
Animal Science Careers

Animal/Pre-Vet Club

MANY OPTIONS!

- Interested in animals, but don't want to be a veterinarian. Don't worry, there are endless jobs out in the world relating to animals.

Broad Spectrum of Jobs

- Including such areas as:
 - Agricultural: poultry, range work, dairy, farming in general.
 - Trainers: companion pets for handicapped people; show or sport training (agility)
 - Behavioralist: can specialize in just about any species (primatologist, canine, feline).
 - Grooming and Handling
 - Assistive Therapy: Injured or recovering animals.

Job Variety

- Caretakers: everything from zoo and aquarium keepers to shelters, kennels, and veterinary hospitals.
- Law Enforcement: Fish and Game wardens (both Federal and State), Animal Control Officers (Shelters).
- Rehabilitation Centers (many wildlife opportunities-avian, marine, small mammal)

Jobs Continued

- Conservation Biologist/Zoologist: allows for many field opportunities all over the world. Very helpful in gaining experience.
- Biology Specialist: Genetics/Reproduction, Nutritionists, Microbiologist, Biomedical, Husbandry.
- Public Health: human and animal related.
- Research Opportunities (Governmental, Private).
- Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Technician/Assistant.

Requirements

- Some jobs may only require a high school degree and some vocational training or on-the-job training.
- However, most require a B.S./B.A., Masters in Arts/Science, Ph.D, DVM or MD.
- Experience Required before applying?

Experience A MUST

- Many of the jobs out there require experience before applying. It seems difficult to get the job you want if you can't get the experience.
- Internships: Great opportunities to get your foot in the door. Some are paid/unpaid. But some employers will only hire interns as full-time workers. Contact Tim Ginnet here at UWSP for internship possibilities.
- Research: Many research positions open all over campus (biology, natural resources, chemistry, physics, psychology, etc.) Helps gain practical experience in a certain field.
- Jobs: Work your way up the “food chain”. May have to pick up garbage, but show interest and persistence and you may see a better job.

Continued Education

- Contact schools about educational opportunities relating to your field of interest.
- Do they offer a Ph.D in the field.
- Do they offer joint programs (Ph. D in Public Health and DVM).
- How well known in there program.

A few interesting Careers.

- Animal Behavior
 - Studies the relationship of animals to their environment and each other.
 - Understanding the causes, functions, development, and evolution of behavior.
- Ethology, Comparative Psychology, Behavioral Ecology.
- All three vary in the degrees to which behavior is inter-related.

Ethology, Psychology, Ecology, Oh My!

- Ethology (study of animal behavior) and Behavioral Ecology utilize various amounts of information from such fields as biology, zoology, ecology, evolution, wildlife, genetics, psychology.
- Comparative Psychology evaluates behavior across species

Schooling

- There are a few that only require B.S./ B.A. as a minimum.
- In order to gain a reputation and possibly publish in Scientific journals, more than likely have to continue on and earn a Master's or Ph. D
- Undergraduate experience in things such as research and internships will really make you a strong grad. school candidate.

Career Opportunities in Animal Behavior

- College Teaching/Research Investigator.
- Government/Private Research: Drug companies to test the effects of certain chemicals.
 - Wildlife Programs with Private Environmental Consulting Firms.
- Zoo/Aquarium and Museums: enrichment, field research, curators, conservation workers.
 - Many require Ph.D and/or DVM.

Zoology: i.e. Marine/Wildlife Biologists.

- Many areas of work may not seem directly associated with zoology. If involves the environment and consequently animals, then zoology will be involved.
- Some duties include monitoring wildlife and creating recovery plans, public speaking on current issues, field research on organisms, communities, ecosystems,

What can I do?

- Use a B.S. in biology/zoology as a stepping stool towards certain jobs:
 - Zookeeper, Vet. Technician (wildlife), Energy Analyst, Naturalist, Parasitologist, etc.
- Of course, graduate work in further specialized fields may help narrow your work and increase your chances of being hired.
- Internships relating to wildlife or biology, as well as research opportunities.

Helpful Websites

- Since there are so many areas and jobs, here are some websites with further information (also provided me with my information)
- Vocational Information Center (www.khake.com, select Animal as the category).
- Michigan State University, College of Natural Sciences (www.ns.msu.edu)
- Indiana University, Center for the Integrative Study of Animal Behavior (<http://www.indiana.edu/~animal/>).
- American Zoo and Aquarium website has a huge amount of information on everything relating to zoos and aquariums (www.aza.edu)
- WI National Primate Research Center at our own UW-Madison (<http://www.primate.wisc.edu/>)