Thinking about...

Animal Care
From domestic pets to animals in captivity, animal care covers a huge range of animal species in a huge variety of areas. Different types of animals and working environments mean there are lots of different areas you could work in, for example:

- Veterinary
- Equine
- Zoological
- Farming
- Conservation
- Tourism
- Animal Welfare
- Animal Training

While working with animals you’ll have the opportunity to care for diverse ranges of species in a variety of different settings, whether you’re in a zoo, or just helping out at a local kennel.

Animal Care courses available at Chichester College…

Level 1 - Edexcel Diploma Level 1 Land Based Studies
Level 2 - City & Guilds Diploma Animal Care
Level 3 - Edexcel Diploma Animal Management
Level 3 - Edexcel Extended Diploma Animal Management
Level 5 - Edexcel Higher National Diploma Animal Management

All these courses are based at the Brinsbury campus. For more information visit the Positive About Futures team either in the Student Centre at Chichester College, or in the library at Brinsbury Campus.
Animal care is a busy occupational area with vast opportunities to work in many fields both in the UK and overseas. For further details on specific roles you can visit:

Career Coach:  https://chichester-internal.emsicareercoach.co.uk/
National Careers Service:  https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/Pages/Home.aspx

Need some guidance?

For any information or guidance visit Positive About Futures in the Student Centre at Chichester College or in the library at the Brinsbury Campus. One of our experienced advisors can answer any questions you have on finding the right career for you, requirements you need for your chosen career etc. We also have many other resources along with internet access for you to research further.

Call: 01243 786321 Ext: 2539
Email: positiveaboutfutures@chichester.ac.uk
How do you prefer to learn? Are you more of an academic and prefer to study, or do you like to get your hands dirty and learn on the job?

There are lots of different routes available to you that will suit your way of learning, for example, Apprenticeships or University.

**Apprenticeships:**

Being employed as an apprentice would give you the opportunity to work towards a Nationally recognised qualification, while earning yourself a weekly wage. Employers all over the country offer Apprentice vacancies, and they can be found on the Apprenticeships website.

For more information and guidance on how Apprenticeships work, check out:

http://www.chichester.ac.uk/Apprenticeships/Apprentice-vacancies/

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/animal-care-apprenticeships

**University and Higher Education:**

Do you want to study over a few years and gain a degree out of it? University is an opportunity to be independent, study in a slightly more academic setting and gain a higher qualification.

Universities and Higher Education Centres worldwide offer thousands of different courses in all aspects of agriculture, from agricultural management, to farm business management!

For UK institutions, look on the UCAS website (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) where you can find all the courses offered, where they are, and find out details on how to apply for University.

Visit [ucas.com](http://ucas.com) to view the universities that offer courses in this sector.
Michelle Towle is Head Nurse at a small animal practice and she clearly loves her job! “I wanted to be a veterinary nurse when I was a little girl. It’s all I ever wanted to do. We couldn’t have pets at home because my mum was allergic—that made me even more determined!”

**A Typical Day**

There are two nurses at this practice to cover two shifts: one works 8:30 am until 5:30 pm and the other, 10:15 am until 7:15 pm on alternate days. Day patients come in between 8:30 am and 9:30 am to be greeted and settled in and the various admission procedures followed, including form-filling.

Next, the operating room is prepared: drapes, robes and sterilising equipment is checked and anaesthetic machines switched on, pre-med and other medications are made ready. Meanwhile, the receptionist comes in to deal with telephone calls, patient appointments and other general duties. (The phone rings constantly!)

“Another of the first, but most important, jobs is to give animals that have been in-patients during the previous night some TLC! Their cages have to be cleaned out, drugs and feeds given, as appropriate, temperatures, heart rates, respirations are done, then the vet checks them over when she comes in as well.

“Between 9 and 11 am consultations take place. They can be anything from boosters to blood tests, anything. We may have to help by holding the animals, helping them to remain calm when they are nervous or scared.

“Normally, Hazel (the vet) starts operations at 11 am, but of course it can run over if consultations take longer or there’s been an emergency case to deal with.”

One of the nurses assists Hazel in theatre—which often consists of up to 5 surgical procedures in one morning. Operations like castrations, spaying and x-rays are all routine, but there are more unusual cases too.

Equipment and surfaces have to be cleaned up and kept sterile throughout and animals monitored. Notes and records are updated on the computer for each animal before the afternoon consultations begin at 2pm.

“There’s a lot of time spent tidying up! More importantly, though, there’s a lot of time spent with the animals—they can be a bit groggy after the anaesthetic and need reassurance. When the owners come to collect them, we like to spend some time with them, to talk about their pet’s operation and after care and make sure they are OK too!” That is one of the main attractions of a small veterinary practice; Hazel and the team know their patients and clients by name. They are aware of pets’ backgrounds and health—often caring for them from birth to death.