

Veterinary Technologists & Technicians and Animal Health Technologists

An employment guide for newcomers to British Columbia



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Animal Health Technologists & Veterinary Technologists & Technicians NOC 3213

Animal Health Technologists & Veterinary Technologists & Technicians NOC 3213 may also be called:

- *Veterinarian assistant*
- *animal operating room attendant*
- *veterinary technician supervisor*
- *laboratory animals / vet lab technician,*
- *registered veterinary technician (RVT)*
- *animal care technologist*
- *laboratory animal technologist*
- *registered animal health technologist*
- *veterinary technologist*

1. What Would I Do?

Veterinary and animal health technologists and technicians provide technical support to veterinarians by caring for animals and assisting in the diagnosis and treatment of animal health disorders. Duties may include:

- provide nursing care and rehabilitation therapy for animals
- handle, restrain and care for animals undergoing treatment and surgery
- produce radiographs, collect samples and perform other laboratory tests to assist in diagnosis of animal health problems

- assist veterinarian with animals before, during and following surgery
- prepare surgical equipment, give and monitor anesthetics, and clean up after surgery
- prepare and give medications and vaccines under direction of veterinarian
- provide wound and bandage care
- do specialized procedures such as animal identification and hoof trimming
- talk to clients about animal health care including nutrition and home care
- do laboratory research
- do routine animal dental procedures, and help veterinarians with animal dentistry

More information:

- **WorkBC Career Profile for Animal health technologists & veterinary technicians**

<https://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/3213>

2. Am I Suited For This Job?

Animal Health Technologists & Veterinary Technologists & Technicians should be:

- able to follow direction and conduct medical tests
- process oriented and understand the importance of following procedures
- detail oriented
- patient and compassionate
- they should have a love of animals and good computer skills

Animal Health Technologists & Veterinary Technologists & Technicians work indoors in veterinary clinics, which are often noisy. Emergency call-out work may sometimes be required. Stress is often associated with treating abused animals or putting down animals. The work can also be physically demanding since veterinary and animal health technologists and technicians have to lift, hold or restrain animals, risking bites or scratches.

Sources:

- **WorkBC Career Profile for Animal Health Technologists & Veterinary Technicians**
<https://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/3213>
- **Career Cruising** database (Profile for 'Veterinary Technician')
<http://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising>

3. What Are The Wages And Benefits?

WorkBC reports that in British Columbia the *median* annual salary for Animal Health Technologists & Veterinary Technologists & Technicians is approximately \$35,455 with a \$17.00 *median* hourly wage rate.

JobBank Canada lists hourly wages for BC's regions where Animal Health Technologists & Veterinary Technologists & Technicians can expect to make:

Animal Health Technologists & Veterinary Technologists & Technicians, NOC 3213 - Hourly Wages

Wage Estimates			
Location	Wage (\$/hr)		
	Low	Median	High
British Columbia	12.00	18.00	24.00
Cariboo Region	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kootenay Region	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lower Mainland - Southwest Region	12.00	17.50	24.32
Nechako Region	N/A	N/A	N/A
North Coast Region	N/A	N/A	N/A
Northeast Region	N/A	N/A	N/A
Thompson--Okanagan Region	12.50	17.21	23.00
Vancouver Island and Coast Region	13.00	19.00	24.50

Table from Job Bank Canada Wage Report <http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/home-eng.do?lang=eng>
 Many employers offer additional benefits, including health, dental, and disability insurance and continuing education.

Sources:

- **WorkBC Career Profile for Animal Health Technologists & Veterinary Technicians**
<https://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/3213>

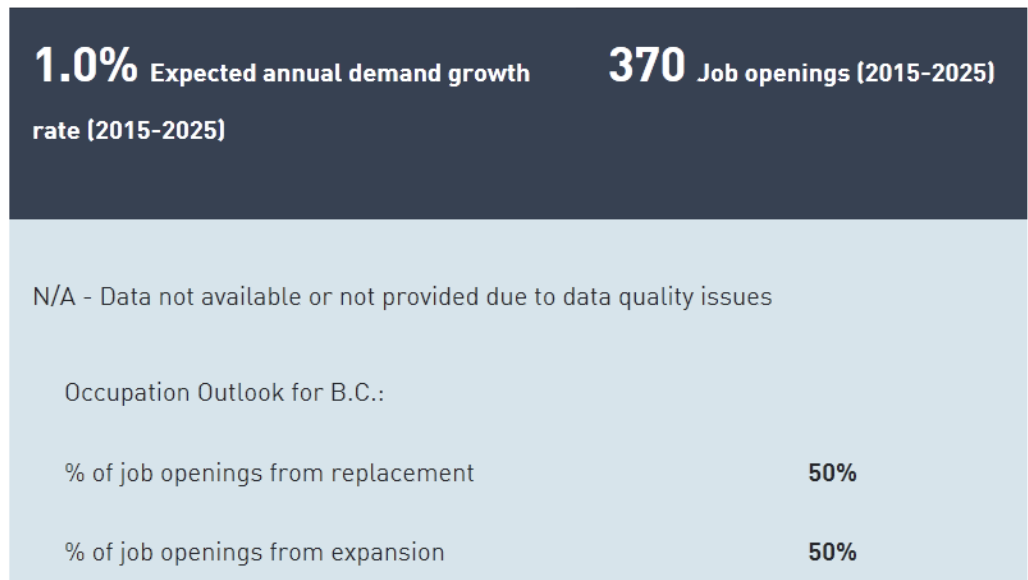
- **Career Cruising** database (Profile for 'Veterinary Technician')
<http://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising>

