



# Nova Scotia SPCA College of Animal Welfare

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## Veterinary Assistant

Veterinary Assistant Program prepares students for a career in the animal welfare industry as skilled Veterinary Assistants (VA). VAs provide outstanding business administration and customer experiences with their knowledge and passion for animal care. VAs skillfully contribute to good working relationships within an entire veterinary team. Their knowledge and skills are transferable to other industries as well as provide a foundation for future career opportunities in management roles.

### Program Benefits

- **Full Scholarship Available:** Qualified students will only pay additional fees for the 2021 VT Program.
- **Guaranteed Pathway to Employment:** Students graduating from the inaugural class with a minimum cumulative average of 85% are guaranteed employment in an SPCA facility in Nova Scotia with a starting salary of \$15/hour.
- **Hands on Training:** Students will have hands on training during the program in SPCA Shelter, Clinic and the Animal Redemption Center (ARC) as well as other facilities.
- **Build strong working relationships** in the animal welfare community.

Apply Now!



[www.novascotiaspca.ca/va-application](http://www.novascotiaspca.ca/va-application)



## Program Starts September 7, 2021

**Accelerated 1-Year Full-Time Program:** 46 weeks of instruction with a graduation date of August 10, 2022.

Regularly scheduled classes are Mon-Thurs 8:30am-3:30pm. Some Fridays will be used for class time or makeup days.

### Prerequisites

- High school graduation or equivalent
- Interview with a program instructor

### Graduation

#### Requirements

- 70% or higher grade in each module
- Successful completion of required certifications
- Attendance of 90% or higher

### Instructors

Instructors are experienced industry professionals and are approved and regulated by the Department of Labour and Advanced Education, Private Career College Division.

**Business Administration – 100 hours**

This module teaches the basic daily skills required to excel in an administrative role in a number of animal welfare related industries.

**Customer Services – 100 hours**

This module teaches the skills needed to communicate effectively with clients and provide excellent customer service.

**Animal Care Attendant – 160 hours**

This module teaches how to safely work with animals as well as occupational health and safety procedures found in businesses in the animal welfare sector.

**Veterinary Hospital Reception – 128 hours**

This module teaches the skills to be an effective front end team member in a veterinary hospital.

**Animal Handling Level 1 – 128 hours**

This module teaches the skills to handle animals and become an animal welfare educator and advocate.

**Animal Nutrition – 128 hours**

This module will teach the basics of nutrition and then the specifics of nutritional needs of cats and dogs in different life stages and health levels.

**Exotic Animal Handling – 30 hours**

This elective module is for students who are interested in a career involving exotic pets and wildlife. The module will cover the basics of care and handling of birds, reptile and small mammals.

**Animal Nursing – 144 hours**

This module teaches students to be educated advocates of preventive care for pets who are able to discuss the benefits of this care with pet owners.

**Animal Handling Level 2 – 120 hours**

This module covers more advanced animal handling techniques for specific veterinary procedures and for working with aggressive and fearful animals safely.

**Large Animal Handling – 30 hours**

This elective module is for students who are interested in a career involving horses and/or farm animals. This module will provide an introduction to the care and handling of horses, pigs, cows, chickens, goats and sheep.

**Internship – 160 hours**

This is a 160 hour internship completed at an approved animal welfare business of the students choosing.