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Occupation Profile



Selected Criteria:

Occupation: **Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers** [Change Occupation](#)
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VETERINARY ASSISTANTS AND LABORATORY ANIMAL CARETAKERS: IDAHO

Occupation Description

Feed, water, and examine pets and other nonfarm animals for signs of illness, disease, or injury in laboratories and animal hospitals and clinics. Clean and disinfect cages and work areas, and sterilize laboratory and surgical equipment. May provide routine post-operative care, administer medication orally or topically, or prepare samples for laboratory examination under the supervision of veterinary or laboratory animal technologists or technicians, veterinarians, or scientists. Excludes "Nonfarm Animal Caretakers".

Career Video



View the career video:
[Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers](#)

[Additional videos](#) and more information available on CareerOneStop.

State and National Wages

☒ Wage Table
 ☐ Hourly Wage Chart
 ☐ Yearly Wage Chart

Location	Pay Period	2012				
		10%	25%	Median	75%	90%
United States	Hourly	\$8.25	\$9.24	\$11.12	\$13.86	\$17.07
	Yearly	\$17,200	\$19,200	\$23,100	\$28,800	\$35,500
Idaho	Hourly	\$7.85	\$8.55	\$10.02	\$12.59	\$14.69
	Yearly	\$16,300	\$17,800	\$20,800	\$26,200	\$30,600

[Occupation Wages FAQs](#)

[Median Wage by Occupation Across States](#)
[Compare Wages by Occupation and Local Area](#)
[Compare Wages by Metropolitan Areas](#)

National Data Source: [Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics Survey](#)
 State Data Source: [Idaho Occupational Employment and Wages](#)

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State and National Trends

United States	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings ¹
	2010	2020		
Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers	73,200	83,600	+14%	2,160
Idaho	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings ¹
	2010	2020		
Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers	290	320	+12%	10

¹ Job Openings refers to the average annual job openings due to growth and net replacement.

[Occupation Trends FAQs](#)

[Employment Trends by Occupation Across States](#)

[Compare Employment Trends by Occupation](#)

[Employment Trends by Industry and Occupation](#)

National Data Source: [Bureau of Labor Statistics, Office of Occupational Statistics and Employment Projections](#)

State Data Source: [Idaho Commerce & Labor, Research & Analysis Bureau](#)

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Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

The most important knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) are listed for **Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers**.

Knowledge:

- **Customer and Personal Service** - Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services. This includes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for services, and evaluation of customer satisfaction.
- **English Language** - Knowledge of the structure and content of the English language including the meaning and spelling of words, rules of composition, and grammar.
- **Biology** - Knowledge of plant and animal organisms, their tissues, cells, functions, interdependencies, and interactions with each other and the environment.
- **Clerical** - Knowledge of administrative and clerical procedures and systems such as word processing, managing files and records, stenography and transcription, designing forms, and other office procedures and terminology.
- **Medicine and Dentistry** - Knowledge of the information and techniques needed to diagnose and treat human injuries, diseases, and deformities. This includes symptoms, treatment alternatives, drug properties and interactions, and preventive health-care measures.

Skills:

- **Active Listening** - Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.
- **Monitoring** - Monitoring/Assessing performance of yourself, other individuals, or organizations to make improvements or take corrective action.
- **Speaking** - Talking to others to convey information effectively.
- **Critical Thinking** - Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.
- **Reading Comprehension** - Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents.
- **Service Orientation** - Actively looking for ways to help people.
- **Social Perceptiveness** - Being aware of others' reactions and understanding why they react as they do.

Abilities:

- **Oral Expression** - The ability to communicate information and ideas in speaking so others will understand.
- **Problem Sensitivity** - The ability to tell when something is wrong or is likely to go wrong. It does not involve solving the problem, only recognizing there is a problem.
- **Deductive Reasoning** - The ability to apply general rules to specific problems to produce answers that make sense.
- **Finger Dexterity** - The ability to make precisely coordinated movements of the fingers of one or both hands to grasp, manipulate, or assemble very small objects.
- **Information Ordering** - The ability to arrange things or actions in a certain order or pattern according to a specific rule or set of rules (e.g., patterns of numbers, letters, words, pictures, mathematical operations).
- **Manual Dexterity** - The ability to quickly move your hand, your hand together with your arm, or your two hands to grasp, manipulate, or assemble objects.
- **Trunk Strength** - The ability to use your abdominal and lower back muscles to support part of the body repeatedly or continuously over time without 'giving out' or fatiguing.

