



Minute Challenge: National Pet Day

Warm-Up Activity



	Number of establishments	Paid employees	Annual payroll (B = billions)
 Veterinary services	32,000	380,000	\$15.1B
 Pet care (except veterinary) services	19,000	116,000	\$2.5B
 Pet and pet supplies stores	10,000	120,000	\$2.7B

	Number employed	Median earnings
 Veterinarians	71,000	\$101,000
 Veterinary assistants and laboratory animal caretakers	36,000	\$29,000
 Nonfarm animal caretakers	144,000	\$27,000

Source: 2018 County Business Patterns

Note: County Business Patterns statistics only include establishments with paid employees that work full-time.

Source: 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Words to Know:

Veterinarian	Veterinarians help animals stay healthy. If an animal is sick, they figure out what the problem is and then they treat it. They also research the medical conditions and diseases of animals.
Veterinary Assistant, Laboratory Animal Caretaker	Veterinary assistants and laboratory animal caretakers are responsible for helping animals at medical facilities like laboratories, animal hospitals, and clinics. They support the work of scientists and veterinarians.
Nonfarm Animal Caretaker	Nonfarm animal caretakers work in places like pet care establishments, pet stores, animal shelters, zoos, and aquariums. They feed, water, groom, bathe, exercise, and otherwise care for pets and other nonfarm animals.
Median Income	This is the middle income when you put the incomes of all individuals in the United States in order from smallest to biggest.

If you had to be a veterinarian, a veterinary assistant/laboratory animal caretaker, or a nonfarm animal caretaker, which would you choose? List the positives and negatives of your choice in the chart below, using any of the data above to support your points. If you need help making a decision, ask yourself these questions: Which job pays the highest median income? Which job interests you the most, and why? What pet service has the greatest number of establishments and paid employees?

Positives of the job	Negatives of the job

What remaining questions do you have about the facts in the image above?