4. What Is The Job Outlook In BC?

Spending on veterinary services has doubled over the last 10 years due to the increasing number of pets in North America. Also, pet owners consider their pets to be a member of the family and are more willing to spend money for involved veterinary procedures to extend the life of their animals. This trend is creating an increased demand for veterinary services, and veterinary and animal health technologists and technicians.

Recent outbreaks of diseases in farm animals, such as avian influenza and bovine spongiform encephalopathy, are also increasing the demand for veterinary diagnostic services and the

Animal Health Technologists Veterinary Technologists & Technicians, NOC 3213 - Employment Outlook



services of veterinary and animal health technologists and technicians

JobBank Canada reports that for the 2015-2017 period, the employment outlook is expected to be fair for Veterinary and Animal Health Technologists and Technicians (NOC 3213) in British Columbia.

Sources:

- **WorkBC Career Profile for Animal Health Technologists & Veterinary Technicians**
<https://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/3213>
- **Career Cruising** database (Profile for 'Veterinary Technician')
<http://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising>
- **JobBank Canada: Job Market Report**
<http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/home-eng.do?lang=eng>

5. How do I become an Animal Health Technologist / Veterinary Technologist/Technician?

Education:

Completion of a two- or three-year veterinary or animal health technology diploma or a related program is required. In BC, programs are offered by:

- **Thompson Rivers University**
<http://www.tru.ca/science/programs/aht.html> [animal health technology programs, includes both on campus and distance education programs]
- **Douglas College**
<http://www.douglascollege.ca/programs-courses/faculties/science-technology/veterinary-technology> [veterinary technology program]

Registration / Certification:

In B.C. registration as a Registered Veterinary Technologist (RVT) is provided by the *BC Veterinary Technologists Association (BCVTA)* (<http://bcvta.com/>).

Registration is available to animal health technologists and veterinary technologists/technicians who have completed an accredited training program and passed the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE). Although registration is voluntary, it is often required by employers. For more information see:

- **BC Veterinary Technologists Association BCVTA**
http://bcvta.com/?page_id=157 [becoming a Registered Veterinary Technologist – RVT]

http://bcvta.com/?page_id=142 [Veterinary Technician National Examination – VTNE]

- **AASB Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE)**

<https://www.aavsb.org/vtne/> [American Assoc. of Veterinary State Boards]

Internationally Trained Animal Health Technologists & Veterinary Technologists & Technicians

BCVTA uses a third party, International Credential Assessment Service of Canada (ICAS) to evaluate Animal Health Technologists / Veterinary Technologists & Technicians trained outside of North America. For more information, see:

- ICAS

<https://www.icascanada.ca/professional-registration.aspx>

<https://www.icascanada.ca/uploads/userfiles/files/oavt%20and%20ahta%20bc%20application%20form.pdf>

Sources:

- **WorkBC Career Profile for Animal Health Technologists & Veterinary Technicians**

<https://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/3213>

6. How Do I Find A Job?

Where would I work?

- *veterinary clinics*
- *animal hospitals*
- *animal shelters*
- *humane societies*
- *zoos*
- *animal research laboratories*
- *pharmaceutical companies and government*

Finding Advertised Jobs

Jobs are advertised in a variety of sources including newspapers, magazines and online job sites.

Local Newspapers

You can look at the *Vancouver Sun* & *The Province* at Vancouver Public Library for free. Check the job postings daily, the careers section in the *Vancouver Sun* on Wednesdays and Saturdays and, in *The Province* on Sundays.

