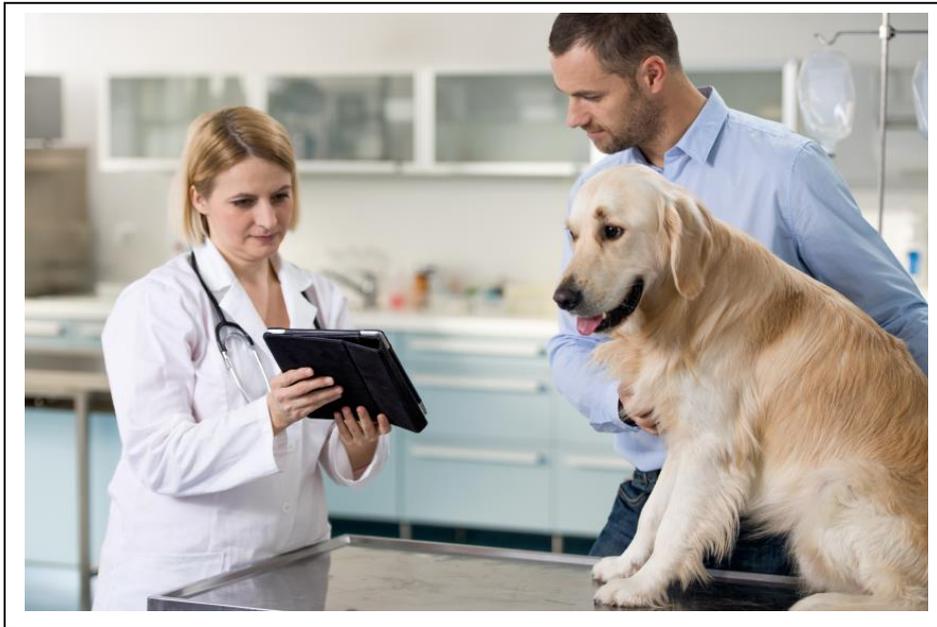


Aspiring Vets

Reigate College



reigate•college
www.reigate.ac.uk

Thinking about becoming a vet?

Becoming a vet is an incredibly popular career choice but the competition for university places is strong. You must have a real commitment to the subject to make your application stand out from the crowd. Training usually takes 5-6 years and involves both theoretical and practical aspects. Working in the veterinary profession is highly demanding but also very rewarding. Anyone contemplating a career in veterinary practice should remember that it is a 24-hour service, 365 days a year.

Study at university generally involves veterinary:

- **Anatomy**
- **Physiology**
- **Biochemistry**
- **Animal husbandry**
- **Pathology**
- **Parasitology**
- **Microbiology**
- **Pharmacology**

What A Levels should I study?

If you're thinking about becoming a vet then you need to choose your A levels carefully.

Minimum entry requirements expected are A*AA or AAB at A level. Above all, make sure you are interested in your A Level subjects; you won't get the grades if you're not.

As a general rule you will need the following:

- **A Level**
Chemistry and Biology plus
Physics or Maths

Some universities may accept a third A level in a non-science subject, but it must be an academically sound subject. Check carefully with each of the individual universities as to their exact requirements.

- **AS Level**
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Maths

All universities will look at your AS levels and the grades you achieved.

- **GCSE's**
English Language
Maths
Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Science

Many universities will expect A grades and above at GCSE, including English and Maths (grade 7-8 under new grading system*) and at least grade B in science. If you do not have A level Biology or Physics, you must have a good pass in that subject at GCSE level.

***At the time of going to print it is understood that a grade 7/8 will be required under the new grading system, but this could be subject to change and should be checked for the year of entry.**

Applying to university

All courses leading to a veterinary science degree have to comply with the requirements of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons RCVS.

Applications for places on veterinary degree courses at UK universities must be made through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). Applications must be received by UCAS by 15 October in the year before admission. **Be aware that applications for Medicine, Veterinary, Dentistry is earlier than for other courses.**

You are able to apply to four veterinary science courses on your UCAS form. You complete your UCAS form online which contains basic details about you: name, address, exam results. You will also have to write a 4000 character Personal Statement.

Depending on which veterinary college you apply to you may have to sit a BMAT aptitude test. This takes place in November each year and you will be able to sit it at college.

