



# 4-H VETERINARY SCIENCE PROJECT



## 4-H Thrive!

### Help Youth:

#### Light Their Spark

A spark is something youth are passionate about; it really fires them up and gives them joy and energy. Help youth find how this project excites them.

#### Flex Their Brain

The brain grows stronger when we try new things and master new skills. Encourage youth effort and persistence to help them reach higher levels of success.

#### Reach Their Goals

Help youth use the GPS system to achieve their goals.

- Goal Selection:** Choose one meaningful, realistic and demanding goal.
- Pursue Strategies:** Create a step-by-step plan to make daily choices that support your goal.
- Shift Gears:** Change strategies if you're having difficulties reaching your goal. Seek help from others. What are youth going to do when things get in their way?

#### Reflect

Ask project members how they can use their passion for this project to be more confident, competent and caring. Discuss ways they can use their skills to make a contribution in the community, improve their character or establish connections.

"I want to be a veterinarian when I grow up."

The 4-H veterinary science project provides an excellent way for young people who care for animals and may want to follow a career in veterinary medicine, explore the topic. In this project, members will learn about animal health, behavior, and visit with veterinarians.

- Learn what is normal for different types of animals.
- Learn characteristics of different breeds and why they were developed.
- Explore the different jobs veterinarians do.
- Discover what kinds of diseases an animal might show.
- Identify how to best care for an animal you own in health and disease

#### Starting Out *Beginner*

- Keep track of what animals you see on a typical day, wild as well as domestic.
- Keep a record of your animal's food intake.
- Learn how much and what kind of exercise your animal needs.
- Take a field trip to an animal shelter
- Learn about common household poisons and other dangers to your animal and how to pet-proof its environment
- Go to a dog show, livestock show, or fair and learn about different breeds.

#### Learning More *Intermediate*

- Find out how we use different species of animals for food, companionship, fiber, and labor.
- Learn what diseases are indicated by different signs shown by an animal.
- Create a yearly schedule for health care for several different species.
- Design a habitat for your species, including meeting its needs for psychological health as well as physical health.
- Buy bacterial culture plate from a local vet and use them to culture surfaces in your home

#### Exploring Depth *Advanced*

- Find out about the responsibilities of veterinarians; shadow your local veterinarian for a day.
- Learn about diseases common in different kinds of animals and different parts of the world.
- Explore how different animals fit into human cultures around the world.
- Take a tour of a local vet hospital.

The activities above are ideas to inspire further project development. This is not a complete list.



# Expand Your Experiences!

## Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

- Learn about different digestive tract adaptations used by different animals.
- Take a pet first aid course and create a pet first aid kit.
- Learn about how vaccines, antibiotics, and other medications work to prevent and cure diseases.
- Learn how different animals have different body shapes to do the jobs they need to do.
- Create an educational film about animal health and safety to share with others.

## Healthy Living

- Learn about the difference between cleaning and disinfecting, as well as why they are important to human and animal health.
- Learn about the nutrition and exercise needs to maintain health in animals as well as humans.
- Learn how to do a basic health examination on an animal you might raise.
- Teach others about safe bio-security practices at your county fair.

## Citizenship

- Create an educational display on animal care for your local library or community center.
- Participate in a local parade or educational fair by having a walking group or information booth.
- Encourage your local parks to plant native species which use less water and provide better wildlife habitat.
- Identify a need in your community and conduct a service learning project.

## Leadership

- Be a junior or teen leader in your vet science project.
- Create a movement in your community to encourage pet owners to clean up after their pets to reduce disease transmission to other pets and people.
- Teach small children how to be safe around different kinds of animals, large and small, wild and domestic.

## Resources

- AVMA  
[www.aardvarks2zebras.org](http://www.aardvarks2zebras.org)
- American Animal Hospital Association  
[www.healthypet.com](http://www.healthypet.com)
- Centers for Disease Control  
[www.cdc.gov/healthypets/health\\_benefits.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/health_benefits.htm)
- Food Safety  
[www.keepourfoodsafesafe.org](http://www.keepourfoodsafesafe.org)
- Relating Animal Health to Human Health  
[www.onehealthcommission.org/](http://www.onehealthcommission.org/) and  
[www.globalhealthvet.com](http://www.globalhealthvet.com)
- Rabies Prevention  
[www.worldrabiesday.org](http://www.worldrabiesday.org)

Connections & Events	Curriculum	4-H Record Book
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**Presentation Days** – Share what you’ve learned with others through a presentation.

**Field Days** – At these events, 4-H members may participate in a variety of contests related to their project area.

**County and State Fair**-Many fairs have opportunities to compete with animals as well as educational displays and knowledge bowls.

- Youth Development through Veterinary Science  
[http://www.ca4h.org/Projects/Curriculum/FREE/Veterinary\\_Medicine/](http://www.ca4h.org/Projects/Curriculum/FREE/Veterinary_Medicine/)
- Bio-Security in 4-H Animal Science  
[http://www.ca4h.org/Projects/Curriculum/FREE/Bio-Security\\_in\\_4-H\\_Animal\\_Science/](http://www.ca4h.org/Projects/Curriculum/FREE/Bio-Security_in_4-H_Animal_Science/)
- Observing the Normal Animal  
<http://4h.uwex.edu/pubs/showdoc.cfm?documentid=30492>

4-H Record Books give members an opportunity to record events and reflect on their experiences. For each project, members document their experiences, learning and development.

4-H Record Books also teach members record management skills and encourage them to set goals and develop a plan to meet those goals.

To access the 4-H Record Book online, visit <http://ucanr.edu/orb/>

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## University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources

