

# How to Become a Chartered Animal Physiotherapist Q&A

Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Animal Therapy (ACPAT)

## **Several universities like Hartpury and Harper Adams offer veterinary physiotherapy in BscHons so why do human physiotherapy first?**

You don't have to do physiotherapy first as you can do a degree in veterinary physiotherapy at several universities. The benefits of doing human physiotherapy first are that it gives you more career options as you can obviously also work as a human physiotherapist as well as treating animals.

You can easily work part-time as a human physio and part-time as an animal physio. When treating horses, it is also very beneficial to be able to treat the rider as problems with the horse often affect the rider and vice versa. In addition, most physio skills are transferable from people to animals with much of the physio research being done in people. .

## **What GCSEs do you need?**

Regarding GCSEs sciences are preferable in addition to maths and English of course.

## **What exams do you need to take?**

You need to take GCSEs, A levels and then both theory and practical exams in a wide range of physio related subjects when doing both human and veterinary physiotherapy degrees.

## **What routes could I take with limited experience/education to become an Animal Physiotherapist?**

Veterinary nurses can also undertake specific training to become a veterinary physio so with limited education becoming a veterinary nurse first would potentially be an option. All other routes require degree level qualifications.

## **How would an RVN progress onto become a chartered animal physio?**

An RVN can become a veterinary physiotherapist by undertaking specific training for veterinary nurses. However, you can only become a Chartered Physiotherapist by completing a degree in (human) Physiotherapy. .

## **Is physiotherapy more common than hydrotherapy? When you become a canine physio can you work specifically on sport dogs or is there a need to cater for all canines?**

Hydrotherapy may be part of a fitness or rehab programme for an animal that may be part of their Physiotherapy treatment or be separate to it. Hydrotherapy is typically used to increase cardiovascular fitness, manage weight and to help rehab from certain conditions, however, it is not suitable for use with all animals and/or conditions.

As a private canine physio, it is up to you what type of dogs you work with - some people may just work with sports/competition dogs. If you work in a vet clinic or hospital you would obviously be seeing a range of different types of small animals.

## **What is the average pay of a physio?**

It is difficult to specify the average pay of a veterinary physio. Many are self-employed so it will depend partly on where you are located, what type of animals you treat and how many animals you treat. Human physio has a clearer salary structure depending on if you work for the NHS or privately. Prices for animal Physiotherapy generally vary from £50-100 per session depending on experience, location, animal type etc.

## **Would business psychology be acceptable as a science A level?**

You would need to look at the course entry requirements for individual universities. In general, biology would be a preferred science A level for Physiotherapy.

