

ANIMAL CARE APPRENTICESHIPS



Whether you've got a passion for penguins, crazy about cats, or devoted to your dog, working with animals could be the perfect career move for you.

The Animal care industry is worth £1 billion to the UK economy. It has 13,000 businesses, 78,000 employees and lots of volunteers.

Apprenticeships are an excellent way to gain a nationally recognised qualification, get practical 'hands-on' work experience and valuable skills, all whilst earning a wage. Not only that, you will get the skills and knowledge employers need and a gateway to new opportunities.

There are so many options for employment in Animal Care:

- Animal boarding
- Animal sanctuaries & Animal welfare charities (PDSA)
- Pet shops & Pet grooming
- Animal care services (e.g. hydrotherapy, dog walker/sitter)
- Zoos and wildlife parks (including wildlife rehabilitation)
- Animal visitor attractions
- Animal related public services (e.g. dog/animal wardens)

You could find yourself working in a variety of roles in a variety of settings. Some of the Pathways available are:

- Animal Care/Rescue Centre worker
- Kennel/Cattery worker
- Animal trainer (in entertainment, education, working animals such as uniformed/security dogs)
- Zoo Keeper
- Canine Hydrotherapist
- RSPCA Inspector
- Dog Groomer, Pet Care and Retail
- Trainer

Kick start your career with an employer who invests in you and check out our website for our current vacancies

What to Expect

Apprentices earn on average over £100,000 more throughout their lifetime than other employees

Animals need care 24/7, so weekends and shift work may be necessary

Many roles will require you to be out in all weathers, so great in the summer, but that means winter too!

Working with animals can be very rewarding, but it can also be physically demanding. Are you prepared for that?

Apprentices are seen as highly capable, knowledgeable and, most importantly, employable!



Working with animals is a popular career choice, so there is likely to be a lot of competition for job roles and Apprenticeships.

Ask one of our Advisors, check out our website, or read our 'Do's and Don'ts' of applying for Apprenticeships (or any role for that matter) overleaf.

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Getting that Apprenticeship



Apprenticeships are unique in that you can earn while you learn. This means that securing your apprenticeship will often involve a recruitment process and these can be very competitive, with many applicants chasing one position.

CVs, applications and interviews advertise your value to their business. This is your chance to convince the employer that you are the right person for the job. It's about selling your skills, demonstrating passion and making sure they know what you can bring to their business.

You need to plan and be prepared!



Before you start check.....

Is it feasible? Can you get there everyday? Can you work the hours? Do you have to work late nights or weekends?

Is it realistic? Will you be happy working outside in winter? Can you cope with early mornings? Do you have the skills and knowledge they are looking for?

Find out as much as you can about the business. What do they do? Who are their customers? Can you see yourself working there day-in-day-out?

Next check the closing date and plan.



Selling Yourself

Plan what you are going to write. What skills, qualities or experience have they asked for in the advert and/or person specification?

What are your strengths? Why do you want this job? How do they link to the role? Think and plan. Look on websites for advice: monster.com or National Careers Service for example.

Don't have much experience. Think about transferable skills you have and that all business need: customer service, IT and team working etc. that you have gained.

If you don't have any direct experience, what other experiences do you have that can link your skills to the job role? Are you member of a club, or were you at school? Do you volunteer or help out anywhere? Where possible, use examples to back up statements.

Whatever you write or say.....Prove it!

Hints



Draft your application offline in Word and save it. This way you'll be able to run a spell check, have a saved copy and, if there's a problem, you don't have to start all over again!

Check for spelling and grammatical errors. This is one of the main reasons applications are rejected. If you are careless on your application, what's to say that you won't be careless at work?

Save or print out the finished form. You will then have a record of what you've written for your interview. You should check for each job role. No two roles are the same, so adapt to suit.

Remember... this is the employers first introduction to you, so you need to make sure you create a great impression