

## Small Animal Veterinarian

### Description

A small animal veterinarian is responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of sickness, disease and injury in companion animals like dogs, cats, rabbits, caged birds and other small pets. They provide clinical and surgical care and disease surveillance to small animals. Additionally, veterinarians communicate and educate pet owners about disease and preventative measures.

### 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)
- Special certifications for therapy, critical care, neurology, ect. (optional)

### Recommended High School Coursework

- Agriculture Education
- Animal Science
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Skills
- Mathematics

### Common Responsibilities

- Provide clinical and surgical care and disease surveillance to small animals
- Prescribe and administer medications and set fractures
- Administer vaccinations and draw blood for testing
- Euthanize terminally ill or fatally wounded animals
- Perform reproductive surgeries like spay or neuter procedures
- Give technical advice on products for small animals or pets
- Operate medical equipment like X-ray machines and ultrasound technology
- Advise on measures to prevent the occurrence or spread of diseases
- Adhere to standard safety protocols and maintain a clean, sterile environment
- Communicate and educate pet owners about disease, preventative, and behavior
- Perform site visits as needed

### Typical Employers

Small animal veterinarians may be self-employed or work for clinics, animal hospitals, laboratories or animal health companies.

### Additional Resources

[American Association of Laboratory Animal Practitioners](#)

[American Veterinary Medical Association](#)

[World Small Animal Veterinary Association](#)