

# Vets in ACTION!

NG Kids meets four healing heroes for the lowdown on their fantastic jobs...

## FARM FRIEND

**Name** Di Bendall  
**Job** Large-animal vet

I wanted to be a vet from the age of four. I grew up in Lancashire and spent most of my time mucking about on the farm next door. I had lots of pets and often used to ride my horse, with three dogs, four cats and a lamb in tow!

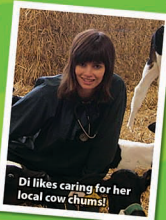
I mainly treat dairy cows, although some large-animal vets work with pigs and sheep, too. Cattle are really amazing creatures and I love working on farms. I've delivered thousands of calves, but the novelty still hasn't worn off – it's magical!

### Get moo-ving!

There's never a dull moment being a large-animal vet. The other day, the police called me out at three o'clock in the morning to help them catch an escaped cow. I arrived to find loads of policemen running about, trying to catch her, but then she just strolled into her box! Being a large-animal vet is hard, physical work, but it's definitely worth it – I think it's the best job in the world!

**This job's for you if...**  
H You like being outdoors  
H You enjoy a challenge  
H You love surprises

Could you be a crafty cow catcher like Di?



Di likes caring for her local cow chums!



As a vet, you'll have many hair-raising experiences!

**This job's for you if...**  
H You enjoy meeting new people  
H You're always busy  
H You like trying new things

## PET VET

**Name** Paul Manktelow  
**Job** Small-animal vet

Being a small-animal vet is the perfect career for me because I've always loved animals, and making sure they're healthy and happy makes me happy, too. Vets like me deal with pets that are sick or injured, and we give advice to owners about looking after them properly.

I work at a busy PDSA animal hospital in London with five other vets. We see over 100 pets and carry out up to 15 operations each day. Being a vet in a pet hospital means I get to help loads of animals. I always feel really good when someone's pet comes in sick and ends up going home better.

### Puppy power!

To be a good vet, you need to love animals and be good with your hands. This isn't the job for someone who's clumsy, as you need to perform delicate operations and handle animals carefully. You also have to be ready for anything. I treated a puppy the other day that had eaten its owner's wig! The man wanted it back, but it was too chewed up to use any more. Oops!



Paul loves sending his patients home happy!

## HORSE HELPER

**Name** Laurence O'Hara  
**Job** Equine vet

I realised I wanted to work with horses when I was halfway through my five-year vet course at university. They're such interesting animals, and once I started working with them, I never looked back!

Some horse vets work at equine hospitals or with racehorses, but I'm a general-practice equine vet. I mostly treat people's pet horses at their homes, doing a mixture of routine work, like dental checks, and emergencies, such as curing colic (pain in the horse's stomach).

### Helping hooves!

I love working with horses because it gets me out and about, and you never know what's going to happen next. You'll be doing your regular work and then something surprising will happen, like the fire brigade calling and asking you to help them get a horse out of a ditch!



Laurence's healing hands have helped many horses!



**This job's for you if...**  
H You're a chatterbox  
H You have lots of energy  
H You like helping people