

Working as a veterinarian in the Netherlands?

As a veterinarian, there are many things you need to arrange yourself, one of which is your pension. Not exactly thrilling, but it is important, because you are responsible for accruing your own pension.

Pension accrual simply means putting money aside now for your future income.

When you retire, your income will be made up of three parts:

- National Old Age Pensions Act (AOW) You will receive this from the government once you reach the AOW pension age. For more information, visit svb.nl
- Pension that you accrue through the SPD
- Any additional pension provisions that you arrange yourself.

You are accruing a pension in a defined contribution scheme

Our pension scheme is a defined contribution agreement. Every year you pay a contribution towards your pension. The fund then immediately purchases a pension for you in the same year. This means that you accrue a portion of your pension every year. Your total pension is the sum of each portion.

All veterinarians accrue their pensions together in their own independent pension fund: Pension Fund Foundation for Veterinarians (*Dutch: SPD, Stichting Pensioenfonds voor Dierenartsen*). This is regulated by law. Participation is mandatory for all veterinarians who work as independent veterinarians or as salaried employees at a practice in the Netherlands.





You can read the full pension regulations


pensioenfondsdierenartsen.nl


in 'Pension 1-2-3'. You will receive this after registering. Please note that it is only available in Dutch.


AT A GLANCE: IMPORTANT POINTS OF YOUR PENSION SCHEME

 You start accruing pension starting from your first day at work. As soon as you have a job as a veterinarian, you need to register via pensioenfondsdierenartsen.nl.

 Every quarter you pay a premium toward your pension accrual. The amount depends on your professional income, age and part-time percentage. Your employer (usually) contributes, too.

 If you pass away? If you have a partner, he or she will receive a partner's pension from us. If you have children, they will receive an orphan's pension.

 Should you become disabled and are unable to work, you can still continue to build up a pension. In this case, you take out a voluntary insurance policy for a premium waiver with us.

 With SPD, you can retire at 65 and receive pension benefits for as long as you live. You can also retire earlier, starting at age 60.

SPD: created by and for veterinarians

A collective pension — not a bad idea at all

Nearly 50 years ago, veterinarians decided to set up a collective pension fund to provide for their retirements.

A pension fund created by and for veterinarians.

Why is a mandatory collective pension accrual scheme for our profession the best option for the future?

Because it offers the following advantages.

Lower costs

Consider the investments we make. If you were to invest on your own, you would have to deal with relatively high costs. With a pension fund, the costs for each participant are lower because you benefit from the larger scale. This applies to all the costs incurred by the pension fund.

Absorbing setbacks

Another important hallmark of the pension fund is solidarity: we absorb any setbacks together. Take for example the partner's pension in the event of a veterinarian's premature death. Or perhaps you will live to be 100? Then you will receive a pension for as long as you live.

Your pension continues to yield returns

Over the long term, investing yields more than saving. But with investments, there are always ups and downs. If the stock market takes a beating, it is easier to absorb it together than alone. Another advantage is that your pension will continue to yield returns even after your retirement date.

Participants' association

The DPD participants' association and all its members are the owners of the pension scheme. SPD is responsible for implementing the pension scheme.

By being a member of the DPD, you have the right to vote and to participate in important decisions

concerning our pension. DPD represents the interests of all veterinarians when it comes to their pensions. Becoming a member is free. For more information or to register, please visit pensioenfondsdierenartsen.nl/deelnemersvereniging

The new pension agreement is on its way and this marks a special moment for our

pension system. That is why your voice is so important and why you are a member of the participants' association.

Scan the QR code and read all about the new pension system



DID YOU KNOW THAT...

... the premium you pay is **tax deductible**?

You can find the participants' association (DPD) on Instagram. Follow [@pensioenfondsdierenartsen](https://www.instagram.com/pensioenfondsdierenartsen) for all the latest news.



... you can take the pension you have accrued with previous employers with you to SPD, even if it was outside of the field of veterinary medicine? We call this a 'value transfer'.

You can adjust your details via **My pension** at pensioenfondsdierenartsen.nl.

... investing your premium collectively yields a better pension and allows you to share the risks? Because everyone participates, we can invest the premiums collectively. That yields more than if you invest on your own. And that helps us keep the costs low.

Employers, employees and the Dutch government have reached an agreement on a new pension system. This will affect your pension!

Read all about the new system at pensioenfondsdierenartsen.nl

