**Educational Requirements:** The most significant source of training for veterinary technicians is formal training through community colleges. In most cases, this formal training leads to an associate degree. Veterinary assistants are usually trained on the job.

**Employment Outlook**

In 2008, there were 79,600 veterinary technicians employed in the United States. Ninety-one percent were employed in veterinary services and the remainder worked for boarding kennels, animal shelters, stables, grooming salons, zoos, educational institutions and local, State and Federal agencies. Employment for veterinary technicians is expected to increase much faster than average through 2016 because pet owners are becoming more affluent and more willing to pay for advanced veterinary care.

In 2006, there were 960 persons employed as veterinary technicians in Missouri. This number is expected to rise to 1,240 by 2016. This represents an annual increase between five and six percent per year. There will be approximately 60 job openings per year for veterinary technicians in Missouri.

In 2004, there were 300 persons employed in the Kansas City area as veterinary technicians. This number is expected to rise to 390 by 2014, an annual increase of four to five percent per year. There will be approximately 16 openings each year.

**Sources:** America’s Career InfoNet, Missouri Economic Research & Information Center, The Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2010-11 Edition

**Job Titles**

Veterinary Technician
Veterinary Technologist

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