Veterinary Science
Preparatory Training for the Veterinary Assistant
Floron C. Faries, Jr., DVM, MS
Animal Assisted Therapy

Floron C. Faries, Jr., DVM, MS
Objectives

- Describe the various ways that animals assist handicapped persons
- Discuss the importance of animals in therapy for elderly persons
- Discuss the importance of animals for the mental health of people
- Describe animal assisted therapy programs
Benefits of Pets

- Animals serve human life (human-animal bond)
  - Companionship
  - Assistance
  - Livelihood
    - Physiological
      - Decrease blood pressure
      - Improve ability to function
      - Improve well-being
    - Psychological
      - Reduce stress and anxiety
      - Reduce loneliness
      - Foster self-esteem and self-confidence
    - Sociological
      - Increase interaction with others
      - Enhance motivation
      - Improve education
      - Stimulate recreation
Animals and the Disabled

- Sight for the blind
  - Dogs
- Hearing for deaf
  - Dogs, cats
- Retrieving objects
  - Dogs
- Helping daily tasks (eat, drink)
  - Monkeys
- Gaining confidence
  - Horses
- Getting physical exercise
  - Horses
Animals and the Elderly

- Provide companionship
- Relieve sadness and loneliness