



Animal Behavior College (ABC)

Physical Requirements for Veterinary Assistant Training Program

Essential Functions:

Student will participate in a 2-part program involving home study and an externship. The externship will require the student to experience the daily activities of a veterinary assistant while under the professional guidance of a veterinarian or other veterinary professional in a veterinary environment. Students must arrange for their own transportation to their externship location.

ABC Education Requirements:

High School diploma or equivalency
Minimum of 18 years of age
Student must pass Scholastic Level Exam

Essential Skills:

Reading: Student must be able to read English at a High School equivalency level
Writing: Student must be able to write English at a High School equivalency level
Math: Student must be able to perform general math calculations including addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.
Communication: Student must be able to communicate verbally in English with good customer service skills
Observation: Student must be observant at all times of all people and animals to maintain a safe environment
Physical Demands: See specific Physical Requirements below.

Emotional and Mental Requirements:

1. Must be able to cope with animal death (i.e. surgical complication, euthanasia, illness, etc)
2. Must be able work under stressful conditions
3. Must be able to handle being present during all surgical situations

Environmental Conditions:

Extreme Temperatures: Potentially extreme environmental temperatures
Noise and Vibration: Extremely loud working environment caused by animals (i.e. barking dogs, squawking birds, rattling cages)
Fumes, Odors: Potentially hazardous chemical odors, animal odors
Dirt & Dust: Dirt and dust accumulated throughout the veterinary facility
Exposure to Chemicals: Potentially hazardous cleaners, isopropanol, hydrogen peroxide, ammonium cleaners and bleach, disinfectants and other irritant chemicals

Hazardous Materials: Student must accept the risks of exposure to certain materials including but not limited to communicable diseases, zoonotic diseases, pathogens, radiation, anesthesia and chemotherapeutic agents, and biohazardous materials.

Animal Dander: There will be constant exposure to all types of animal dander, including but not limited to dander from cats, dogs, rabbits, guinea pigs, etc. Consult your physician if you have allergies, asthma or any concerns.

Protective Equipment:

Student should wear protective equipment (i.e. rubber gloves, eye goggles, x-ray apron and gloves, etc) provided by the veterinary facility when required.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

By their very nature, most animals are fast moving and have quick responses to stimuli in their environment. It is essential for the student to be quick as well. The ability to get around swiftly and easily is important. Having a back without any ailments is important.

N = Never Never occurs	O = Occasional From 1% - 32%	F = Frequent From 33% - 66%	C = Constant From 67% - 100%
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PHYSICAL DEMANDS	FREQUENCY	DESCRIPTION AND/OR EXAMPLES
Sitting	F	Meeting, charting, computer stations
Standing	F	Exams, procedures, processing lab procedures
Walking	F	Walking at a normal pace in kennels, around clinic and outdoor areas. Walking at a brisk pace both forward and backwards keeping eyes on animals in an emergency situation.
Bending/Stooping/Squatting	F	Restraining and examining animals, picking up various animals and objects
Crawling	O	Cleaning lower cages
Climbing	O	Escape from aggressive animals, assist with capturing animals
Reaching	F	Reaching for items on shelf and catching animals
Kneeling/Crouching	O	Restraining animals during surgeries or exam

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PHYSICAL DEMANDS	FREQUENCY	DESCRIPTION AND/OR EXAMPLES
Balancing	O	Stocking shelves while standing on step stool, holding animal through small/cramped areas
Pushing/Pulling	O	Pushing equipment into position; using dolly
Lifting (up to 50 lbs)	F	Lifting animals and equipment
Lifting with Assistance (50 lbs and over)	F	Lifting animals and equipment
Carrying (up to 50lbs)	F	Carrying animals, supply boxes, and medications
Carrying with Assistance (50 lbs and over)	F	Carrying animals, supply boxes, and medications
Twisting/Turning	O	Capturing animals, surgery assist, escaping from animals
Vision	C	Able to comprehend fine details while observing animals and people in close proximity and up to 30 ft. away; Vision must include good peripheral, distance, depth perception, and ability to focus. Vision used for recording data; computer work
Hearing	C	Listening to animals for vital signs, able to discern animal vocalization such as changes in pitch; normal speech at close contact and shouting up to 30 ft. away
Talking	C	Good oral communication skills
Firm Grasp with Both Hands	F	Restraining animals
Fine Manipulation with Both Hands	F	Handling sharps, assist in surgeries
Repetitive Motion	F	Must have good range of motion in back and joints especially wrist, knees, and elbows.
Touch & Smell	F	Palpate/exam animals

Miscellaneous Physical Requirements and Other Criteria:

- a. Must possess excellent hand-eye coordination
- b. Must be able to turn sharply to change direction. Must have reasonable degree of agility to move through tightly cramped areas in various situations.
- c. Student must be able to withstand being jumped on by small and large animals.
- d. Student must be able to physically restrain small and large animals, manually.
- d. Student must be able to cope with the handling and processing of bodily fluids.