38 weeks of your veterinary studies will take place outside the university setting.

Once you have graduated you must complete a year's Professional Development Phase (PDP) where you will be expected to develop your skills. After that you will have a professional obligation to keep your skills up to date by attending training courses, lectures and networking.

UK universities offering veterinary science

Bristol

Veterinary Admissions Clerk
University of Bristol, Senate House
Bristol, BS8 1TH
Tel: 0117 928 9000
www.bristol.ac.uk

Cambridge

The Department Secretary
Department of Clinical Veterinary Medicine
University of Cambridge, Madingley Road
Cambridge, CB2 0ES
Tel: 01223 337600

The Cambridge Intercollegiate Applications Office
Kellet Lodge, Tennis Court Road
Cambridge, CB2 1QJ
Tel: 01223 333308
<http://www.vet.cam.ac.uk/>

Edinburgh

Admissions Officer
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies
University of Edinburgh, Easter Bush Veterinary Centre
Roslin, Midlothian
Edinburgh, EH25 9RG
Tel: 0131 651 7305
<http://www.ed.ac.uk/vet>

Glasgow

Admissions Officer
University of Glasgow Veterinary School
464 Bearsden Road, Bearsden Road
Glasgow, G61 1QH
Tel: 0141 330 5700
<http://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/vet/>

Liverpool

The Admissions Sub-Dean
Faculty of Veterinary Science
University of Liverpool
Liverpool, L69 7ZJ
Tel: 0151 794 2000
<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/veterinary-science/>

London

The Head of Registry
The Royal Veterinary College
Royal College Street
London, NW1 0TU
Tel: 020 7468 5000

Visit the RVC careers website

<http://www.rvc.ac.uk/>

Nottingham

The School of Veterinary Medicine and Science
The University of Nottingham
Sutton Bonington Campus
Sutton Bonington
Leicestershire, LE12 5RD
Tel: 0115 951 6417

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/vet/>

Surrey – Subject to RCVS approval

School of Veterinary Medicine
Duke of Kent Building
University of Surrey
Guildford
Surrey GU2 7TE
Tel: 01483 689165

<http://www.surrey.ac.uk/school-veterinary-medicine>

University open days

Research the different courses offered by the universities and go to the open days if you can. These will give you the opportunity to see some of the work vet schools do first hand and help you decide if this is the career for you. Information is available on the universities websites. Veterinary science courses are all very similar, so it will be your personal preference as to where you apply.

Knowledge, skills and performance

- Make the care of your patient your first concern.
- Provide a good standard of practice and care.
- Keep your professional knowledge and skills up to date.
- Recognise and work within the limits of your competence.

Safety and quality

- All veterinary surgeons have an obligation to deal with emergencies in any species at any time.
- Protect and promote the health of animals.

Qualities of a good vet

- Confidence
- Authority
- Composure
- Nerve
- Empathy for both patient and client
- Versatility
- Focus
- Organisation
- Resilience
- Well informed
- Knowing own limitations
- Good judgement
- Thick skin!

Maintaining trust

- Be honest, open and act with integrity.
- Never discriminate unfairly against patients or colleagues.
- Never abuse your patients' trust in you or the public's trust in the profession.

Is veterinary medicine the right career path for you?

Arrange work experience

Speak to veterinary professionals

Participate in open days, workshops, clubs

Internet Research

Read about latest medical advances / medical news / ethical issues

Education: GCSE and A Level requirements

Arrange Work Experience

The importance of a variety of work experience cannot be stressed enough, although the emphasis will be on quality over quantity. All vet schools require applicants to show evidence of their interest by gaining a number of weeks relevant experience in a veterinary practice and working with and handling animals **including livestock**.

Experience at a veterinary practice is a condition for entry to nearly all undergraduate courses. Working with sick animals is very different to healthy ones. How will you know you are suited to this environment?

In addition to work experience working weekends or holidays at:

- Stables
- Kennels/catteries
- Farm
- Animal rescue
- Abattoir
- Research lab
- Pet shop

will show your commitment and give you a wider perspective into working with different animals. Working with animals can be messy and you need to ascertain whether this is the right path for you.

