



Explore a Career as a **VETERINARY TECHNOLOGIST OR TECHNICIAN**

Target Occupation Profile

What do Veterinary Techs do?

Veterinary technicians and technologists (vet techs) are educated in the care and handling of animals, the basic principles of normal and abnormal life processes, and in many laboratory and clinical procedures. All vet techs work under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. Some decide to specialize in a certain area. The recognized academies include specialties in dental technology, anesthesia, internal medicine, emergency and critical care, behavior, zoological medicine, and equine veterinary nursing. Veterinary technologists and technicians most often work with small animal practitioners who care for cats and dogs, but they may also perform a variety of tasks involving mice, rats, sheep, pigs, cattle, birds, or other animals.

Vet Techs are in demand in Cook County!

Cook County employment of veterinary technicians is expected to increase through 2020. The U.S. Bureau of Labor statistics recognizes the job outlook for this field as growing much faster than average.

Training & Educational Opportunities

You will have plenty of employment opportunities as a veterinary technologist or technician, complete training and earn a degree. Veterinary technicians typically earn an associate degree, while technologists need a bachelor degree. Coursework includes basic animal nursing care, biochemistry, vet anatomy and physiology, animal diseases, surgical nursing for animals, and pharmaceutical training.

As a Veterinary Technologist or Technician you will:

- Administer anesthesia to animals and monitor their responses
- Bathe animals, clip nails or claws, and brush or cut animals' hair
- Collect laboratory samples, such as blood, urine, or tissue for testing
- Observe the behavior and condition of animals
- Provide nursing care or emergency first aid

Veterinary Technologist or Technician

Training Providers

There are many training providers available in Cook County to supply you with the training you need for a career as a veterinary technologist or technician.

To access a list of training providers for this occupation and many more, please visit Illinoisworknet.com and select the 'Training and Credentials' menu option to view 'WIOA Approved Training Programs.'



Types of Employers

There are many types of employers looking to hire veterinary technologists and technicians in Cook County, including:

- Animal hospitals
- Colleges and universities
- Laboratories
- Private clinics
- Rescue leagues

Wages & Openings

Veterinary Technologist and Technician Employment Data for Cook County

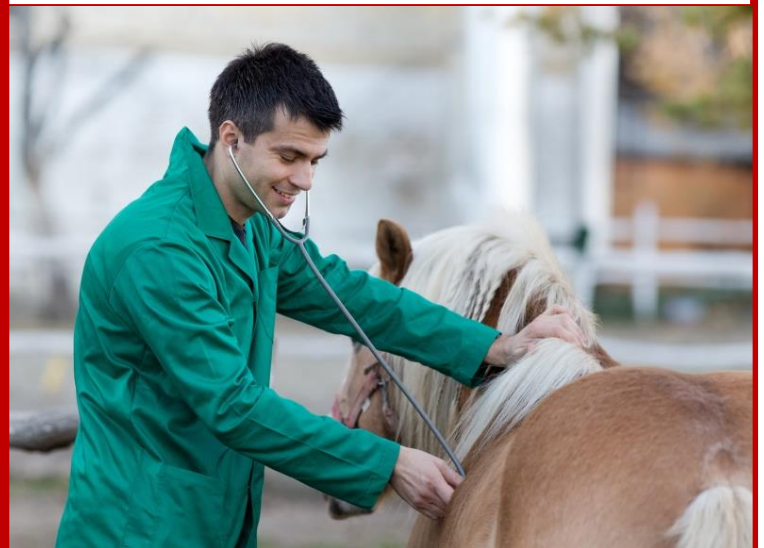
Average Starting Hourly Wage	\$12.81
Average Hourly Wage With Experience	\$16.14
Average Annual Job Openings Cook County	68
Average Annual Job Openings Chicago Metro	67

*Source: Emsi, 2017.2

Opportunities

After earning your veterinary technologist or technician degree, you will have many opportunities for specialization. Some opportunities include:

- Animal Behaviorist
- Emergency and Critical Care Technician
- Parasitology Lab Technician



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