

Employment opportunities

Veterinary medicine presents diverse career opportunities in animal welfare, field research, food inspection, governmental roles, research and development, private practice within urban and rural settings, as well as positions within zoological settings. While many veterinarians specialize in distinct areas like equine, livestock, or small animals, the majority operate within private practices. These clinics typically cater to household pets like cats and dogs, although some focus on treating livestock exclusively.

“Every day is different and that’s what makes it so interesting. You work with some really incredible animals. Saving their lives is just the most amazing feeling.” - Veterinarian

Day-to-day tasks

Assessing all animals coming in needing care

Offering curative and preventative treatments

Diagnosing issues and performing surgery

Educating owners on the best animal care practices

Evaluating surrenders, inspector cases and strays

Examining companion, farm, captive or wild animals

Responding to urgent or emergency cases



Qualifications needed



Accredited Veterinary Science Degree

Bachelor of Veterinary Science
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

relevant studies: animal studies, animal bioscience



Commitment to animal welfare

providing compassionate care to animals



Experience

Practical experience in veterinary clinics and animal handling skills are beneficial

Competition for jobs in the animal industry is very strong. Why not give yourself a step up by volunteering at RSPCA NSW?

Visit rspcansw.org.au/get-involved/become-a-volunteer to find out more.

A day in the life of an RSPCA NSW Veterinarian

VETERINARIAN

Morning



My day starts by checking on our hospital patients, making sure they're on track with their recovery. Shortly after, our team of veterinarians gather for our morning rounds and to discuss ideas on individual cases.



Each veterinarian is rostered to work between private consultations, the shelter and surgeries. Today we are on private consultations and my first patient is a cat suffering seizures.



After some examination we determine the seizures are caused from a flea treatment the owner applied which was meant for dogs and is toxic to cats. Luckily, it's caught early enough to treat.



The shelter veterinarians tend to a wide range of animals from livestock and pocket pets to cats and dogs. They check stray and surrendered animals new to the facility and help with animals going up for adoption.



Our surgical team is busy with various procedures today, from desexing multiple animals to more complex surgeries like fixing a dog's broken leg, draining a cat's abscess and handling several dental cases.

Afternoon



A dog hit by a car is urgently brought into the clinic via the RSPCA Animal Ambulance. Our team rush to stabilise her and X-ray shows it's a broken leg with no other injuries. Tomorrow, she is scheduled for surgery.



RSPCA NSW veterinarians sometimes accompany inspectors to investigate cases of animal cruelty to gather veterinary evidence. Today you work to prepare a report to help an inspector prosecute a case in court.



The afternoon brings in a flood of seized animals, notably 60 cats removed from a hoarder's property. Each cat is examined and treated for transmissible diseases like ringworm, arranging isolation if necessary.



Amidst the chaos, a stray goat found in metropolitan Sydney arrives and after a check-up and organising overnight care, you ensure treatment notes are written for the animals staying in the hospital.