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.

- 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 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.KeepYourFoodSafe.org
- Relating Animal Health to Human Health
  www.onehealthcommission.org/ and
  www.globalhealthvet.com
- Rabies Prevention
  www.worldrabiesday.org

Connections & Events

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.

Curriculum

- 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/

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