

Career Day @ Banfield Pet Hospital

When: Wednesday, May 20, 2015, from 9 am to 11 am (check-in at 8:45 am)
Where: Uptown hospital, 35 NW 20th Place, Portland
Industry: Veterinary medicine
Careers: Health care, veterinary services, animal medicine
Deadline: First-come, first-serve. Registration closes May 15
Notes: Check with your career coordinator for more information.

What is the Banfield Pet Hospital, anyway? Actually, Banfield is a lot of hospitals. Banfield runs more than 800 animal clinics nationwide, making it the largest privately owned veterinarian practice in the United States. It has nearly two dozen hospitals and clinics in the Portland metro area alone. Many Banfield clinics are located inside PetSmart pet-supply stores.

Where did Banfield get started? In Portland! According to company history, a Portland veterinarian by the name of Warren J. Wegert started the venture back in 1955. Since then, it has grown into a pet-care juggernaut now owned by Mars Corp. The company headquarters remain in Portland, though they are relocating later in 2015 to Vancouver.

Which students might be most interested in this career day? They include:

- Students who might want to become veterinarians, which requires an advanced degree.
- Students who might want to become "vet techs," a middle-skill job requiring good people skills, animal-handling ability and some STEM savvy. Banfield has a program that helps employees move up the career/pay ladder and become certified vet techs.
- Students interested in a part-time job as a veterinarian's assistant once they are 18 (or nearly 18). This is a good option for students attending college and looking to "earn while they learn."

What is the career outlook for jobs in veterinary medicine? Animal care is a huge industry in this country. The American Pet Products Association estimates that pet owners will spend more than \$60 billion on their pets in 2015. (About a quarter of that is on vet care.) As standards for pet care rise and medical treatments become more advanced, the demand for excellent vet-care professionals grows.

What does Banfield say about the job outlook? Recruiters for Banfield say they are ALWAYS looking for new veterinarians and other great employees. Like many employers, they say their greatest challenge is finding people with excellent "soft skills," such as teamwork.

What students will do: They'll visit the Uptown hospital and talk with a variety of professionals about the skills and education required for careers in veterinary medicine. They'll have a behind-the-scenes tour of the hospital and *might* view a live surgery. They will also learn more about job opportunities for 18-year-olds that could be part of a college/career pathway.