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<div align="center">Veterinary Science Careers</div>

Animals have become more than just a food source for humans; they have become a part of our families. Pets have become very common in this day and age, the industry has greatly expanded over the years and is continuously growing. "In 2016, the amount of pet expenditures in the United States totaled $62.75 billion, according to the American Pet Products Association" ("Veterinary Careers"). This has created many more jobs for people especially for animal lovers. One very large career within the pet industry is health care. Since people treat pets like family members, the health and care for these animals has become a main priority to owners. This has lead to the increase of Veterinary jobs and new improvements in medicine for our animals. "In 2015,..Americans spent $15.4 billion on veterinary care" (Veterinary Careers"). There are different positions within the animal medicine field and after close examination, both Vet Technician and Veterinarian are similar in regards to the knowledge needed; however, being a Vet Technician is more appealing as a career because of the amount of schooling, the working conditions, and the job outlook.

1. Education

It is well known that in order to be a Veterinarian, eight years of schooling is required. A Bachelors of Science or of Arts in physics, chemistry, biochemistry, animal biology, biology, or zoology. After, aspiring Veterinarians need to get accepted into an accredited college for Vet

Medicine ("Science Majors"). Not only is this a large time commitment, but also very expensive. This may be daunting to some and may stop them from pursuing this career. A great option for those that still want to go into the animal medical field can become a Vet Technician. The schooling is much shorter with only a two year associate's degree needed ("Science Majors"). The classes are similar to that of a Veterinarian but not as in depth. There is a state board exam at the end of the two years that grants a license for Vet Techs; however, it is not a requirement, but it will increase ones expected pay.

2. Income, Job Outlook & Benefits

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "The national average for a veterinary technician salary is $33,280 annually" ("Veterinary Careers") and an average hourly rate of about $14.11 ("Veterinary Technologist"). However, the "top 10 percent of veterinary technicians reported an annual salary of more than $47,410" ("Veterinary Careers"). The annual pay for Veterinarians is $88,490-$160,000 ("Veterinary Careers"). This may seem like a lot compared to a Vet Tech, but Veterinarians have a lot more school debt to pay back. In comparison the salary of a Veterinarian pays off in the long run more than at the start. The job outlook for Vet Technicians is very good, there is an estimated number of 3,000 new vet techs each year ("Veterinary Careers"). There has also been an increase in the Veterinary career field within the past five years ("Veterinary Careers"). As for benefits the Veterinarian receive excellent medical, dental, and vision coverage; as well as, two to four weeks of paid vacation with paid sick leave (andreasviklund.com). A lot of Vet clinics will pay for further education for both Veterinarians; as well as, Vet Technicians. Vet Techs usually receive traditional benefits in

health insurance with paid vacation and sick days. Another benefit is discounts on pet care at their clinic ("Veterinary Technician").

3. Daily Schedule and Activities

Both of these careers have very similar day to day activities with slight differences. A typical day for a Vet Tech includes obtaining information from pet owners about their pet and the reason for their visit. After receiving the information, the Vet Tech must recite the information to the Veterinarian; as well as, put the information in the computer. They assist the Veterinarian with whatever they need including administration of vaccines and other medications, animal restraint, prescription filling; as well as, monitoring animals during surgery and preparing the animals and the Veterinarian for surgery (Admin). The Veterinarian's job is to diagnose and prescribe medications to patients and provide owners with advice and information on their pet. They also perform various surgeries and procedures with the help of their Vet Techs. The ability to adapt and be calm during emergency situations is a very important attribute to have when working in this field. Another commonality between these two careers is the emotional toll it can take. As one Vet Staff states "The hardest part of my job is watching the emotional suffering of pet owners as they try to deal with an emergency with their pet" ("Animal Health"). Working in the Veterinary field is definitely not for everyone.

After looking at the research both careers are very similar. They require similar topics to be studied in college; as well as, very similar day to day actions performed. Both Veterinarians and Vet Techs work closely together and both get affected by the emotional impact these two careers have. However, being a Vet Technician is more appealing as a career because of its short schooling requirement, daily activities, and job outlook when compared to a Veterinarian.

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