

CAREER PROFILES

Pet Groomers and Animal Care Workers:

Animal care workers feed, handle, train, and groom animals and assist veterinarians, animal health technologists and technicians, and animal breeders. **Pet groomers** clip coats, bathe, and otherwise groom pets.

Wage/Salary Information:

\$26,720.95 is the median annual salary found in local job-postings.

\$14.00/hour is the median wage reported locally.

Commonly Listed Skills in Job Postings:

- Detail oriented
- Oral and written communication
- Work independently
- Self-motivated
- Customer service oriented
- Cleaning
- Organizational skills
- Time management
- Leadership
- Sales
- Literacy
- Hospitality

Job Duties:

Pet groomers and animal care workers perform some or all of the following duties:

- Prepare food and feed animals, fish or birds at scheduled intervals.
- Clean and disinfect cages, pens and surrounding areas.
- Shampoo, clip and groom animals.
- Assist veterinarians and animal health technologists and technicians to inoculate and treat animals.
- Assist animal breeders to handle and nurture animals.
- Assist scientists and researchers in conducting laboratory tests with animals.
- Monitor and document animal behaviour.

- Train dogs to obey commands and perform specific duties in response to signals.

Working Conditions:

Pet groomers and animal care workers usually work indoors. These workers may get wet and dirty while bathing animals. They are also sometimes required to lift heavy animals.

Many work irregular hours, including evenings and weekends. Some groomers may travel to customers' homes and some animal care workers may travel to pick up stray animals.

Animal care workers in veterinary clinics or labs typically work as part of a team. Dog trainers work mostly with dog owners, relying on their people skills as much as their animal behaviour modification skills.

Self-employed groomers are required to provide their own equipment.

Handling animals can pose some hazards so proper care is needed to avoid bites and scratches. A strong understanding of animal behaviour helps workers recognize when animals are upset so they can avoid such injuries. Other hazards include slipping on wet floors, back strain or electrical shocks or burns from dryers.

Career Pathways:

Pet groomers and animal care workers are employed by animal hospitals and clinics, animal shelters, breeding and boarding kennels, zoos, laboratories, retail pet shops, dog training schools, pet grooming establishments, or may be self-employed. Below are potential career pathways for dog groomers and animal care workers:

- Animal care worker (except farm)
- Dog groomer
- Dog trainer
- Kennel attendant
- Laboratory animal attendant
- Pet groomer
- Pound attendant
- Veterinary attendant
- Zoo attendant

Check out more possible career pathways on [WEexplore](#).

Education and Training Pathways:

There is currently no formal training program for this career. Employers may provide on the job training to teach the skills and competencies needed for the job. Completion of secondary school is usually required. Depending on the type of work performed, training courses in animal handling, grooming or dog training are usually required. Animal health or veterinary assistant college courses may be required for animal care workers.

Disclaimer: *The educational institution reserves the right to change information without notice, and may result in discrepancies between their information and the information presented above. If any errors are found, please report them to info@workforcewindsorsex.com.*