

Food Animal Veterinarian

Description

A veterinarian prevents, diagnoses, treats and researches illnesses in food production animals such as cattle, swine, poultry and fish. They monitor animal performance and provide regular feedback via performance management reports. They provide technical expertise in health management, including biosecurity, disease identification and prevention.

Education/Training Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in Animal Nutrition, Animal Science, Biology, Chemistry, Zoology or other related major (required, before doctoral program acceptance)
- Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine (required)

Recommended High School Coursework

- Agriculture Education
- Animal Science
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Mathematics
- Physical Science

Common Responsibilities

- Provide health care for livestock and possibly laboratory animals
- Examine animals to determine nature of illness or injury
- Diagnose and treat injuries
- Monitor animal performance and provide regular feedback
- Provide technical expertise in health management
- Research new diseases, medicines and procedures
- Mentor veterinarian technicians regarding veterinarian medicine and animal related illnesses
- Test and vaccinate, prevent and control contagious animal diseases
- Ensure sanitary measures before, during and after all procedures
- Euthanize animals when necessary
- Provide preventative care to maintain animal health

Typical Employers

Food animal veterinarians are typically employed by food production companies, governmental agencies and some university research farms.

Additional Resources

- [American Association for Laboratory Animal Science](#)
- [American Association of Laboratory Animal Practitioners](#)
- [American Society of Animal Science](#)
- [American Veterinary Medical Association](#)