You have to make decisions every day. Some are fun, some are simple and some are hard to make. Veterinarians and other people who work with animals have to make decisions, too.

This 4-H project will help you learn more about animals so that you can make decisions about the best way to care for them. Some of the skills you can learn and activities you can do in this project are listed below. Check your favorites.

- Learn how to properly care for your pet.
- Learn what a pet owner needs to do to keep his/her animal healthy.
- Learn the differences between mammals, birds and reptiles.
- Learn what a vet does during a routine checkup for your pet.
- Learn about at least three of the 45 different wildlife mammals in Tennessee.
- Learn about some animal diseases that affect humans.
- Learn about careers in vet science besides being a veterinarian.
- Complete a service project using vet science skills you have learned.
- Give a vet science demonstration in your 4-H club meeting.
- Other ______________________________

Your 4-H VETERINARY SCIENCE Project

Draw a picture of your favorite pet. It can be one you have or one you would like to have. Then, draw what you need to take care of your pet. Be sure to include everything your pet might need to stay healthy and happy. Share your picture with others and keep it in your 4-H project folder.

My Favorite Animal

Describe your favorite animal. Use another sheet of paper to write about your favorite animal. Things to write about include species, gender, age, health, personality, exercise, any training it receives and food it eats. Include a photo if you’d like. Share your story with your 4-H friends and keep it in your 4-H project folder.

“Paws” for True or False

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Answers on back
Take a Closer Look

Choose one or more of these activities to learn more about vet science. Share what you learn with your family and friends through a story, exhibit or poster.

- Observe one wild mammal for a month or more. Find out all you can about this animal: Where does it live? What does it eat? How does it care for its young? What animals prey on it? Write a story on what you see.
- Make an animal collage from pictures in a magazine or pictures that you have taken. List some facts about the animals you have chosen.
- Interview a veterinarian. Find out such things as which types of animal they usually deal with, what is the most common problem or disease that this vet treats, which vaccines (if any) can be used to prevent this disease.
- Visit a zoo. Take a picture of your favorite animal, observe its behavior and find out what is required to keep this animal healthy and happy.

Service Ideas

- Volunteer to help out at a vet clinic or animal shelter.
- Help find homes for pets at an animal shelter.
- Take care of someone else’s pet.
- Conduct an educational “show & tell” about pet care.

Additional Resources

Making decisions is an important part of the vet science project. This activity sheet has given you the opportunity to explore things to think about as you make decisions in vet science. You’ve observed a wild animal, learned about your own pet and other cool things. But this is just the beginning! Use the resources listed below to continue learning about veterinary science.

- School & public libraries
- People who know about different animals such as veterinarians, livestock owners, wildlife officers, animal trainers, groomers and zoologists
- 4-H project groups
- The 4-H veterinary science Web page:
  [http://www.utextension.utk.edu/4h/projects/vetscience.htm](http://www.utextension.utk.edu/4h/projects/vetscience.htm)

Things in a Vet’s Office

Veterinarians are doctors for animals. Think about what you see when you visit your doctor. Vets use many of the same things that your doctor uses. Listed below are several items that you might find in a vet’s office. Talk to a vet or look in books or on the Internet to find out how a vet uses these items. Share what you learn in a 4-H meeting.

- BRUSH
- LABEL
- MEDICATION
- MICROSCOPE
- NAIL CLIPPERS
- NEEDLE
- SCALES
- STETHOSCOPE
- SYRINGE
- THERMOMETER
- VACCINE

True & False Answers


Don’t forget to submit your project report to your 4-H leader.

For more ideas, contact your 4-H office.