WHAT’S IT ALL ABOUT?
The 4-H veterinary science project allows you to learn about animal health and its effect on public health.
» Learn the value of scientific research and its influence on animals and their health.
» Gain knowledge of animal production differences.
» Evaluate animal health to gain life skills such as problem solving.

Starting Out:
» Identify breeds of major species of livestock and companion animals.
» Explore the various roles of animals in society.
» Understand the differences between species in body styles, systems, breeds and life stages.
» Explore the animal’s basic needs.
» Learn how veterinarians and owners work together to keep animals healthy.
» Investigate animal science and veterinary science careers.
» Discover and identify the uses of veterinary tools.
» Take a tour of veterinary medicine facilities in your area.
» Locate and name common parts of a variety of animals.

Learning More:
» Discover the importance of food safety and quality assurance.
» Explore biosecurity relating to human and equipment traffic on farms.
» Create an animal health management plan.
» Consider examples of ethics and animal welfare situations.
» Develop and maintain accurate health records for livestock and pets.
» Investigate health issues related to body systems, diseases, parasites and immunity.
» Describe common domestic animal health issues and their effect on people.
» Explore the differences in animal digestive systems.
» Interview a veterinarian.

Expanding Horizons:
» Help younger 4-H members explore a veterinary science project.
» Incorporate science into understanding of genetics, animal reproduction and health.
» Research veterinary technology and procedures.
» Identify the transfer of diseases between animals and humans.
» Describe the principles of preventive medicine.
» Compare and contrast health management plans for various animal types.
» Observe and describe animal behavior in different species.
» Job shadow a veterinarian.
» Research laws related to veterinary practices.
» Create a biosecurity informational sheet and kit for 4-H’ers to keep at their livestock areas.

THE BIG PICTURE

National 4-H Curricula
http://www.4-h.org/resource-library/curriculum/
» Veterinary Science
- From Airedales to Zebras – Veterinary Science 1 (08048)
- All Systems Go! – Veterinary Science 2 (08049)
- On the Cutting Edge – Veterinary Science 3 (08050)
- Veterinary Science Helper’s Guide (08051)

Other Resources
» Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine: http://cvm.msu.edu/
» American Veterinary Medical Association: www.avma.org/
» Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges: www.aavmc.org/
» FutureVet: www.futurevet.net
» Healthy Pets Healthy People: www.cdc.gov/healthypets/
4-H Veterinary Science Project

FOCUS ON VETERINARY SCIENCE

Science

» Review scientific publications to determine animal treatment options.
» Critically evaluate animals’ health based on a regional approach.
» Interpret case studies and determine animal treatment needs.
» Research genetic mutations and their impact on various species.
» Observe, document and explore animal behaviors.

Citizenship & Leadership

» Volunteer at a local veterinary clinic or humane society.
» Start a campaign encouraging pet owners to neuter and spay their pets.
» Organize a pet first-aid class through your local Red Cross chapter.

Life Skills

» Use critical-thinking, problem-solving and decision-making skills to make good decisions when caring for animals.
» Practice personal resiliency through successes and challenges in your study of veterinary science.
» Create a resume to use for volunteering at veterinary clinics.

Communication

» Give an educational presentation on vaccinating animals.
» Develop an animal health management plan with a veterinarian.
» Help a certified Youth Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) Plus staff member present a PQA session.
» Develop a poster or video for your county fair.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

» Contact your local Michigan State University (MSU) Extension office for workshops, activities and events.
» If you are interested in a college education in animal science or veterinary medicine, visit MSU’s website at www.msu.edu to explore those major.

» Assist with a local food safety quality assurance class for younger 4-H members.
» Set up a local animal disease emergency preparedness and response team.
» Start veterinary science-related projects at your county 4-H club meetings.

» Attend the Veterinary Science Teen and Adult Leaders Workshop at Kettunen Center.
» Attend the Michigan 4-H Animal and Veterinary Science Camp (registrations available online).


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