However, practical experience is not a substitute for academic qualifications.

All students are encouraged to be pro-active and look for their own placements. Reigate College has a dedicated Work Experience Coordinator who has connections with local businesses and can advise you about organising your work experience placements, however you are encouraged to use any contacts you may have.

Volunteering Opportunities

Volunteering Website www.do-it.org/

Royal Voluntary Service www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/

Keep a diary of ALL experiences that would be relevant to your application to vet school

- A Action** (what you did/saw)
- B Benefit** (what you gained/learnt from the experience)
- C Course Relevance** (relate it back to the course requirements)

Speak to Veterinary Professionals

Don't be shy! Contact your local vet and ask if you can speak to the practise Manager, vet or nurse about a career as a vet.

Ask family, friends and acquaintances if they know anyone who works with animals in any capacity who would be happy to talk to you. Think about what you would ask them:

- University
- Ethical issues
- Working environment
- Workload

Participate in open days, workshops, clubs

Universities, schools and colleges will be offering 'information sessions' for aspiring vets, sign up for all opportunities! Look on the internet for more information.

Reigate College has a medical discussion group to enable students to talk about ethical issues and medical advances and news. If your new school/college does not have a similar club ask about setting one up with a member of staff. It strengthens communication skills, provides an insight into the professions and provides lots of useful material to talk about when you are interviewed by a vet school.

Sports Clubs: Evidences teamwork, commitment and communication skills and also ensure that you are looking after your own physical and mental health. Both of which will be of importance throughout your training and future career.

VetCam – two day residential Introduction to Veterinary Science in Cambridge – held in March.

Vetsim – www.workshop-uk.net/vetism - annual conference for sixth formers held in Nottingham

Internet Research

Research, research, research!

www.class-central.com/mooc/1675/coursera-edivet-do-you-have-what-it-takes-to-be-a-veterinarian

www.rcvs.org.uk

nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk

www.theguardian.com/science/veterinary-medicine

www.ucas.com

Read about latest advances in veterinary medicine/ medical news / ethical issues

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs

www.bbc.co.uk/news/science_and_environment

https://www.sciencedaily.com/news/plants_animals/veterinary_medicine/

Remember - be realistic

You need excellent qualifications and good practical experience to become a vet. It's not all about bandaging puppies' paws! You will at some point have to get dirty and deal with livestock and be prepared a lot of hard work and for some unpleasant and sad stuff too. You will also need to have good business sense and diplomatic customer relation skills.

How Reigate College supports Aspiring Vets

- Aspire University Tutorials
- Medical Discussion Group
- Supported work experience places
- Advice on Admission Tests
- Admission Test Centre
- Excellent Alumni Network

Contacts and information

Animal Welfare foundation www.bva-awf.org.uk

Blue Cross www.bluecross.org.uk

British Equine Veterinary Association www-beva.org.uk

British Veterinary Association www.bva.co.uk

Department for the Environment DEFRA www.defra.gov.uk

People's Dispensary for Sick Animals www.pdsa.org.uk

RSPCA www.rspca.co.uk

Appendix A

Vet Surgeries:

