

Prepare for an Apprenticeship in Animal Care

If you are interested in working with animals via the apprenticeship route you may want to find out more about what you can do to strengthen your application. The following will help with this.

Where can I look for an Apprenticeship?

One of the first things to do is to register with the Government apprenticeship website. This will alert you to apprenticeships with animals happening near you. Register [here](#).

Other national apprenticeship websites to register with include:

[Career Finder](#)

[Notgoingtouni](#)

[Getmyfirstjob](#)

[RateMyApprenticeship](#)

[Indeed](#)

[Amazing Apprenticeships](#)

You can also register with local Colleges and Training Providers in Buckinghamshire who cover working with animal apprenticeships.

[Buckinghamshire College Group](#)

[TiggyWinkles](#)

Who offers Apprenticeships in Animal Care?

It is worth approaching any vets, stables, zoos or groomers that you would like to work for and asking if they are likely to take on apprentices when you are due to leave school.

[Blue Cross](#)

[KEITS](#)

[Pets at Home](#)

[PSPCA](#)

[Vets4Pets](#)

What should you check for ?

What's the Level of apprenticeship?

Level 2 Intermediate, Level 3 Advanced, Level 4/5 Higher or Level 6 Degree

What are the entry requirements?

Will you need GCSE passes? How many? Or A-Levels or BTECs? Are there any grades and subjects needed?

Where is the employer's location?

How will you get there - by walking, bus, train? Will you need to move and find accommodation?

What qualifications will you gain with the apprenticeship?

For example, Animal Care and Welfare Assistant Level 2 (Veterinary Care Support)

What training provider or college is linked to the apprenticeship?

Where are they based and how will you get there?

What will they be looking for?

Employers will look for:

- A caring nature and a love of animals
- Good customer service skills - the ability to make owners feel they are leaving their pet with someone kind and knowledgeable about animal care.
- Someone clean and tidy as this will be important when caring for animals.
- Willingness to learn and train.
- Health and Safety conscious.

How can I demonstrate I have the skills? How can I stand out from the crowd?

You will need an excellent CV to sell you and your skills and strengths.

For an example of a school leavers' CV see [here](#).

Look at industry websites to find out what they are discussing, for example

[British Horse Society](#)

[British Veterinary Nursing Association](#)

[Animal Welfare Foundation](#)

How can I prepare for interviews?

Employers will expect you to have a passion for animals and a strong desire to work with them and all that goes along with this.

Do you read any blogs or magazines about animals? If so, do mention this.

For general advice on interviews please see

[National Careers Service](#)

[Apprenticeships.gov](#)

[UCAS](#)

Be friendly and polite and remember to smile.

YouTube has lots of clips on the work of apprentices with animals.

Where can a career working with animals take me?

Once you have some experience, you could take on more responsibility, supervising and training new staff, or working in veterinary supplies. You could also train to specialise in working for a zoological/wildlife park, rehoming charity, or breeding/boarding kennels. For horse groomers, you can move into management or stud farms or race training. There are also specialist animal physiotherapy and massage courses.

Anything else I should know?

Be well prepared, start your search early, and keep a list of where you have applied to. Practice interviews. Be confident in yourself.

Have a backup plan.

© FutureSmart Careers Ltd July 2024