

Careers in Animal Health and Welfare

Rationale

There is a variety of careers that people can pursue that involve animals. These activities will encourage students to explore various animal related careers

Curriculum Connection

*Alberta Education Program of Studies:
Health and Life Management (2002)*

Grade 7

L-7.6 examine factors that may influence future life role/education/career plans; e.g. technology, role models.

Grade 8

L-8.6 investigate, interpret and evaluate career information and opportunities, using a variety of sources; e.g., Internet, informational interviews, mentors, media

Grade 9

L-8.6 Develop strategies to deal with transitional experiences; e.g.; create a learning plan for transition to senior high school, keeping future career plans in mind.

Career and Life Management (2002)
(Senior High)

C.4 develop strategies to deal with the transition from senior high school to post-secondary education/training and/or the world of work

- ~ Use the community in a search for information and expertise.
- ~ Analyze the career paths of others

C5. develop a quality career portfolio

- ~ Assess a wide range of career possibilities
- ~ Build a personal occupational profile, including information gathered while envisioning possible futures, examining future employment trends and researching possible career choices

Activities

1 Careers working with Animals

Veterinarians are not the only people that work with animals. If you have a passion and desire to have a career promoting animal health and wellbeing, there are many different options open to you if being a veterinarian does not interest you.

In small groups brainstorm a list of all the jobs that involve working with animals.

You can have a career helping animals through healthcare, administration and the law to name a few.

Provide students with the following categories to help them to expand their list: Animal Health, Companion Animals, Law Enforcement, Livestock and Horses, Wildlife, Research and Education and Office support.

See reverse side for a list of careers working with animals

2 Cyber Search

Have students complete the Cyber Search, which will introduce them to several different careers involving animal health and welfare. Students will answer questions by visiting specific websites.
Solutions on the reverse side.

3 Career Research

Ask students to pick one career dealing with animal health or animal welfare. Students will then conduct research into the details of the job as well as focusing on the education or training required for that career.



The government of Alberta has an excellent site providing detailed job profiles geared specifically towards Albertans.

<http://alis.alberta.ca/occinfo>

4 Job Shadow

After sharing information on the many types of careers that involve animals, students can contact someone that works in their field to do a job shadow. Students will then have the opportunity to get a glimpse of what the job would be like on a day to day basis.

Job shadows are great way to motivate and excite students. If a job shadow is not feasible, students can set up an interview.

Careers working with Animals

Animal Health

Animal Health Technologist
Veterinarian (general practice, large animal, companion animal)
Veterinary medical Receptionist
Veterinary Administrative Assistant

Companion Animals

Groomer
Obedience Trainer/Behaviouralist
Pet store employee
Animal Breeder
Pet sitter
Kennel Manager
Service Dog Trainer
Animal Care Attendant
Dog walker
Pet photographer
Dog daycare operator/employee
Animal shelter manager

Law Enforcement

Animal Control Officer
Animal Protection Officer
Conservation Officer
Brand Inspector
Canine Unite Officer

Livestock & Horses

Farmer
Farrier
Stable Operator
Horse Trainer
Meat Inspector
Riding Instructor
Herder
Certified exercise Rider

Wildlife

Animal Trainer
Animal Handler
Wildlife Biologist P
Park Naturalist
Zoo Keeper
Wildlife Rehabilitation Specialist
Zoo employee
Park Naturalist

Research & Education

Veterinary Medicine Professor
Animal Care Specialist
Humane Education Specialist
Laboratory Animal Attendant
Zoologist
Biologist

Office Support

Humane Society Fundraise Volunteer Manager
Public Relations Specialist
Receptionist
Administrative Assistant

