

# Career Path from an Animal Technician

School and I parted company when I was 16 with no feeling of great loss on either side and staying in academia was the last thing I wanted to do. Amongst other things a couple of my interests were biology and animals, and it was only by a chance encounter with one of my father's work colleagues at the university where he worked that I found out about the world of animal technology. I then applied for several jobs as a junior animal technician and finally went to work at a government research organisation near where I lived and have not really looked back from there. I found that vocational training via the local college and the Institute of Animal Technology (IAT) qualifications suited me much better than academia ever had as I was studying something I was truly interested in and it was relevant.

I stayed at this place of work for over 11 years in which time I got a thorough grounding in animal technology and worked my way up to senior technician after passing the IAT Fellowship, which in those days was the highest qualification you could get in animal technology. It was then time to spread my wings and I got a job as the manager of a small university animal unit, which was a good way to develop my management skills. It was also during this time that I got involved in being an examiner for the IAT as well as the professional body of animal technology by being elected onto its council, and this was probably one of the most rewarding things I have done in my career.

After that I had one or two more jobs as a facility manager before taking a career change by going into sales & marketing for a supplier of consumables to animal facilities. This is a job I have enjoyed for some years now and have never regretted changing. I still work with the colleagues and in the profession I have always valued but I get to meet new people every day and it is never boring!

