

Veterinary Technician Careers

Caring Careers for a Growing Region

Veterinary technicians keep animal health care running across the Capital Region, from private practices and animal shelters to the UC Davis teaching hospital. Valley Vision works alongside Los Rios Community College District through the Strong Workforce Program, bringing educators and employers together to keep training aligned with regional needs across Yolo, Yuba, Sutter, Placer, El Dorado, Nevada, and Sacramento counties.

> *Veterinary technicians are in demand across the region, and employers are open to people ready to grow into the role. Technical skills can be taught. What sets candidates apart is initiative, empathy, and a willingness to learn.*

52%

Growth in regional vet tech jobs from 2020 to 2025

490+

Annual openings for vet techs and vet assistants across the region

$26.60/hr

Entry-level vet tech wage, above the region's $21.17 living wage

Learn More About Career Pathways and Workforce Resources

Careers in Demand

Demand centers on licensed technicians and the support roles that feed the pipeline.

- Veterinary technicians (RVTs)
- Veterinary assistants and doctor assistants
- Animal care technicians in shelters
- Laboratory animal caretakers
- Large-animal technicians
- Overnight ward and specialty technicians, including emergency, oncology, and radiation oncology

Skills in Demand

Employers say they can teach technical skills, but look first for people ready to learn.

- Clinical skills such as anesthesia, medication administration, radiography, and lab testing
- Communication, compassion, and customer service
- Initiative, curiosity, and the ability to be taught
- Comfort in fast-paced, high-volume settings
- Practice management software and medical records

Pathways into the Industry

Licensed training is concentrated in three regional programs, supported by internships and externships with local employers. Common entry and progression points include:

- Entry-level animal care, shelter volunteering, and veterinary assistant roles
- Cosumnes River College (certificate and associate degree) and Yuba College (associate degree)
- Carrington College, Sacramento, a private provider offering an associate degree
- An alternative licensure route for those with two years of clinical experience and 20 units of specific coursework
- Internships and externships with local practices, shelters, and the UC Davis teaching hospital
- Lateral growth into shelter operations, animal control, foster coordination, administrative roles, and teaching