

My Career in Animal Husbandry



With a *Certificate in Animal Husbandry*, graduates have the possible *career options* of the following:

- Animal Farmer/Entrepreneur
 - Poultry producer
 - Horse trainer/breeder
 - Farm attendant
 - Animal trainer/breeder
 - Dog breeder
 - Laboratory worker
 - Zoo worker
- NB: Although the job titles may vary, the tasks executed are very similar from one title to another and hence combined.

Careers in Animal Husbandry

The job descriptions and job specifications for these careers are as follows:

Career Overview

Animal husbandry professionals focus on the care and breeding of different kinds of animals. These may include livestock, dairy and poultry farmers. They focus on the breeding, care and marketing of the animals.

Typical Duties:

- Select and breed animals.
- Mix feed and feed supplements according to requirements of the animals and availability of grazing lands.
- Observe animals to detect signs of injury or illness.
- Arrange for the sale, slaughter of animals.
- Purchase or arrange for the purchase of livestock, feed and other supplies.
- Keep record of production, sales, receipts, expenditure and other data.

Poultry Producers

Career Overview

Poultry farmers raise poultry to produce eggs and meat and prepare eggs for incubation.

Typical Duties:

- Egg handling, including incubating eggs, grading and debeaking chicks.
- Feed and water poultry.
- Clean and disinfect or arrange cleaning and disinfecting of poultry houses.
- Inspect and dispose of or segregate or arrange the inspection, disposal or segregation of infected poultry.
- Collect, inspect and pack eggs or assign workers to perform such tasks.
- Arrange for or slaughter poultry.
- Arrange for the sale of poultry and eggs.
- Maintain growth, feed and production records.

Producers of other animals**Career overview**

Work with a cross section of large and small animals. These may be either for commercial or domestic use. They may include rabbits, dog, monkeys, horses, cats and birds for sale, shows, breeding or racing.

Typical Duties:

- Select and breed animals and birds according to knowledge of animals, genealogy, characteristics and offspring desired.
- Feed and waters animals and clean cages, hutches, pens.
- Examine animals for injury and illness.
- Arrange for the sale, breeding or showing of animals.
- Maintain growth, feed and production records.

Work Environment

Most jobs in this sector involve working outdoors, early mornings, evenings and weekends. Farm work can be dirty, smelly and dusty and may not suit people who suffer from allergies. You can work full-time (40-hour week), part-time or as a casual worker. Health and safety is

paramount and protective gear may be required in some instances. From time to time, you may be required to work over time. A regular driver's license may be required.

Qualifications and Licenses

Formal education in this area may be through vocational studies in Agriculture, Associate and Bachelor's degrees. In many instances, on-the-job training is provided, or experience gained for prolonged exposure to farm life. Certification is available through City and Guilds, C/NVQs certification and the SJPP Certificate in Animal Husbandry.

Essential Qualities and Skills

- ❖ Physical strength and the ability to work outdoors for long hours
- ❖ Practical skills and technical knowledge
- ❖ Awareness of health and safety and a willingness to work flexibly
- ❖ Deductive reasoning to determine if an animal is ill or injured
- ❖ Accounting, organizational, management and marketing skills
- ❖ Communication skills and the ability to follow instructions
- ❖ Reliability, responsibility and motivation

References

Barbados Standard Occupational Classification, Minor Group 612 section 6121, 6122, 6129 page 150-151 – Government of Barbados, Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development (1990)

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobprofiles/Pages/farmworker.aspx>
Retrieved December 2015

http://study.com/articles/Animal_Husbandry_Professional_Job_Info_for_Students_Considering_a_Career_in_Animal_Husbandry.html Retrieved December 2015