Animal Career Cyber Search Solutions

1. Alberta is allotted 20 students.
2. Veterinary and animal health technologists and technicians provide technical support to veterinarians by caring for animals and assisting in the diagnosis and treatment of animal health disorders. They are employed in veterinary clinics, animal hospitals, animal shelters, humane societies, zoos, animal research laboratories, pharmaceutical companies and government.
3. \$10.16 per hour.
4. They ensure that transportation and handling meet regulatory requirements, and determine if animals are healthy.
5. Training includes courses in veterinary procedures, terminology, pharmaceutical and nutritional products, animal diseases, veterinary software and client counseling skills to assist pet owners with issues such as grief.
6. Hands-on training in animal husbandry and livestock enterprise management blends with a knowledge of food industry regulations and safety issues to make you an integral part of maintaining health and safety for both livestock and humans.
7. In-depth instruction is given in farriery, blacksmithing, anatomy, physiology, horsemanship, welding, recordkeeping and business management. Students will learn to recognize and deal with hoof and gait problems.
8. Duties of Fish and Wildlife officers include: problem wildlife control, public information (resource management, law enforcement, hunting and firearm safety) attending public meetings to provide information and respond to questions, collecting wildlife data.
9. Many successful candidates have a university degree with courses in biology, zoology, anatomy, physiology, animal behaviour, and animal husbandry. They also have animal handling experience gained by keeping pets, working on a farm or by volunteering at an animal shelter or veterinary clinic.
10. The main role of an animal behaviorist helps the pet by helping the human companion better understand why pet's do the things they do and what can be done to change this behaviour.

Animal Career Research

Name: _____

Date: _____

After brainstorming a list of possible careers working with animals, select a career that interests you and research it!

This sheet will act as a guide to help you through the process



Animal Related Career: _____

Duties/ Responsibilities: <i>(writing reports, collecting laboratory samples)</i>	Working Conditions <i>(hospitals, farms,)</i>
	Hours of work <i>(nights, weekends, on-call)</i>
	Who would you work for? <i>(animal shelters, government, zoos)</i>
	Location: <i>(rural, city, national parks)</i>
	Salary Range: <i>(\$20,000-\$50,000)</i>
Personal Characteristics <i>(organized, independent, good math skills)</i>	

How to get there! Education, Training and Experience

Education/ Training Requirements: <i>(technology diploma, masters degree)</i>	Additional Requirements? <i>(membership in the Alberta Association of Animal Health Technologists)</i>
Where can you take this program? <i>(Olds College, University of Calgary)</i>	Requirements for admission into program <i>(biology 30, pure math 30, 80 hours of volunteer work)</i>
1	
2	

What I can do right now! *(volunteer, talk to a councilor, work on math skills)*

Animal Careers Cyber Search

Name: _____

Date: _____

Instructions:

Answer the following questions on different careers involving animals by visiting the link below the question.

1. How many students from Alberta are admitted to the Western College of Veterinary Medicine every year?
www.usask.ca/wcvm/admissions/admissions_details.php#quotas
2. According to the National Occupational Classification website, what do Veterinary and Animal Health Technologists and Technicians do, and who employs them? (must perform a search)
www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC-CNP/app/index.aspx
3. What is the average hourly earning of Pet Groomers and Animal Care Workers?
www.jobfutures.ca/noc/6483.shtml
4. How do Agricultural Commodity Inspectors ensure the proper treatment of animals?
www.alis.gov.ab.ca/occinfo
(search by title)
5. What courses and topics are included in the one-year Veterinary Administrative Assistant certificate at NAIT?
www.nait.ca/program_home_15800.htm
6. What would you learn in the Animal Science Technology program at Lakeland College?
www.lakelandcollege.ca/programs/agricultural_sciences/animal_science
7. What is taught in the Advanced Farrier Science Program at Olds College?
www.oldscollge.ca/programs/Farrier
8. What qualifications do people usually have to get an animal care position at the Calgary Zoo?
www.calgaryzoo.org/HelpingTheZoo/Employment/animal_care.htm
9. According to the two Fish and Wildlife officers on the website, what are typical duties that an officer must perform?
www.srd.gov.ab.ca/aboutus/careers/ditlofishwildlifeofficer.aspx
10. What is the main role of an animal behaviorist?
<http://www.americanhumane.org/kids/career.htm>

