



Veterinary Medicine / State Veterinarian (SV)

The State Veterinarian is typically by default the Chief of Animal Health in State Government. The chief has the responsibility of maintaining healthy animals in the state and makes decisions about disease control that will be most efficacious to stop the spread of contagious diseases in animals. She administers programs to test animals for disease and takes action when infection is found. She works with other SVs and federal animal health officials to cooperatively maintain programs that promote healthy animals. Usually the SV only has authority for animals of agriculture, but this varies by state. Some SV's have authority for dogs, cats, exotic animals, aquatic animals, and so forth.

Education required

3-4 years of undergraduate study in a field of science **PLUS** 4 years of graduate study at a college of veterinary medicine

Job Outlook

There is a shortage of veterinarians in the USA

Salary Range

\$65,000 - \$100,000

Classes to take in middle and high school in order to get a head start

All STEM courses will be beneficial, but specifically to prepare you for undergraduate years. The more STEM you take in high school, the easier it will be in college to get the kind of GPA you need to be accepted to veterinary school (usually minimum 3.50). Especially look for anatomy and physiology, advanced biology, chemistry, animal science, genetics, and any other course that has to do with zoology, animal husbandry, etc.

Optional: Skill Builders

- Hands-on experience with animals, no matter how basic
- Problem-solving skills
- Oral presentation skills
- Communication with a wide variety of audiences
- Evidence that you are not afraid of hard work
- Willingness to get your hands dirty