Valerie Walters - 33

"

I became an animal control worker because it's my calling. I love animals! Not just the cute, cuddly, and friendly ones, but every stray, scared, or injured animal gets my love, support, and protection. I never want a day to go by and leave an animal unseen or unprotected. Every animal deserves to be safe and cared for, so I'm committed to this line of work.

There can be really challenging days; days when the condition or neglect of an animal is emotionally draining, when I really need resilience to handle situations that are upsetting, or when we can't save an animal. But the payoff when an animal is rehomed with an amazing family makes the job rewarding every day and keeps me motivated.

"

Occupation:

Animal
Control Officer

Salary:

$37,629

Education:

High School Diploma
or Equivalent

Job Description:

Animal Control Workers handle animals for the purpose of investigations of mistreatment, or control of abandoned, dangerous, or unattended animals.*

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Job Description:

SOC Code: 33-9011

Top Job Skills:

- Supervise inmates
- Transport inmates
- Issue warnings or citations
- Provide care for animals
- Write operational reports

General Work Activities:

- Interacting With Others
  - Testify at legal or legislative proceedings
  - Inform the public about policies, services or procedures
  - Collaborate with law enforcement or security agencies to respond to incidents
- Information Input
  - Examine crime scenes to obtain evidence
  - Interview people to gather information about criminal activities
  - Investigate illegal or suspicious activities
  - Check physical condition of people or animals
  - Inspect facilities to ensure compliance with security or safety regulations
- Work Output
  - Use weapons or physical force to maintain security
  - Maintain operational records
  - Clean facilities or equipment

Source: SC Works Online Services (SCWOS)

JOB STATISTICS*:

Typical Wage Range
$33,760 - $45,450

Projected Growth
17/yr Job Openings

Employed In-State
160

Required Education
High School Diploma or Equivalent

Work Experience
Typically Requires None

On-the-Job Training
Moderate-Term On-the-job Training

*Source: Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

EXAMPLES OF WORKFORCE AREAS WITH JOB OPENINGS:

Source: SC Works Online Services. Ask an SC Works representative for more information about postings in your area.

- Pee Dee
- Midlands
- Greenville
- Santee-Lynches
- Trident
- Catawba

EXAMPLES OF EMPLOYERS WITH JOB OPENINGS:

Source: SC Works Online Services. Ask an SC Works representative for more information about postings in your area.

- City of Columbia, SC
- City of North Charleston, SC
- Darlington County, SC
- Florence County, SC
- Greenville County, SC
- Kershaw County, SC

RELATED OCCUPATIONS*:

- Animal Breeders
- Animal Caretakers
- Animal Trainers
- Fish and Game Wardens
- Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers

LEARN MORE WITH SCWOS:

NOTE: All data based on state averages. Information may vary depending on region, experience, and specific employment situation. **Last Updated:** 2025.

SC Works Online Services (SCWOS) is the state's largest job database and provides all of South Carolina's job postings from all major sites, including Monster and Career Builder, in one resource. SCWOS has thousands of positions listed by employers all over the state. To access SCWOS, visit *jobs.scworks.org*.

Find in-depth breakdowns of occupational statistics such as necessary job certifications, job skills and abilities, current job openings, overview of general work activities, and more by visiting *O*NET.org*.