4-H VETERINARY SCIENCE PROJECT

"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.

Starting Out *Beginner*	Learning More *Intermediate*	Exploring Depth *Advanced*
- 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	- 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.	- 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.

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

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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,

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.keepourfoodsafe.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
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	• Youth Development through Veterinary Science http://www.ca4h.org/Projects/Curriculum/FREE/Vetinary_Medicine/ • Bio-Security in 4-H Animal Science http://www.ca4h.org/Projects/Curriculum/FREE/Bio-Security_in_4-H_Animal_Science/	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.

University *of* California Agriculture and Natural Resources

Light Your Spark   Flex Your Brain   Reach Your Goals   Light Your Spark   Flex Your Brain   Reach Your Goals