



Jobs working with...



Horses



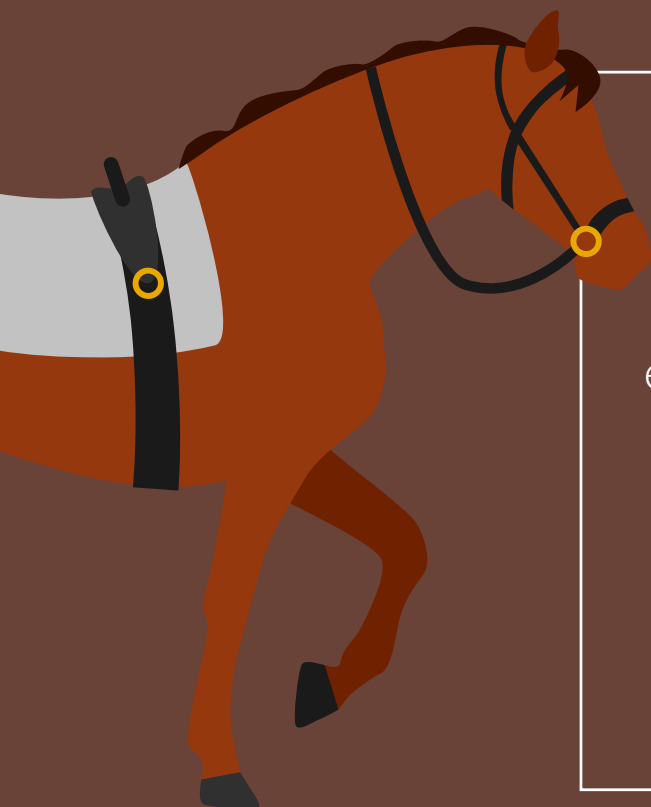
Careers Guide



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More about The College of Animal Welfare

The College of Animal Welfare was established in 1989 with the vision to use education to help tackle animal welfare issues. Today, the College is one of the largest veterinary training providers in the UK, with centres in Cambridgeshire, North London, Yorkshire, Greater Manchester and Scotland.

Working in the Horse Care Industry



If you're a horse lover and want a job you can be passionate about, then working with horses could be for you.

Working in the equine industry can encompass a whole range of careers in such as groom, riding instructor, yard manager, farrier or equine veterinary nurse. The work can be incredibly rewarding and job satisfaction is high.

Is working with horses for me?

You must be hard working, motivated, happy to work outdoors at all times of the year and be passionate about horses. You will need to enjoy working as part of a team but also be able to work with little or no supervision.

You should also have good people skills, as working with horses often involves significant contact with people, particularly if you are working in a riding school, for example.



Horse Groom



What the role involves

Horse Grooms make sure that horses are healthy and in good condition by looking after their everyday needs. The routine work of a groom includes:

- Giving horses food and water
- Replacing bedding
- Mucking out stables
- Cleaning and clipping horses' coats
- Treating minor wounds
- Exercising horses

Getting into the profession

There are no formal entry requirements, however many employers will look for experience of working with horses.

You can also get into this role via an equine apprenticeship.

See **page 12** for further details about equine apprenticeships at CAW.

Key Facts

Average salary:

Variable

Typical hours:

38 to 40 per week

Progression

With experience, you could take charge of a yard or become a head groom.



Yard Manager



What the role involves

Yard Managers ensure yards run efficiently. They are responsible for the daily running of the yard. Responsibilities may include:

- Managing the care of horses
- Yard maintenance duties
- Managing junior staff members
- Managing health and safety measures
- Dealing with clients and owners
- Preparing horses for events and competitions
- Promoting and marketing the yard
- Driving HGV and non-HGV vehicles such as horseboxes, tractors and trailers
- Exercising and feeding horses

Getting into the profession

There are no formal entry requirements, however many employers will look for experience of working with horses.

You may be able to move into this role via an equine apprenticeship.

See **page 12** for further details about equine apprenticeships at CAW.

Key Facts

Average salary:

Variable

Typical hours:

35 to 40 per week

Progression

You could work on various types of yards, such as competition, breeding, training, riding schools, racing and trekking.



Horse Riding Instructor



Key Facts

Average salary:

Variable

Typical hours:

36 to 38 per week

Progression

You could become a head or senior instructor at a riding school, a competition judge, or run your own riding school.

You may also wish to continue with your learning and complete an equine-related degree.

