

Becoming an Equine Veterinarian

By Dr. Katherine McDonald DVM



and wellness. Each horse has a unique story, with different characteristics and unfortunately sometimes unique ailments. I take pride in putting together all the pieces and working towards solving the puzzle.

A day in the life of a Equine Veterinarian can be intensely diverse from one day to the next. A career as an Equine Veterinarian does not only involve caring for ailing horses but furthermore maintaining able-bodied horses of all kinds to remain active and strong.

An Equine Veterinarian makes on average approximately \$70,000 – \$100,000 annually, you will work long hours and many prolonged nights. Weekends are usually spent nursing horses back to full-health. You'll have a close working relationship with the owner(s) to not only keep them informed and but also to educate. It is an incredibly gratifying and demanding career. Unlike a human doctor, our patients aren't able to tell us what is wrong or where it hurts.

My favourite part of being an Equine Veterinarian is being able to work closely and help horses all day and every day! It is truly rewarding to provide horse owners peace of mind and knowing they put their trust in you when it comes to their horse's health

The best way to get started if you are interested in becoming an Equine Veterinarian is to volunteer at a clinic. Previous experience working with animals or working at a vet clinic is not a requirement but it is strongly encouraged. Getting into veterinarian school can be highly competitive. Schools often require a minimum of two years' university in a science based program. Veterinarian school is a four-year program and you will study not only equine medicine but all animal species. It is exceedingly useful to complete an internship post school specializing in horses. An internship is customarily one year working in an equine hospital. There are several specialities within equine medicine that can be achieved doing a three-year residency after your internship. The possibilities can be endless!

A career as an Equine Veterinarian is an incredibly fulfilling career. Each day I look forward to building relationships and overcoming challenges. If you have any further questions or want to know more do not hesitate to contact us at Moore Equine! 🐾