

# Veterinary Assistant Program

## **Veterinary Assistant Program**

Enjoy the rewards of working with animals! This exciting new Veterinary Assistant Program can help students make a difference. The essential skills students will learn in this program will help them keep animals healthy, care for them when they are ill, and assist veterinarians in their offices.

This Veterinary Assistant program provides opportunities to individuals that will enable students to obtain the necessary knowledge and skills to succeed in an entry-level position in the field of veterinary technology. Through classroom lectures and hands on labs, students who complete this program would be prepared to assist veterinarians and veterinary technicians in providing quality animal care including: obtaining and recording patient information; the review of preparing patients, instruments and equipment for surgery; how to collect samples and perform certain lab procedures; dressing wounds; assisting in diagnostic and medical procedures; communicating with animal owners; and feeding and caring for animals.

## **Veterinary Assistant – Employment & Education**

Veterinary Assisting is a rewarding career in a growing field. As a Veterinary Assistant, students can work with animals and be a part of a professional veterinary staff. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the demand for professional veterinary assistants will rise 39% by 2010.

### Educational Requirements

People interested in becoming Veterinary Assistants should have a high school diploma or GED equivalent

## **Veterinary Assistant Program**

This 100 hour program provides instruction and training in the Veterinary Assistant field. This course includes but is not limited to the knowledge and skills necessary to participate in the care of animals as well as an understanding of the clerical/accounting duties necessary to maintaining an efficient and competent front office.

**Program Note:** Although this program includes comprehensive classroom lectures and hands on labs; this program **does not** include a national or state certification and it **does not** include a clinical rotation as part of its overall objectives.

## **Veterinary Assistant Detailed Course Information**

- veterinary medical terminology
- anatomy and physiology
- assisting with dental procedures
- the Veterinary Assistant as a communicator
- ethics and law in the veterinary office
- preparing for employment
- restraining animals during procedures
- assisting with veterinary procedures
- assisting in the nursing care of hospitalized animals
- assisting during surgery
- administering medications as directed by the veterinarian
- applying bandages and splints
- sterilizing instruments
- IV initiation and fluid therapy
- assisting with patient education
- pharmacology
- microbiology, cytology, parasitology and serology
- quality assurance
- preventative medicine
- understanding animal behavior
- filling prescriptions (under the supervision of the veterinarian)
- performing some lab tests
- bathing and exercising animals
- AKC, common canine and feline breeds
- answering phones and booking appointments
- billing and collections procedures
- accounts receivable and accounts payables
- interact with animals and their owners
- obtain animal health histories and records
- recognize signs and symptoms of illness and disease in animals
- veterinary facility cleanliness and orderliness
- health hazards in the veterinary practice
- transporting animals to/from cages and stalls
- identification, handling, and care of various exotic animal species