

# You are interested in helping sick animals...

## Should you become a Veterinarian or a Veterinary Technician?

### To become a Veterinarian:

- Attend college for at least 8 years
- Undergraduate courses must include sciences (physics, chemistry, calculus, biochemistry, etc.)
- Undergraduate grades must be very good (average GPA for successful applicants is 3.5 (A-))
- Obtain experience working with animals and learning about the veterinary career before vet school

### Tasks of Veterinarians:

- Perform surgery
- Diagnose illnesses
- Prescribe treatments and medications
- Vets are legally responsible for problems/mistakes made by themselves and their technicians
- Must be licensed in all states
- Vets are in charge of investigating and solving medical problems

### Employment

- Veterinarians make \$67,000 average upon graduation and make \$82,040 average overall
- Average debt load after graduating is over \$100,000
- 36% growth in jobs through 2020 especially in government and farm animal care

### Both Veterinarians & Vet Techs must:

- Be trained to work on all species of animals
- Have a strong knowledge of science and math
- Have a desire to help animals and their people
- Provide education and counseling to animal owners
- Be able to work in a high stress field where illness and death are common
- Accept that many veterinary patients do not like their vets and techs

### To become a Veterinary Technician:

- Attend college for at least 2 years
- Courses include anatomy & physiology, nursing, pharmacology, animal handling, surgical assisting and anesthesia
- Pass a national licensing exam

### Tasks of a Veterinary Technician:

- Perform diagnostic and laboratory tests, dental procedures, etc.
- Administer nursing care to patients
- Administer anesthesia and surgical assistance
- Work under the license of a veterinarian
- Cannot legally perform the duties of a veterinarian
- Must be licensed in some states (Maine, New York)
- Work directly with their patients to keep track of all patient needs

### Employment

- Make about \$30,000 per year on average. (The nation wide range is \$20,500 to \$44,000)
- 52% growth in jobs through 2020

### Both Veterinarians & Vet Techs can:

- Pursue further training to specialize in areas such as anesthesia, behavior emergency care, and dentistry
- Work in private veterinary hospitals, laboratories, zoos, animal shelters, agriculture and many other animal related businesses