

# Career Focus



SPCA Veterinary Nurse

Here's Susan Paddy, one of 5 SPCA Veterinary Nurses. Susan helps to care for the sick and injured animals that arrive at the SPCA.

The SPCA in Auckland employs about 60 full-time staff and is supported by volunteers who kindly donate their time to help our animals.

## SPCA Veterinary Nurse

### Susan's tip for the job...

You need to be able to deal with some difficult situations and people from time to time so a sense of humour is a must. Getting as much animal handling experience as possible is an advantage, by volunteering at shelters, kennels or catteries or vet clinics etc.

### Qualifications

Susan did a one year full time veterinary nursing course at Unitec and a dog handling course also at Unitec. She gained experience by volunteering at a vet clinic and helping out at 'Birdwing' and a horse riding school.

### The Job and Where to Work

Susan assists with the daily running of the hospital, monitors anaesthetic machines and sets up for surgery. She also performs various minor surgeries and assists vets with surgeries. She checks daily the health of the animals in the hospital clinic area and medicates various animals that are receiving treatment.

Places to work are at SPCAs nationwide and overseas. Animal control, boarding kennels and veterinary clinics.

## The Best Part

Helping sick and injured animals to recover and find good homes, and there's always something to learn.

## The Worst Part

The work load can become quite stressful at the busier times of year, and dealing with euthanasia can take a bit of getting use to.

**SPCA**<sup>®</sup>  
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For more information, contact the SPCA Auckland on 09 256 7300.  
*We speak for those who cannot speak for themselves*

