

Animal instincts

TOP 5

JOB TO WORK WITH ANIMALS

Start grooming yourself for a career from school. **Cara Jenkin** writes

A JOB working with animals is among the top wishes children want "when they grow up" and now they can study at school to get early experience for a career.

Veterinarian/zookeeper was the second most popular dream job for children, a 2014 Officeworks survey has found.

Animal studies can lead to jobs as varied as veterinary and pet industry roles, zookeeping, welfare and conservation, with pathways also available into the agriculture and horse racing sectors.

Animal studies program co-ordinator Matt Kempson says the vocational subject is a popular choice for male as well as female students because jobs are so varied.

"It was developed to give students a pathway towards careers in the animal care industry such as veterinary nurse, zookeeping, wildlife park attendants, kennel workers, etc," he says.

"The advantages of the program for the students are that they can achieve certificate qualifications, SACE completion and wide and varied work experience opportunities."

Kempson, who co-ordinates Marcellin Technical College's program, says among its graduates are jockeys and vet clinic staff.

"In the past, students have



SKILLS INJECTION HELPS CASSANDRA ON HER WAY

completed Certificate IIs and IIIs in Animal Studies and some have completed Certificate IIs in Stablehand (Racing)," he says.

"These qualifications lead to Certificate IVs in Veterinary Nursing or into Diplomas of Animal Technology."

Students also can continue studying at university after they finish school, despite it being a vocational subject.

CASSANDRA Quigley had always wanted to be a veterinary nurse so to get work experience at a veterinary surgery and the basic skills to start her career while still at school seemed the obvious choice.

Quigley, 17, is a Year 12 student at Marcellin Technical College, where she has

animal studies as a subject. She also has a traineeship, studying a Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing while working at a vet's surgery.

"I chose Marcellin because I heard they offered a course for animal studies and there are heaps of work experience placements throughout the year" she says.

"I got this traineeship by doing a lot of work experience with them.

"They knew I was keen to learn and very interested in what they were doing."

Duties include washing and packing surgical kits, mopping floors, helping the vet prepare for and during surgeries, and injecting pain relief.

1 FARMER

There's a paddock full of animals farmers can work with, and while focus is commonly on one animal - for example, pig farmers generally deal with pigs - farms usually also have dogs, chickens, and perhaps a cow or a horse, 800 new jobs are forecast to 2021.

2 VETERINARY NURSE

Many children may want to grow up to be a vet, but there are more new jobs for their assistants forecast to be created by 2021. There are 1400 roles expected to be created for veterinary nurses who help treat domestic and farm animals.

3 SHEARER

Shearers mostly work with sheep but also may need to be skilled with working dogs. Fewer workers overall are forecast to be employed by 2021, however, there is high demand for good shearers willing to live a nomadic lifestyle and travel around the country.

4 PARK RANGER

Conserving native animals and control of pest animals are part of a park ranger's role, as well as conserving plants, and they can be hands-on with animals as diverse as kangaroos and feral goats. Jobs growth is limited and workers may need to be willing to relocate for work.

5 ZOOKEEPER

From giraffes and monkeys to parrots and snakes - the menagerie is open. Tertiary qualifications are required and there can be tough competition for job vacancies, which are forecast to be few in the next five years.

YOUR WORK QUESTIONS ANSWERED

email questions to careerone2@news.com.au

I NEED TO TAKE TIME OFF TO CARE FOR AN ELDERLY RELATIVE. DO I HAVE ANY LEGAL RIGHTS TO IT?



EXPERIENCED LISA MORRIS

SENIOR REGIONAL DIRECTOR, HAYS

According to the Fair Work Ombudsman, under the National Employment Standards (NES) employees can take time off to care for an immediate family member who is sick or injured. This type of leave is called personal/carer's leave and full-

time employees are entitled to 10 days of paid personal/carer's leave each year. Employees are also entitled to two days of unpaid personal/carer's leave. An employee must give their employer notice as soon as practicable.



UP & COMING BELINDA SHADIAC

TALENT ACQUISITION CONSULTANT

Yes, you do have legal rights to take time off to care for an ageing parent, this is known as carer's/personal leave. This type of leave generally comes out of a personal leave balance as part of your employee working entitlements. Your organisation

should have clear policies and procedures on carer's/personal leave so be sure to read this carefully. Keep your boss informed about your ageing parent as they may be able to offer further support.



MID-CAREER ANDREW SULLIVAN

LEAD CONSULTANT, HENDER CONSULTING

Under the Fair Work Act 2009, you are entitled to various types of paid and unpaid leave which you can use to provide support or care to an immediate member of your family, including a parent. Your employer might also have policies in place that

are more generous than your statutory entitlements. I recommend that you make inquiries directly of your workplace as to any internal arrangements and policies they may have in place for taking leave such as this.



THE EXPERT ALEXANDRA ROSSER

HEAD OF ORGANISATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY CONSULTING, STILLWELL MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Carer's leave is available to look after an immediate family member. Carer's leave comes under the same provision as sick leave and full-time employees are entitled to 10 days of paid

sick/carer's leave and part-time employees are entitled to paid pro rata 10 days per hours of work. Full-time and part-time employees are also entitled to two days of unpaid leave if they have run out of paid leave.

