

Animal care specialist

As the go-to person of pet lovers, they trust and count on you to take care of their beloved pets. What's more interesting, you are paid to love and offer the essential needs, such as food and accommodation, to their beloved animals while they are away at work or on a vacation.

How much do they make?

Who needs money when you get to cuddle and nuzzle with such adorable, fluffy creatures? This is way better than watching those funny cat videos!

Kidding aside, this kind of profession requires a university education and a

burning passion for animal care. The salary varies because an animal care specialists have different interests and training. Moreover, some set up their own business, while others work for pet shops or veterinary clinics.

In this industry, clients will pay premium fees for specialised skills, training, and experience - these can determine your earning power. So, if you can handle reptiles such as boa constrictors, there's a high chance that you're the only one (paid one at that!) in the community who can do this.

How do I get started?

Paper qualifications may not be entirely necessary in this industry. However, for the purpose of employment, you need to have at least a Bachelor's degree in a relevant field such as marine biology, nutrition, animal science or biology.

You'll also need compassion and patience for animals because when pets cease to be cute and cuddly, they will probably be annoying. You will need a sense of good sense of judgement and discipline.

Since caring for animals can be physically demanding, you need to be fit and strong enough to carry a 60lb Chow Chow.

Did you know?

The pet care market in Southeast Asia was estimated at US\$952 million in 2014 and is expected to reach US\$1.4 million by 2020, a compound annual growth rate of 6.8 per cent during the forecast period.

Pet humanisation is becoming a trend in Southeast Asia. Domestic pets are now enjoying the same standing as a member of the family, thanks to increasing pet ownership among the high-income and middle-income groups.

Do you have the makings of a future animal care specialist?

Disciplinarian

Not all pets are angels as you may encounter misbehaving animals. That's why, you'll need to know a few tactics on how to manage them.



Cleanliness

Scooping and disposing poop may not sound fun, but it's important to help prevent infections or diseases.



Patience

Painful cat scratches, loud dog barks, putrid animal pee, animal hair on your clothes can get to your nerves, so be ready for the worst.



Tough heart

Seeing abused or sick animals, in addition to watching animals being euthanised, can be difficult aspects of this occupation.