Source: [Occupational Information Network: Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers](#).

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Tasks and Activities

Occupation specific tasks and the most important generalized work activities are listed for **Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers**.

Occupation Specific Tasks:

- Administer anesthetics during surgery and monitor the effects on animals.
- Administer medication, immunizations, or blood plasma to animals as prescribed by veterinarians.
- Assist veterinarians in examining animals to determine the nature of illnesses or injuries.
- Clean and maintain kennels, animal holding areas, examination or operating rooms, or animal loading or unloading facilities to control the spread of disease.
- Clean, maintain, and sterilize instruments or equipment.
- Collect laboratory specimens, such as blood, urine, or feces for testing.

- Dust, spray, or bathe animals to control insect pests.
- Educate or advise clients on animal health care, nutrition, or behavior problems.
- Examine animals to detect behavioral changes or clinical symptoms that could indicate illness or injury.
- Exercise animals or provide them with companionship.
- Fill medication prescriptions.
- Groom, trim, or clip animals' coats.
- Hold or restrain animals during veterinary procedures.
- Monitor animals recovering from surgery and notify veterinarians of any unusual changes or symptoms.
- Perform accounting duties, such as bookkeeping, billing customers for services, or maintaining inventories.
- Perform enemas, catheterizations, ear flushes, intravenous feedings, or gavages.
- Perform hygiene-related duties, such as clipping animals' claws or cleaning and polishing teeth.
- Perform office reception duties, such as scheduling appointments or helping customers.
- Perform routine laboratory tests or diagnostic tests, such as taking or developing x-rays.
- Prepare examination or treatment rooms by stocking them with appropriate supplies.
- Prepare feed for animals according to specific instructions, such as diet lists or schedules.
- Prepare surgical equipment and pass instruments or materials to veterinarians during surgical procedures.
- Provide assistance with euthanasia of animals or disposal of corpses.
- Provide emergency first aid to sick or injured animals.
- Record information relating to animal genealogy, feeding schedules, appearance, behavior, or breeding.
- Sell pet food or supplies to customers.
- Write reports, maintain research information, or perform clerical duties.

Generalized Work Activities:

- **Communicating with Supervisors, Peers, or Subordinates** - Providing information to supervisors, co-workers, and subordinates by telephone, in written form, e-mail, or in person.
- **Handling and Moving Objects** - Using hands and arms in handling, installing, positioning, and moving materials, and manipulating things.
- **Getting Information** - Observing, receiving, and otherwise obtaining information from all relevant sources.
- **Identifying Objects, Actions, and Events** - Identifying information by categorizing, estimating, recognizing differences or similarities, and detecting changes in circumstances or events.
- **Documenting/Recording Information** - Entering, transcribing, recording, storing, or maintaining information in written or electronic/magnetic form.

Detailed Work Activities:

- administer injections
- administer medications or treatments
- apply appropriate physical restraint
- assist in examining or treating dental or medical patients
- build or repair pens, yards, or cages
- clean rooms or work areas
- collect specimens from patients
- conduct medical laboratory tests
- draw blood
- examine animals to detect illness, disease, or injury
- feed or water animals
- follow patient care procedures
- groom animals
- monitor timing or metering devices to regulate environmental conditions
- observe patient condition
- position patient for therapy
- prepare medical treatment room
- prepare patients for tests, therapy, or treatments
- prepare sample for laboratory testing, analysis, or microscopy
- set up patient care equipment
- sterilize or disinfect instruments
- take vital signs
- use clinical sterilizing technique
- use health or sanitation standards
- use herbicides, fertilizers, pesticides or related products
- use knowledge of medical terminology
- use research methodology procedures in health care
- weigh patients

Source: [Occupational Information Network: Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers](#).

