



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
- American Animal Hospital Association
www.healthypet.com
- Centers for Disease Control
www.cdc.gov/healthypets/health_benefits.htm
- Food Safety
www.keepourfoodsafesafe.org
- Relating Animal Health to Human Health
www.onehealthcommission.org/ and
www.globalhealthvet.com
- Rabies Prevention
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/
- 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/>

The UC 4-H Youth Development Program does not endorse, warrant, or otherwise take responsibility for the contents of unofficial sites.



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