



VET and Animal Studies

Sector Summary

While working with animals is a role many people aspire to, there are few animal specific roles that would require a VET qualification in Animal Studies. Animal welfare regulatory roles are important but not plentiful in Tasmania and have the requirement of a Certificate IV in Government Investigations.

There are limited employment opportunities for VET Animal Studies, but they can provide a pathway to further training. Many jobs working with animals are covered under industry owned training or within the AHC training package.

Perception of Training

- If a VET animal studies qualification is to be delivered in schools, then Certificate II Animal Studies would be preferred.
- Completion of high quality and relevant work placements with employers is deemed critical by industry when VET is being delivered.

Attributes for New Entrants

- A high level of maturity and the ability to understand complex issues is required when working with animals.
- Well-developed people skills are also essential as working with people comes alongside working with animals - either in advisory or regulatory roles.
- Resilience is important as working with animals can be confronting as not all animals are easily handled and can involve dealing with people at a challenging time.
- Good levels of literacy and numeracy will enable understanding of the complexities of animal welfare and husbandry, including nutritional requirements.
- An awareness of the requirements for people working with or owning animals under the *Animal Welfare Act (1993)* is also required and the associated regulations. A basic understanding of what is right and what is wrong is essential.
- Knowledge and understanding of animal biosecurity and emergency animal diseases.
- Maturity and situation awareness is important as the role requires considerable interactions with people, often in confronting situations.

- A working knowledge of the Five Animal Welfare Domains¹.
- The basics on how to euthanise an animal properly and undertake the relevant checks.
- Driver's licence.

Preferred Training and Pathways

- As the roles are so varied it is difficult to look at a preferred pathway, however, knowledge and understanding of the key skills mentioned above is critical.
- Traineeships are difficult to manage in many areas due to the nature of the work and the necessity to be supervised. Traineeships may only provide limited activities for a school-aged learner.
- Jobs in retail, such as animal and rural supplies, are covered by a retail operations training package or a rural operations package rather than animal studies.
- Relevant work exposure is difficult to access due to the nature of the various roles.
- The animal care sector has specific pathways depending on the job roles. For example, Vet Nursing has its own qualification, and many extensive animal production roles also have their own qualifications within the AHC training package.
- Intensive industries such as pig farming² and chicken/egg farming³ have their own industry-standard training programs focussed on animal welfare and production.
- There is a dog grooming skill set.
- Animal Health Australia provides training on emergency animal disease⁴.
- The sector has concerns with the completion of Certificate III Animal Studies in schools as they are unlikely to meet the workplace, resource and/or trainer requirements.



Published: Version 1 | November 2021



State of Tasmania
(Department of Education)

¹ <https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/livestock-welfare/>

² <https://australianpork.com.au/training-and-development>

³ <https://www.australianeggs.org.au/for-farmers/tools-and-training>

⁴ <https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/ead-training/>