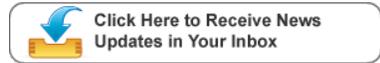




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Updated:

By: Joel D. Smith

NEW OXFORD, Pa. -- If playing with animals and getting paid to help them feel better sounds like a good idea, then maybe your next job should be a veterinary technician.

But, remember it also includes placing your fingers near sharp teeth, and placing thermometers somewhere else.

Shawna Swope is wrapping up about two years of training to become a veterinarian tech at New Oxford Veterinary Clinic.

Her duties include prepping shots, weighing animals and clipping their nails.

"When you see an animal come in sick and you help give them medication, teach the client to give medications and they come back like this and they are really healthy, it's such a great reward," Swope said.

The main veterinarian at the clinic, Dr. Robert Ratcliffe, said working with the owners is just as important as dealing with the animals. He wants employees who can handle both parts of the job well.

He admits many of the animals don't want to be in the new atmosphere of an exam room.

"It's bound to happen, it's an animal, and when they are out of their comfort zone, they are going to bite," Swope said. "You will also sometimes end the day with work on your mind and on your hands."

If you choose York Technical Institute's 21 month course, including the externship, it runs close to \$30,000 in books and supplies.

Tuition and fees: \$29,274
Books and supplies: \$4,100

Starting salary: \$11-\$13/hour
Average salary: \$30,000



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