

VETERINARY ASSISTANT

The Veterinary Assistant Program provides students with the skills and knowledge needed to enter the workforce in animal care. VAs make a real difference in the lives of animals and their owners, everyday. VAs skillfully contribute to good working relationships within the 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 Starts September 3, 2024

47 weeks of instruction with a graduation date of August 2025.

Classes scheduled Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Occasional Friday classes.

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

Program Benefits

- **Hands on Training:**
Students will have hands on training during the program in SPCA Dartmouth Shelter, SPCA Veterinary Hospital, as well as other facilities.
- **Build strong working relationships** in the animal welfare community.

Instructors

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

Modules

Business Administration – 48 hours

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

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.

Customer Services – 48 hours This module teaches the skills needed to communicate effectively with clients and provide excellent customer service.

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.

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.

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.

Animal Handling Level 1 – 128 hours

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

Veterinary Hospital Procedures– 128 hours

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

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.

Internship – 160 hours



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