



Animal caretakers

Feed, water, groom, bathe, exercise, or otherwise provide care to promote and maintain the well-being of pets and other animals that are not raised for consumption, such as dogs, cats, race horses, ornamental fish or birds, zoo animals, and mice. Work in settings such as kennels, animal shelters, zoos, circuses, and aquariums. May keep records of feedings, treatments, and animals received or discharged. May clean, disinfect, and repair cages, pens, or fish tanks.

Cognitive and mental requirements

The qualifications that workers need to use judgment, make decisions, interact with others, and adapt to changes in jobs.

In 2023, more than basic people skills were required for 20.5 percent of animal caretakers, and basic people skills were required for 79.5 percent.

Table 1. Percentage of animal caretakers with cognitive and mental requirements, 2023

Requirement	Yes	No
Pace: Pause control	42.8	57.2
Interaction with general public	89.3	10.7
Working around crowds	<0.5	>99.5
Telework	<0.5	>99.5
Work review: Supervising others	0.6	99.4
Work review: Presence of supervisor	91.4	8.6

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Requirements Survey

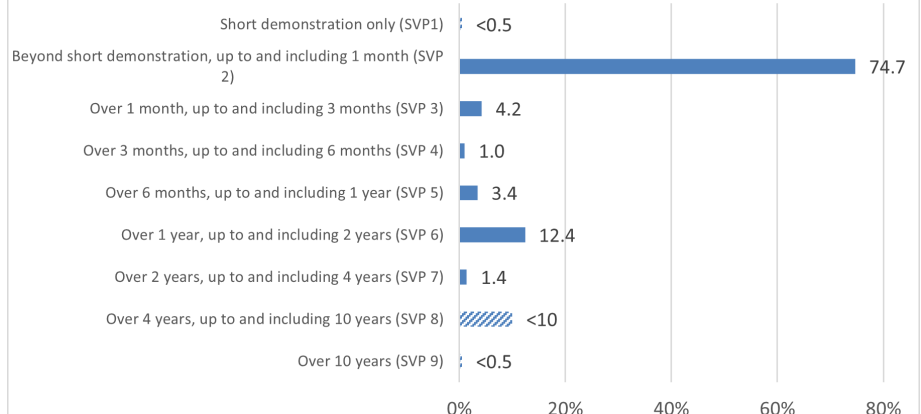
Education, training, and experience requirements

The minimum level of formal education required, credentials necessary, on-the-job training, and prior work experience necessary for average performance in jobs.

In 2023, credentials were required for 13.9 percent of animal caretakers. Prior work experience was required for 20.9 percent and on-the-job training was required for 96.2 percent.

No minimum education was required for 45.7 percent of animal caretakers and a high school diploma was required for 51.2 percent.

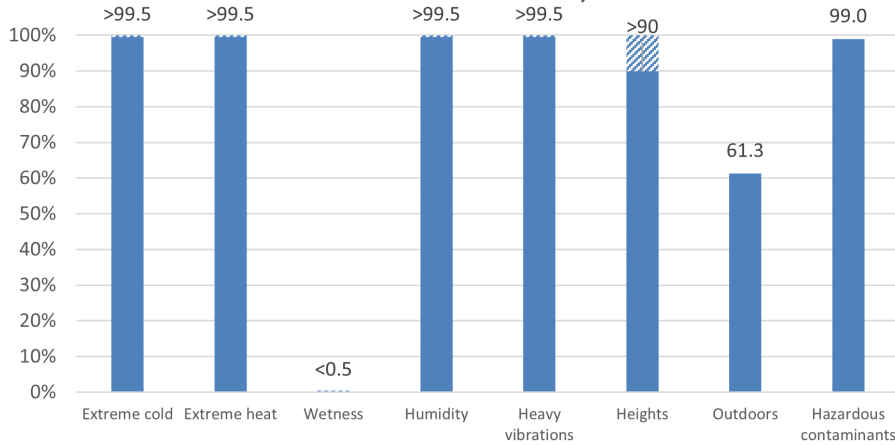
Chart 1. Percentage of animal caretakers by specific preparation time (SVP) level, 2023



Note: Striped bars represent range estimates where precise value is unpublished.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Requirements Survey

Chart 2. Percentage of animal caretakers without exposure to environmental conditions, 2023



Note: Striped bars represent range estimates where precise value is unpublished.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Requirements Survey

Environmental conditions

The various tangible or concrete hazards or difficulties that are in the vicinity of where jobs' critical tasks are performed.

In 2023, greater than 99.5 percent of animal caretakers were not exposed to extreme cold, and greater than 99.5 percent were not exposed to extreme heat. Wetness was not present for less than 0.5 percent, greater than 99.5 percent were not exposed to heavy vibrations, and 61.3 percent were not exposed to the outdoors.

Physical demands

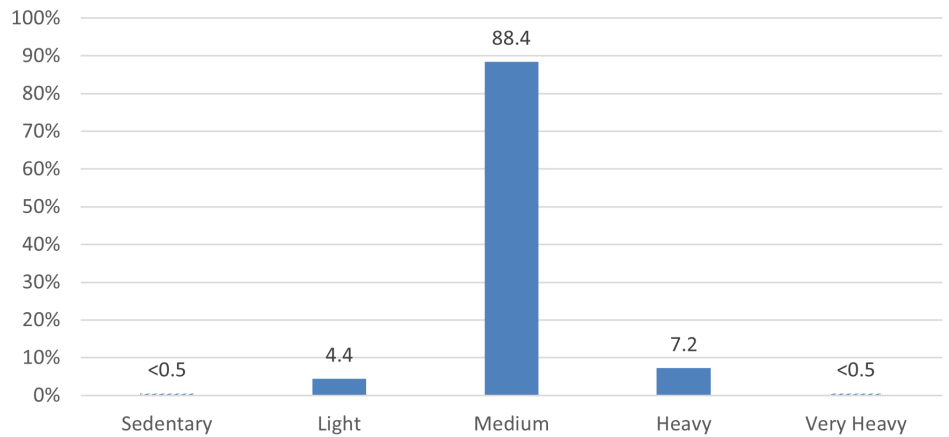
Refer to the physical activities required to perform tasks in jobs. The presence and, in some cases, duration of these activities are published.

In 2023, reaching at or below the shoulder was required for 99.0 percent of animal caretakers and was not required for 1.0 percent.

Performing work in low postures was required for greater than 90 percent of animal caretakers and was not required for less than 10 percent.

The choice to sit or stand when performing critical tasks was available to 9.8 percent of animal caretakers. On average, workers spent 5.4 percent of the workday sitting and 94.6 percent of the workday standing.

Chart 3. Percentage of animal caretakers by strength level requirements, 2023



Note: Striped bars represent range estimates where precise value is unpublished.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Requirements Survey

Table 2. Percentage of animal caretakers with physical demands, 2023

Requirement	Yes	No
Choice of sitting or standing	9.8	90.2
Driving	10.4	89.6
Climbing structure-related ramps or stairs	6.4	93.6

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Requirements Survey