedures. Post-operative and maintenance care. Advising owners on pet care. Maintaining records and files.

### Prospects

Veterinarian. Animal Handler.

### Job Title

## Veterinary Assistant

### National Occupational Classification (NOC)

3213

### Job Description

The Veterinary Assistant is the skilled nurse in animal healthcare. You assist and follow through with the vet's care plans, learning from her as you take care of the small details and the big messes. Two mornings a week you work in the surgery, preparing the patients and assisting the vet in minor operations like neutering or repairing cuts and scrapes. Your animal handling skills make routine examinations, dental checks and vaccinations go more smoothly and safely for all concerned.

On weekends, you care for patients recovering from surgery and do general maintenance for all the animals staying at the clinic. Clean water, fresh food, special diets for some, a little exercise for the lonesome, worried dogs, a few kind words for the tense, unhappy cats, and some fresh greens for the budgie. You check stitches, change dressings, administer medications and make notes on appetites or temperatures. If there's time to spare, you clean the kennels or the clinic.

The vet comes in on Saturday afternoon, to update her paperwork and schedules for the week to come. As you gain experience, she asks your opinion, lets you try new procedures, and trusts you with more responsibility. This benefits her too, as she can accept more patients with an assistant she can rely on. You are on call every night in the event of emergencies, which are fortunately rare. You jump at any chance to help out and usually without being asked that is one quality the vet really loves about you.

Combining a full-time study program with a part-time job is a grueling schedule, but you are learning in leaps and bounds, and your skills and confidence are increasing daily. Your natural talent for relating to animals is being trained and honed by observation and experience. Every day brings you closer to graduation and you can envision what it will be like when you go into practice yourself.