

## VETERINARY ASSISTANT

The Veterinary Assistant Program equips students with the essential skills and knowledge required to pursue a successful career in animal care. Veterinary Assistants play a vital role in supporting both animals and their owners, making a meaningful impact each day. They contribute to strong, collaborative relationships within the veterinary team and demonstrate professionalism in all aspects of their work. In addition, the competencies gained through this program are highly transferable across industries and provide a solid foundation for advancement into future career opportunities, including leadership and management roles.



**APPLY NOW!**

[www.spcacollege.ca](http://www.spcacollege.ca)

### Program Starts September 2026

**Accelerated 1-Year Full-Time Program:** 47 weeks on instruction with a graduation date of August 2027.

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 at the SPCA shelter, Tartan Tails Veterinary Hospital, as well as other facilities.
- **Build strong working relationships** in the animal care community.

### Instructors

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

### Student Fees/Tuition

The fees/tuition amount for 2026/27 is \$13,995 which includes scrubs, textbooks, workbooks, field trips and all supplies needed!

## Modules

### **Business Administration – 48 hours**

This module teaches the basic daily skills required to excel in an administrative role in several animal welfare-related industries. Students will learn how to use Microsoft 365 and be introduced to veterinary software

### **Customer Services – 48 hours**

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

### **Animal Care Attendant – 160 hours**

This module teaches the basics of veterinary medical terminology, animal behaviour, including both normal and abnormal behaviour, and body language of cats and dogs. Students will learn details for specific breeds and how this knowledge is applied to ensure good animal welfare, safe animal handling and become Fear Free Veterinary certified. It also provides an overview of the veterinary industry including regulations, ethics, and occupational health and safety procedures. This module provides real life experience with animals during hands-on activities.

### **Veterinary Hospital Procedures – 128 hours**

This module teaches basic pharmacology, how to use veterinary software, book different types of appointments, identify and clean surgical instruments, fold and wrap surgical greens and surgical patient preparation.

### **Animal Handling Level 1 – 128 hours**

This module teaches students about communication in dogs and cats, basic restraints, common diseases, behaviour issues and behavioural modification. The students will complete Fear Free Level 2. This module provides real life experience with animals during hands-on activities.

### **Animal Nutrition – 128 hours**

This module teaches the basics of nutritional science. The nutritional needs of dogs and cats during different life stages are taught. Students learn about common diseases that respond to diet therapy and to perform a nutritional assessment on patients. Students are trained to formulate feeding plans for patients.

### **Exotic Animal Handling – 30 hours**

This module will cover husbandry, handling and common diseases in birds, reptiles, and small mammals. Ethics and animal welfare issues are discussed. The students will become Avian Fear Free certified. This module provides real life experience with animals during hands-on activities.

### **Animal Nursing – 144 hours**

This module will teach history taking, physical examinations, basic calculations and patient emergencies. Students will learn about parasite prevention and control, giving SQ fluids and SQ injections, drawing up vaccines, giving medications, and basic bandaging. This module provides real life experience with animals during hands-on activities.

### **Animal Handling Level 2 – 120 hours**

This module covers more advanced animal handling techniques for specific veterinary procedures and learn how to work safely with fearful animals. The students will complete Fear Free Level 3 and also become Fear Free Shelter certified. This module provides real life experience with animals during hands-on activities

### **Large Animal Handling – 30 hours**

This module introduces the equine, dairy, beef, swine, sheep and goat industries. Husbandry, animal behaviour, handling, common diseases, preventative care, public health and regulatory medicine are taught for the main large animal species. The students will become Equine Fear Free certified.

### **Internship – 160 hours**

This is a 160-hour internship at an animal welfare business of the student's choice. This allows the students to experience working while still having the guidance and support of a mentoring structure. Students will practice and gain further proficiency in the skills taught throughout this program.



Nova Scotia **SPCA**  
College of Animal Welfare