

ANIMAL CARE OFFICER

Employment opportunities

Working as an animal care officer opens doors of opportunity in veterinary assistance, shelter management, and wildlife rehabilitation. Roles in animal training, zookeeping, or as animal control officers are also accessible. Further paths include grooming, behavior analysis, or therapeutic use of animals in healthcare. These pathways offer diverse career options in animal care, each requiring unique skills and interests.

“Working as an animal attendant is an incredible opportunity to work one-on-one with the most amazing animals. You really feel like you’re making a difference to their lives.” - Animal Care Officer

Day-to-day tasks

Prepare and deliver food and water for animals

Ensuring all animal enclosures are clean

Administering flea and worm treatments

Report health issues and assist with minor injuries

Rescue and assist with neglected and injured animals

Maintaining records and animals transfers

Assisting the public and interacting with staff



Qualifications needed



Certificates

Cert. II/III in Animal Care or similar is essential
Can include:
Cert. III/IV in Animal Care Services
Cert III in Wildlife and Exhibited Animal Care



Passionate about advocating for and providing compassionate care to animals



Prior Experience
Animal handling and animal care experience at a shelter work or veterinary clinic

Competition for jobs in the animal industry is very strong. Why not give yourself a step up by volunteering at RSPCA NSW?

Visit [rspcansw.org.au/get-involved/become-a-volunteer](https://www.rspcansw.org.au/get-involved/become-a-volunteer) to find out more.

Or check out our current jobs on offer

<https://www.rspcansw.org.au/who-we-are/careers-at-rspca-nsw/>

A day in the life of an RSPCA NSW Animal Care Officer

Morning



Let's start the morning briefing so everyone knows which furry friends they are taking care of. Today you are allocated in the kennels and are taking care of 30 dogs.



First we check their individual diaries detailing their movements from yesterday and check on all 30 dogs to ensure they are healthy and well.



Now that's done we prepare all the dogs food and medication. Some of them even get breakfast inside toys and puzzle feeders for enrichment. A super important way to help keep the animals mentally stimulated.



Time for walks! Each dog goes for a walk and enjoys paddock time for play and exercise. In the meantime, the runs are hosed down, cleaned and refreshed for the dogs return.



As the specialist veterinarians do their rounds, you take this as a chance to discuss and update any of the changes in the dogs and the best way to keep them happy in their diaries.

Afternoon



In the afternoon you take one of the dogs to the veterinary clinic for an eye check. The veterinarian prescribes some medication, so you update all the dogs records for the animal attendant tomorrow.



One of dogs are going to their forever home! An important part of your day is assisting the public with adoptions and advising them on how to settle their new pup into their home.



Afternoons are for bath time! Some of the dogs are washed and others brushed and then the dogs are left for some quiet time to rest since shelter living can be stressful.



Time to repeat the morning tasks of cleaning the dog runs, rotating the dogs through the exercise yards and feeding them. All the bedding and dirty bowls are also taken to the kitchen and laundry for cleaning.