

Employment opportunities

Veterinary nurses are mostly employed by veterinarians in private practices. Others work for welfare organisations such as RSPCA NSW, teaching institutions, veterinary research organisations, wildlife parks and zoos. Some gain employment in marketing and merchandising with veterinary pharmaceutical organisations. A small number work in veterinary practice management, or specialise in specific areas of veterinary nursing, including critical and emergency care, dentistry and surgical support.

Day-to-day tasks

Support veterinary procedures

Perform diagnostics tests

Animal care and monitoring

Clean and sterilise equipment and enclosures

Administrative tasks

Administering medication under veterinary supervision

Providing information on animal care

“Every day is very different, but it’s such a rewarding job. The animals all have their own personalities and working out the clues to help them recover is very satisfying.” - Vet Nurse



Qualifications needed



Certificates

Cert. IV in Veterinary Nursing
Cert. II in Animal Care



12 months work experience, usually full time or part time at a veterinary clinic

Accreditation with the **Veterinary Nurses Council of Australia (VNCA)**

Competition for jobs in the animal industry is very strong. Why not give yourself a step up by volunteering at RSPCA NSW?

Visit [rspcansw.org.au/get-involved/become-a-volunteer](https://www.rspcansw.org.au/get-involved/become-a-volunteer) to find out more.

Or check out our current jobs on offer

<https://www.rspcansw.org.au/who-we-are/careers-at-rspca-nsw/>

A day in the life of an RSPCA NSW Veterinary Nurse

Morning



First things first, you check the isolation ward, making the critically ill cats and dogs your priority.



You speak to a veterinarian to assist with medication coordination and treatment plans for sick animals.



Next up, pocket pets! Today we have three rabbits and a duck with her ducklings and it's our job to make sure they keep eating, which can include syringe feeding.



Time to head over to the lab, so we can draw blood from a staffy who is getting surgery today. This is to ensure his organs are functioning properly and the anaesthetics will be safe.



Back to the isolation ward to check on the new trainee veterinary nurse to help her clean the cages. This is a very important job as our animals need their cages cleaned several times a day.

Afternoon



Back to work and off to the clinic's reception desk to ring back clients with questions about their pets recovery and book in future surgeries.



Next you touch base with the veterinarians and pass on updated information on medications, nutrition plans and mental enrichment ideas.



This afternoon, you are helping out and assisting a veterinarian during a desexing operation.



One last final goodbye to the animals in the ward and checking on their food bedding and preparing their medications for the night nurses to administer in the evening.