



## VETERINARY SCIENCE PROJECT AREA



*Do you have an animal you want to keep healthy? Are you interested in a career helping lots of animals stay healthy? The veterinary science project area enables you to explore and learn more about animal health in your home, club, and community.*

### Ideas for Project Area Learning

- Understand the differences of species in body styles, systems, breeds, and life stages.
- Explore the basic needs of health and safety for various animals.
- Learn how veterinarians and owners work together to keep animals healthy.
- Investigate the many careers in animal science and veterinary science.
- Discover the importance of food safety.
- Explore bio-security and make an animal health management plan for animals.
- Consider ethics and animal welfare.
- Develop and maintain accurate health records for animals and pets.
- Investigate health issues related to body systems, diseases, parasites, and immunity.
- Incorporate science into the understanding of genetics and animal reproduction and health.
- Research the use of veterinary technology and procedures.
- Identify the transfer of diseases between animals and humans.
- Explore non-veterinary, animal-related careers.
- Take a tour of the Iowa State University Veterinary College.
- Learn about newly-approved feed additives for livestock and their uses.
- Study animal growth curves over their lifetime.
- Learn about proper hoof care.
- Explore the different aspects of ethics in the livestock industry.

### APPLY WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED

#### Communication

- Give an educational presentation on the types of injections and how to vaccinate animals.
- Develop an animal health management plan with a veterinarian.
- Help present a session at your county veterinary science workshop.

#### Civic Engagement

- Volunteer at a local veterinary clinic.
- Volunteer at an animal rescue.
- Start a campaign encouraging pet owners to neuter and spay their pets.

#### Leadership

- Help members develop a health care plan for their animal projects.
- Create a bio-security informational sheet for members to keep near their livestock.
- Organize a pet first aid class through your local Red Cross.

#### Entrepreneurship

- Write a business plan for a pet walking and sitting service.
- Hold training seminars on proper pet and livestock nutrition, health, and medicines.
- Make and sell homemade healthy pet treats.



## Goal Setting and Record Keeping

Goal setting is an ongoing process that guides your project area learning. Having goals is like having a road map to show you how to get you to where you want to go. Record keeping is also an ongoing process and another important life skill. In 4-H, you are encouraged to select from a variety of record keeping formats to meet your own personal needs and your preferred learning style. Keeping records of your learning experiences helps you determine how well you met your goals. Goal setting and record keeping improve your skills in organization, communication, planning, and evaluating.

## Iowa 4-H Event Opportunities

- Participate in **county and state fair** exhibit classes.
- Check with your local county 4-H youth development staff to see if there are special events or **workshops in your county** that you want to attend to learn more about your project areas.
- Iowa 4-H members in grades 9–12 can apply for **State Project Area Awards** at State Recognition Day. Applications are open December through January.
- Meet young people from around the state who have completed grades 8–12, and share your interests at the **Iowa 4-H Youth Conference** held at Iowa State University in late June.
- Each March, hundreds of student researchers in grades 6–12 meet with professionals to discuss their findings and compete for scholarships during the **State Science and Technology Fair of Iowa**.
- Apply for an in-depth hands-on learning experience on the Iowa State University campus during the three-day **Animal Science Roundup** late June. Youth in grades 8–12 are welcome to apply.

## Share Your Learning With an Exhibit

- Create a display of products that come from livestock or animals.
- Compare and contrast various health management plans for each type of animal.
- Interview a veterinarian and report on the various parts of their job.
- Create a display showing the difference in animal digestive systems.
- Create a poster illustrating the types of injections for animals.
- Research domestic animal health issues and how they affect people.
- Research wild animal health issues and how they affect people.

### CAREER CONNECTIONS

- **Veterinary zoologists** work to design and conduct research projects and studies of animals and wildlife conservation.
- **Laboratory animal science technicians** provide basic care to lab animals and study animals involved in research programs.
- If you enjoy teaching others about livestock production, and mentoring others, you may enjoy a career in **agricultural education**.
- **Animal trainers** work with pets and livestock to instill sound behavioral patterns with client's animals.

### EDUCATION CONNECTIONS

- Students in **animal science** focus on the management of livestock species, as well as meat science, genetics, and nutrition.
- If you enjoy sciences like microbiology and genetics, studying **biology** may interest you.
- Learn **veterinary technology** if you're interested in animal health, anatomy, and disease transmission.
- Study **zoology** if you enjoy working with wild animals in controlled environments and studying animal lifestyles.

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