

## Studies & Education

### The course of studies of veterinary medicine

There is a great demand for the course of studies at the University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, Foundation. About 250 undergraduate places are available every year for more than 1,000 applicants. Including graduate students in biology as well as PhD and doctoral students there are approximately 2,400 students registered. Furthermore, the TiHo educates in cooperation with the Leibniz Universität Hannover and the Hannover Medical School biology students (bachelor).



In April 2003 a [Graduate School](#) was founded for the scientific postgraduate training of veterinarians and natural scientists. Under its umbrella are two PhD courses of study. The PhD program Veterinary Research and Animal Biology was set up in 1998 – the first PhD course of studies nation-wide.

### The Occupational Image

#### Knowledge heals – veterinary practice

Work in the practice is the best-known veterinary occupational image – with different career opportunities. Treatment and health care of different animal species and consulting of animal owners are the core activities in small animal and horse medicine. Thereby, specialists are increasingly in demand – for specific areas such as behavior therapy, surgery, geriatrics, cardiology, dermatology or oncology as well as for special groups of animals. Livestock practitioners ensure healthy and productive animal populations. Not the individual animal but always the whole herd is their focus. Since only healthy animals provide healthy food, livestock practitioners play an important role in our daily, safe nutrition. The livestock practitioner is an expert in animal health, animal protection and food safety. The aim must be to minimize the use of drugs and to produce safe food from healthy animal populations.

#### Curiosity desired - research

Research veterinarians work on quite different questions at universities and research facilities. How does a particular disease develop? How is a medicine working? How can a herd stay healthy? How does a specific farming system affect the well-being of an animal? State-of-the-art techniques which are continuously developed further are used in all fields. The tasks of research veterinarians are to produce the concept for and carry out research projects, to publish their results and to maintain national and international networks. At the universities, this also includes the education of students.

#### Committed to welfare – public veterinary service

In the public veterinary service, veterinarians ensure that foodstuff coming from animals such as eggs, milk or meat are monitored the entire way from the stable to the home kitchen table. Thus, the animals are under observation from birth and feeding and treatment of the animals is also subjected to stringent regulations controlled by veterinarians. Animal protection is an important pillar in this, since only animals kept properly are healthy and provide healthy food. Veterinarians play a role of care for all of us in the public veterinary service. Besides foodstuff control or monitoring of feedstuff, their tasks also include, for example, prevention and control of animal diseases, monitoring of import and export of animals or the fight against diseases transmitted between humans and animals, so-called zoonoses. Invisible to us, they ensure daily that we and the animals are doing well.

#### Recognizing needs – free economy

Animal owner, farmer or practicing veterinarians need daily a multitude of products to take care of their animals. Veterinarians working in the free economy develop, improve, market and sell these products such as drugs or animal feed for example. Around 5.5 percent of the veterinarians work in the free economy, most of them in the pharmaceutical industry. They can take responsibility for activities in various industrial fields due to their broad veterinary education. The example of the pharmaceutical industry shows that veterinarians are or can be involved in all steps from research and development to the distribution of drugs. Varied career opportunities are offered to the veterinarians in the industry – often in an international environment.

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