

New Era Veterinary Hospital Factsheet:

Please phone 01534 730521 for further advice or guidance, if your questions remain unanswered or if you are unclear about any of the following information.

TRAINING TO BE A VET

Details of a career in veterinary medicine and the training requirements can be found on the following website: www.rcvs.org.uk

Veterinary medicine offers a career that is challenging, diverse, immensely rewarding and never dull. Every single working day will provide something new and different. As well as general practice, a veterinary degree can lead to careers in research, food and drug industries, military service, specialisation in a particular clinical area, teaching and academia, government work and even TV! **However, it is very difficult and competitive to get a place at University. The degree course is five years (six at Cambridge). Once qualified, hours are often long, unpredictable and usually involve night work and being “on call”. Excellent people skills are as important as academic ability. The work can be immensely stressful and pay is significantly lower than other “professions”.** So, do not go down this path without considerable thought and gain as much work experience as possible, to be sure you are choosing the right career.

University Entry Requirements:

- Most universities expect a good range of GCSE subjects, including English Language, Sciences and Maths. You should be aiming for A grades.
- A Levels: Biology and two others from Chemistry, Physics or Maths. Minimum grades will be two A's and a B, but most require three A grades. Some universities might accept a different, third choice A level in a non science, but academic subject.
- Work Experience. Evidence of gaining work experience in veterinary practice and handling animals, including equine and livestock, is essential. The more the better and the greater your chance of being given a place at university.

Finally, when considering this career path, don't forget the financial burden. The length and nature of the course makes it one of the most expensive degrees to undertake. This problem is compounded by the fact that during holidays you will have to spend most of your time gaining work experience, reducing the practical viability of getting a paid job to help finance your studies.