

Equine Veterinarian

Equine Welfare

Job Summary

A equine veterinarian is a licensed health professional who is qualified to diagnose and treat horses involved in competition and production. The typical routine for an equine vet includes performing basic exams, giving routine vaccinations, drawing blood, prescribing medications, evaluating and suturing wounds, performing surgeries, and giving post-surgical exams.



Main Duties

- Veterinarians are often consulted on topics such as diet, stabling, improving performance, breeding and often working in conjunction with a farrier to correct angular limb deformities, solve lameness issues and ensure that the foot is properly balanced;
- The thoroughbred industry duties include performing pre-purchase exams, monitoring the reproductive health of breeding stallions and broodmares, assisting with foaling's and taking x-rays or ultrasounds;
- Attend lectures, conferences, or continuing education courses to maintain an awareness of the latest research on veterinary procedures, knowledge of local diseases and environmental hazards that can affect the health of horses;

Job Level

Specialist role

Typical Employer

Self employed; Equine Veterinary Hospital or Surgeon;

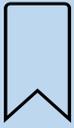


Case Study

Equine Health and Wellbeing

Equine welfare is a key priority for all involved in Irish Breeding and Racing. In addition to the significant volumes of equine related capital investment incurred by racecourse, breeders and trainers, Racing's stakeholders invest in research and development in the field of equine welfare via the Irish Equine Centre (IEC). Services provided by the IEC help ensure the health of Ireland's horses and include the provision of specialised facilities for the diagnosis, management and prevention of diseases, in addition to further research and education in this area.

[Source: Economic Impact of Irish breeding and racing 2017]



Competencies (Behavioural)

- A love for horses, horse riding or horse racing is the No. 1 motivating factor why people work within the horse racing industry (HRI Education & Training Survey 2020);
- Critical & innovative thinking (problem solving; reasoned decision making; reflective thinking; entrepreneurship;) & Interpersonal Skills (communication; teamwork);

Knowledge & Skills

Equine Knowledge & Skills

Horse care & welfare;
Horse training, performance & fitness;
Breeding operations & pedigrees;
Equine nutrition, anatomy & physiology;
Horsemanship skills;

People Knowledge & Skills

Leadership & management skills;
Communication skills;
People management skill;
Staff training & development;
Health & safety regulations;
Self development;

Racing Knowledge & Skills

Racing industry knowledge;
Integrity of the sport;
Raceday operations;

Business Knowledge & Skills

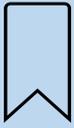
Business planning;
Admin, compliance & law;
Finance & taxation;
Marketing & networking;
I.T. / digital skills;

Education

To become a registered veterinary practitioner you must complete a bachelor's degree programme in veterinary medicine which is accredited by the Veterinary Council of Ireland (VCI). The only college offering this course is University College Dublin (UCD), which provides both a undergraduate and graduate entry route. See qualifax.ie for further information.

Post graduate opportunities in UCD Veterinary School includes a Graduate Certificate in Equine Sports Medicine. The programme will equip vets with the necessary skills to fully investigate and treat poor performance in the equine athlete.

CPD: Continuing Veterinary Education became mandatory for renewing a Licence to Practise on 1 January 2012. All registrants renewing their licence to practice will need to have achieved the required number of credits in the current CVE period. VCI has developed an e-lecture series in conjunction with UCD for this purpose, see www.vci.ie for further information.



Career Path (Alternative Careers)

- Business;
- Academic;
- Public Health;

Experience

The veterinary medicine course provides both an entry for school leavers, and a graduate route. Applicants to the graduate route must have completed a degree in biological, biomedical or animal sciences.

Job Availability

Job availability is limited. Follow www.equip.ie for information on job opportunities within the thoroughbred breeding and racing industry.



Certification

It is a legal requirement that veterinarians register with the Veterinary Council prior to engaging in any type of veterinary work in Ireland. The Register of Veterinary Practitioners is maintained by the Veterinary Council pursuant to The Veterinary Practice Act 2005.

Working Conditions

It is common for equine veterinarians to work a five to six day week with additional “on-call” emergency hours as needed in varying temperatures and weather conditions;

Pay & Benefits

Vets traditionally work in partnership with other vets, with three vets being the average practice size. Newly qualified veterinary surgeons are paid around €35,000 a year. More senior veterinary surgeons typically earn €50,000–€60,000, although this can rise to as much as €110,000 (data source: www.gradireland.com).