Priory Vets

10 Evesham Road
Reigate
Surrey
RH2 9DF

Gayton

Gayton House
40 Hatchlands Rd
Redhill
RH1 6AT

GVG Brookes Equine

Unit B1-B2 The Courtyard Dovers Farm
Lonesome Lane
Reigate
Surrey
RH2 7QT

Companion Care

inside Pets at Home
12 Brighton Rd
Redhill
RH1 6QL

Pets at Home

Medivet

58 Middle Street
Brockham
Betchworth
RH3 7HW

East Grinstead Veterinary Hospital

Church Road
Cophorne
West Sussex
RH10 3RA

The Cat Doctor

21 Westleigh Avenue
Coulston
Surrey
CR5 3AD

Goddards Veterinary Group

102 Brighton Road
Purley
Surrey
CR8 4DB

Lingfield Equine Vets

Chester Lodge
Woodcock Hill
Felbridge
East Grinstead
West Sussex
RH19 2RD

Brelades Veterinary Surgeons

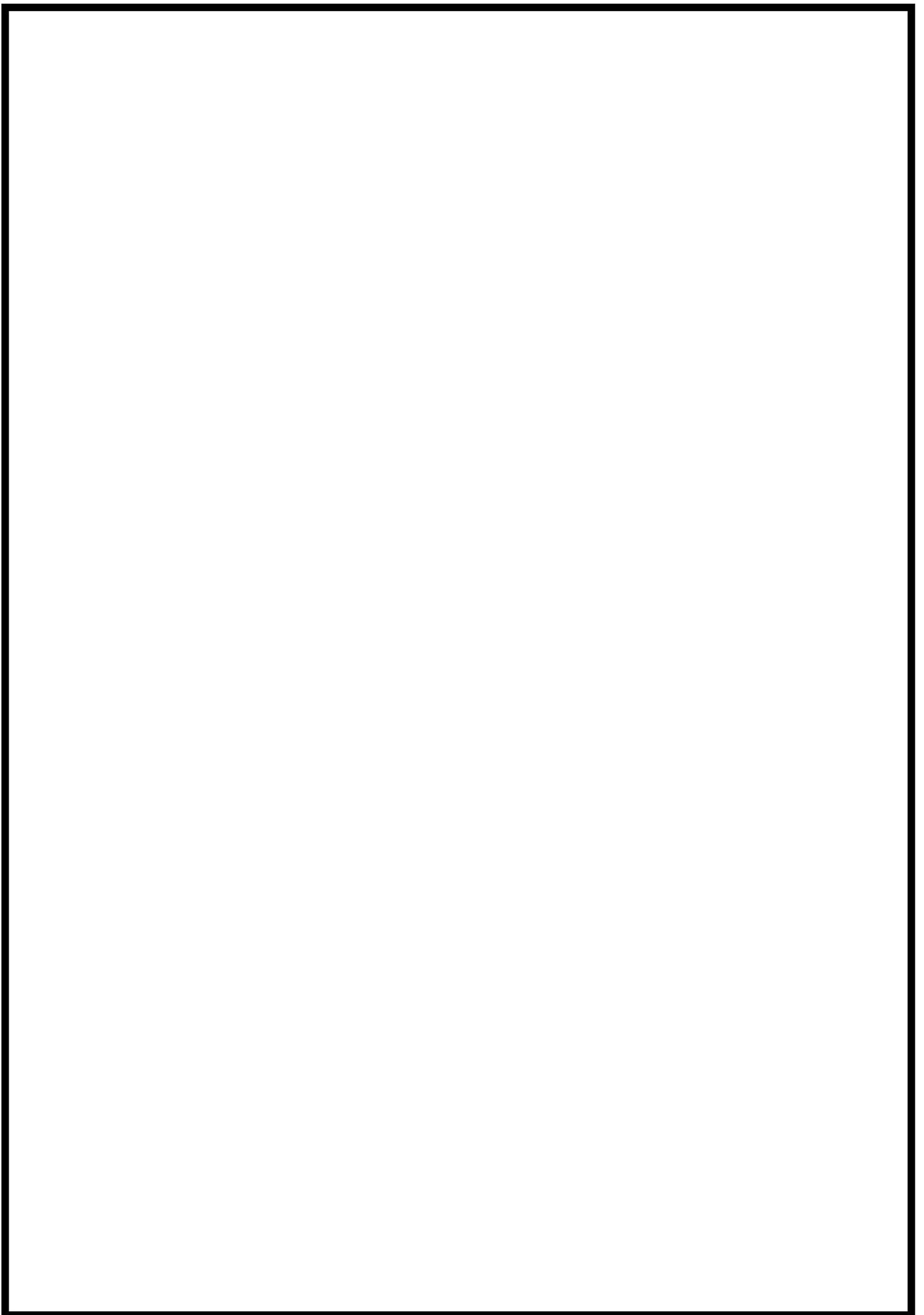
20 Knoll Road
Dorking
Surrey
RH4 3EP

Ash Barn Veterinary Surgery

Unit 5 Coles Lane
Ockley
Surrey
RH5 5LS

The Village Animal Hospital

Chapel Road
Smallfield Road
Horley
Surrey
RH6 9JH





Castlefield Road, Reigate, Surrey RH2 0SD
Tel 01737 221118 careers@reigate.ac.uk