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Tools and Technology

Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers [View Detailed Report](#)

Tools:

- **Anesthesia sets or kits** - Veterinary anesthesia machines
- **Animal shearing or clipping equipment** - Animal razors, Electric animal clippers
- **Medical x ray units for general diagnostic use** - Digital veterinary x ray equipment, Stationary veterinary x ray equipment
- **Urinalysis analyzers** - Urine analysis equipment, Urinometers
- **Veterinary injection or suction units or accessories** - Balling guns, Injection syringes, Veterinary vaccination syringes

Technology:

- **Calendar and scheduling software** - Scheduling software
- **Data base user interface and query software** - Microsoft Access
- **Label making software** - Labeling software
- **Medical software** - IDEXX Laboratories IDEXX Cornerstone, McAllister Software Systems AVImark, Practice management software PMS
- **Office suite software** - Microsoft Office software

Source: [Occupational Information Network: Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers](#).

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Education and Training

Occupation: **Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers**

Typical education needed for entry: **High school diploma or equivalent**

Typical work experience needed for a job in this occupation: **None**

Typical on-the-job training once you have a job in this occupation: **Short-term on-the-job training**

Related Instructional Programs: No information about "Instructional Programs" for this occupation is available.

Distribution of Educational Attainment

Occupation	Percent of employees aged 25 to 44 in the occupation whose highest level of educational attainment is						
	Less than high school diploma	High school diploma or equivalent	Some college, no degree	Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Master's degree	Doctoral or professional degree
Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers	4.8%	28.9%	38.1%	16.6%	9%	1.4%	1.2%
Other Healthcare Support Occupations	4.3%	27.8%	37.9%	16.3%	10.4%	1.6%	1.7%
Healthcare Support	5.9%	24.8%	29.5%	26.2%	10.5%	1.8%	1.3%
Total, All Occupations	10.4%	27.4%	20.9%	8.9%	19.5%	8.2%	4.7%

Find [colleges, training schools and instructional programs](#).

Access additional [Education Resources](#) in the Career Resource Library.

Use the [Financial Aid Advisor](#) to help find funds for financing education.

WIA Eligible Training Provider List:

<http://labor.idaho.gov/dnn/wia/CustomServices/EligibleProviderLists/tabid/538/Default.aspx>

Source: [Bureau of Labor Statistics, Office of Occupational Statistics and Employment Projections](#) (Education/Training Level, Educational Attainment); [National Center for Education Statistics](#) (Typical Instructional Programs)

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Related Occupation Profiles

Occupations with similar skill requirements

- [Agricultural and Food Science Technicians](#)
- [Dental Hygienists](#)
- [Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse](#)
- [Nonfarm Animal Caretakers](#)
- [Respiratory Therapists](#)
- [Surgical Technologists](#)

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Web Resources

The following resources are related to occupations in the job family
Healthcare Support

[Nursing, Psychiatric, and Home Health Aides](#)
[Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapist Assistants and Aides](#)
[Other Healthcare Support Occupations](#)

Nursing, Psychiatric, and Home Health Aides

- [Caregiver](#), The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society
- [Home Health Aides](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Home Health Aides](#), CareerZone
- [Home Health and Personal Care Aides](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Licensed Practical Nurses](#), Job Futures
- [Nurse Aides, Orderlies and Patient Service Associates](#), Job Futures
- [Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Psychiatric Technicians and Aides](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook

Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapist Assistants and Aides

- [Critical-Care Nurse](#), Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow
- [Neuroscience Nurse](#), Nursing Spectrum
- [Occupational Therapy Assistant](#), American Medical Association
- [Occupational Therapy Assistants and Aides](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Physical Therapist Aides](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Physical Therapist Assistant](#), American Medical Association
- [Physical Therapist Assistants and Aides](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook

Other Healthcare Support Occupations

- [Dental Assistant](#), American Dental Association
- [Dental Assistant](#), American Medical Association
- [Dental Assistants](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Dental Assistants](#), CareerZone
- [Dental Assistants](#), Job Futures
- [Dental Assistants](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Massage therapists](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Massage Therapy](#), American Massage Therapy Association
- [Medical Assistant](#), American Medical Association
- [Medical Assistants](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Medical Assistants](#), CareerZone
- [Medical Assistants](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Medical equipment preparers](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Medical Transcriptionists](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Medical Transcriptionists](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Pharmacy Aides](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Veterinary assistants and laboratory animal caretakers](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook

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