What the role involves

Horse riding instructors teach people of all ages, levels of ability and experience to ride. Your work could involve:

- Teaching people who want to ride as a hobby
- Helping experienced riders to prepare for competitions
- Developing training programmes
- Spotting and helping riders to correct problems

Getting into the profession

Employers will usually expect you to have qualifications from the British Horse Society (BHS) or Association of British Riding Schools (ABRS). You can complete training in several ways:

- On an apprenticeship scheme
- Attending a college course
- As a fee-paying student at a riding school
- Through private study and distance learning programmes if you are in a relevant job



Equine Veterinary Nurse



What the role involves

Equine Veterinary Nurses work alongside vets to provide care to horses. Responsibilities include:

- Preparing horses for surgery
- Cleaning and preparing the theatre and surgical instruments
- Nursing sick horses and administering medication under veterinary supervision
- Dressing wounds
- Carrying out diagnostic tests
- Completing necessary paperwork

Getting into the profession

There are two main types of training:

- Further Education – Level 3 Diploma in Equine Veterinary Nursing
- Higher Education – FdSc Equine Veterinary Nursing Science

Entry requirements will vary, however as a minimum you'll usually need to:

- Hold 5 GCSEs at grades 9-4 (or A* to C) including English, Maths and a Science Subject
- Relevant employment in a vet practice

Key Facts

Average salary:

£24,000-£32,000

Typical hours:

35 to 40 per week

Progression

Many equine veterinary nurses choose to remain in veterinary practice. Other opportunities include:

- Head nurse
- Practice Manager
- Research
- Teaching
- Sales
- Rehabilitation



Farrier



What the role involves

Farriers use a variety of tools to care for the feet of horses, donkeys and mules; as well as make and fit horseshoes. Responsibilities include:

- Discussing the horse's shoeing requirements with the owner
- Checking the horse's leg, foot and hoof
- Cutting away excess hoof growth
- Making horseshoes by hand or machine
- Fitting horseshoes with a hammer and anvil

Getting into the profession

To become a farrier you need to register with the Farrier's Registration Council (FRC). You can achieve this by completing an advanced level apprenticeship with an approved training farrier, or after training with the British Army.

Three colleges in the UK provide approved farriery apprenticeships:

- Herefordshire and Ludlow College
- Myerscough College
- Warwickshire College

Key Facts

Average salary:

Variable

Typical hours:

47 to 49 per week

Progression

You could work in a large stables, horse breeders, mounted regiments of the police or army, in equine hospitals or in the farriery suppliers business. You could also become an Approved Training Farrier, lecturer or farrier consultant.



Jockey



What the role involves

Jockeys are professional athletes who ride racehorses at race meetings for horse trainers and owners. Responsibilities include

- Planning racing strategies with the horse owner and trainer
- Taking advice from the trainer on tactics
- Riding every day to exercise the horse
- Riding at flat or jump races around the UK and possibly overseas

Getting into the profession

You can get into this job through:

- An apprenticeship
- Working towards this role
- Switching from amateur to professional racing

Key Facts

Average salary:

Variable

Typical hours:

44 to 46 per week

Progression

As a professional jockey you could commit to working for one trainer or owner, or ride for several as a self employed jockey. You could also go on to work for stables overseas in countries like Dubai, Japan and the USA.



How to Start a Career Working with Horses



Vacancies in the equine industry can be very competitive and what often gives applicants the edge is experience, enthusiasm and a qualification relevant to the job.

Qualifications and Training

There are a wide range of horse care training programmes available depending on the job you're looking for. Types of training include:

Further Education

Horse Care Certificates & Diplomas
or Equine Apprenticeships

Higher Education

Equine Studies
BSc (Hons) or FdSc degree

Entry requirements will vary by programme and provider. As a minimum, you'll usually need a good level of English and Maths skills, and some experience working with horses.

View our career profiles for specific training options.

How to Gain Work Experience or Employment Working with Horses

You'll usually need to gain work experience before applying for a training course or job working with horses.

Take a look at our top tips and advice:



Check online job boards for horse care positions, including Indeed, the CAW Jobs Board, Horse and Hound or Animal Jobs Direct.



Follow local equine colleges and equine employers on social media to be the first to see any new vacancies posted.



Contact your local equine employers directly to ask for a work placement or enquire about employment opportunities.



Attend relevant open evenings and career days to discuss your career plans with local colleges and equine employers.



Our annual *Careers With Animals Day* gives members of the public an opportunity to speak to relevant organisations about careers working with animals. Visit www.careerswithanimals.co.uk for more details.



Horse Care Training at The College of Animal Welfare



Equine Apprenticeships (Levels 2 & 3)

Whether you're looking to begin an exciting career in horse care, or have been working in the equine industry for some time, an equine apprenticeship can help you reach your career goals.

Our equine apprenticeships develop industry recognised horse care skills, and allow you to tailor your learning to your job role by choosing from a range of specialised study pathways. As an equine apprentice, you'll have the opportunity to gain practical skills and experience on-the-job, as well as earn a wage.

Equine Groom Level 2 Apprenticeship

This apprenticeship is designed for people who are looking to start a career working with horses and working in a suitable horse care environment.


Senior Equine Groom Level 3 Apprenticeship

This programme is suitable if you're working in the equine industry, in a supervisory or managerial role. You will build on existing skills and expertise.

Visit www.caw.ac.uk/hc for more details.



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