

Exotic Animal Medicine :

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Being an incredibly vast subject, veterinary science is associated with animals of all kinds. We are used to seeing and treating common seen large and small animals like cows, buffaloes, dogs and cats. Once in a while we also see birds and wild animals in our veterinary clinics. But recently, there's been a shift in the paradigm of 'pets'. People are increasingly choosing 'out of the box' animals to keep them company, ranging from small hamsters to large snakes! These animals are called 'exotic pets' and they usually include guinea pigs, hamsters, rabbits, turtles, tortoises, snakes, lizards, and some exotic birds. As veterinarians, we must be capable of satisfying the wants of such pet parents. In metropolitan cities, a niche for exotic animal medicine is developing slowly. Exotic animal veterinarians/clinics specifically cater to the needs of such not so common pet owners. Pet parents with exotic animals struggle to find veterinarians who specialise in treating the problems they generally face. There is an increasing demand for veterinarians who can handle such delicate and sensitive cases. Currently, there's only 1 clinic in Mumbai that specialises in said cases. Just by learning about specific animals, their behaviour, anatomy, nutrition and physiology, we can also have a level of expertise when it comes to exotic animals. There's no special courses being offered related to exotic animal medicine in our country at the moment, but seeing how popular it has become and how there is a surge in need of such qualified veterinarians, we might be seeing certain professional courses/qualifications in this field soon. If you're interested in wild/exotic animals, there are 3 colleges in India that are currently offering a Master's of Veterinary Science degree in Wildlife. They are enlisted below-

1. Tamil Nadu University of Veterinary and Animal Science, Chennai
2. Veterinary College, Hebbal, Karnataka
3. Nanaji Deshmukh Veterinary Science University, Madhya Pradesh

Holding a master's degree specialising in wildlife, not only will you be capable of handling exotic animals but you will also be eligible to work in many zoos, nature parks and wildlife sanctuaries. This is a great field for those who are interested!