BioCareer Pathway for Animal Care Attendant

Recent Graduates
- Secondary School Diploma
  + College Certificate or Diploma program
  + Association accreditation (Laboratory Animal Science)

Entry-level
- Animal Care Assistant, Animal Care Worker, Animal Attendant (no credentials required; type of employment: animal shelters, pet stores, veterinarian clinics, food services industry, etc.)

2-5 Years
- Animal Care Attendant (Association accreditation required for laboratory animal science to work in a vivarium at a hospital or university research institute or a biotech/pharma company)

5-7 Years
- Animal Care Technician (with a combination of years of experience as an ACA and additional educational requirements)

7 Years+
- Senior Animal Care Technician

Career Change
As an entry-level position, ACA is a good starting point to view a variety of career paths (e.g. veterinary medicine, research, etc.). Many skilled Laboratory Technicians and Research Associates have used this route as a means to switch careers.

Actual job titles may vary slightly between organizations.
The BioCareer Pathways are meant as a guide for potential career paths. They have been developed through secondary research.

Job Functions
(You may be responsible for more than one)
- Provide for and ensure the care and well being of animals in research facilities and laboratories.
- Responsible to clean, feed, exercise and maintain animals and their living quarters.
- Monitor and take notes observing for health conditions or behavioural changes.

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Building skills for Canada’s bio-economy

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