Online Job Postings

- **BC Veterinary Technologists Association - BCVTA**
<http://bcvta.com/jobs>
- **Registered Veterinary Technologists and Technicians Of Canada - RVTTC**
<http://beta.rvtcanada.ca/career-opportunities/>
- **Indeed.ca**
http://ca.indeed.com/advanced_search
<https://ca.indeed.com/Veterinary-Technician-jobs-in-Vancouver,-BC>
<https://ca.indeed.com/Veterinary-Technician-jobs-in-British-Columbia>
<https://ca.indeed.com/Animal-Health-jobs-in-British-Columbia>

- **Neuvoo**
<http://neuvoo.ca/en>
- **WorkBC**
<https://www.workbc.ca/JobSeekers/SearchResults.aspx>
- **BC Jobs.ca**
<https://www.bcjobs.ca/>

Finding "Hidden Jobs"

Many job vacancies are not advertised. The resources below will help you *with finding jobs in this "hidden" job market.*

Using Directories to Create a List of Potential Employers

You can use directories to produce lists of employers who are in this industry. Contact them directly to find out if they're hiring.

- **Canadian Veterinary Medical Association – CVMA** – Directory of Veterinarians & Hospitals
<https://www.canadianveterinarians.net/membership/directory-vets-hospitals>
- **Reference Canada**
<http://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/reference-canada>

Click on "Start Search" beside Canadian Businesses, then select the "Advanced Search" button. Select both "Keyword/SIC/NAICS" under Business Type and "City" under Geography. In the top search box enter "veterinary" and click SEARCH. Select the appropriate headings. Lower down, select the Province, choose the cities, and click the "View Results" button.

Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page

NOTE: *You can access this database from a Library computer. If you are using a computer from outside the Library, you will need a Vancouver Public Library card to login to this database. After clicking on the database name, you will be asked to enter your library card number and PIN (usually last four digits of your telephone number).*

Networking, Volunteering and Temporary Agencies

Many positions are filled by people who have been recommended by someone they know. Networking, working as a volunteer or registering with a temporary employment agency are good ways of helping you find jobs and meet people in your industry.

Networking and the Hidden Job Market:

When looking for work, be sure to talk to friends, relatives and neighbours. They may know someone who is hiring! Working as a volunteer, attending events, and joining clubs and associations are good ways to gain "Canadian experience." They are also good ways to meet people to learn about the local job market.

Volunteer opportunities

▪ **Volunteer BC**

<http://www.volunteerbc.bc.ca/>

▪ **GoVolunteer.ca**

<http://govolunteer.ca/>

▪ **BC SPCA (Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals)**

<http://www.sPCA.bc.ca/about/volunteer/volunteer-with-animals.html>

<http://www.sPCA.bc.ca/veterinary-services/vancouver-animal-hospital/volunteer.html> [Vancouver Animal Hospital]

<http://www.sPCA.bc.ca/branches/> [additional SPCA branches throughout BC]

▪ **Critter Care Wildlife Society**

<http://www.crittercarewildlife.org/wildlife-rehabilitation/>

<http://www.crittercarewildlife.org/our-interns-internship/>

<http://www.crittercarewildlife.org/volunteer-with-us/>

▪ **Wildlife Rescue Association**

<http://wildliferescue.ca/volunteer/>

▪ **Volunteer for Animal Organizations in British Columbia**

http://www.canadian-universities.net/Volunteer/Animals-British_Columbia.html

Municipal Animal Shelters

You can also search for your local municipal animal shelter; contact them to see if they need volunteers. Go to: <http://www.bc211.ca/> [try searching for 'animal shelter' or 'animals']

For additional tips see:

- **Networking for Employment**

Go to <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca>

[Search Networking for Employment]

- **Getting Canadian Work Experience**

Go to <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca>

[Search Getting Canadian Work Experience]

7. Applying for a Job

In Canada, employers usually expect to receive a resume and a cover letter that identifies the position you are applying for and summarizes your experience. Use the library catalogue, <http://vpl.bibliocommons.com/> to find books on writing resumes and cover letters specific to your industry.

For more information see:

- **Writing Resumes and Cover Letters**

Go to <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca>

[Search Writing Resumes and Cover Letters]

8. Where Can This Job Lead?

With experience, veterinary and animal health technologists and technicians may progress to surgical technician or supervisory positions.

- **WorkBC Career Profile for Animal Health Technologists & Veterinary Technicians**

<https://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/3213>

9. Where Can I Find More Information?

- **BC Veterinary Technologists Association**
<http://bcvta.com/>
- **Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA)**
<https://www.canadianveterinarians.net/resources/aht-vt-careers>
- **Registered Veterinary Technologists And Technicians Of Canada – RVTTC**
<http://beta.rvtcanada.ca/>

Questions? Please ask the Information Staff at the Central Library or telephone 604-331-3603.

Please note that the information in this guide is also available online through the Skilled Immigrant InfoCentre website at <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca/>.