The Profession of Veterinary Medicine

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Objectives

- Define veterinary medicine
- Describe the different career opportunities in veterinary medicine
- Discuss the role of veterinary medicine in animal health
Profession of Veterinary Medicine

To learn and accomplish

- Specific diagnosis (accurate) (diagnostician)
- Specific treatment regimen (correct, effective)
  - Drug therapy (Pharmacologist)
  - Surgical therapy (Surgeon)
  - Physical therapy (Physiologist)
  - Dietary therapy (Nutritionist)
- Specific prevention, control and eradication protocols (Epidemiologist)
To understand advanced sciences

- Know why, not just what and how
- No guess diagnosis
- No shotgun therapies
To improve the quality of life of people and animals

- Foster health and well-being of animals
- Enhance production of animal populations
- Increase economic efficiency and profitability of animal operations
- Improve production of safe and wholesome food
- Improve the recreational or working relationship of owners and their animals
  - Companionship, human-animal bond, pleasure
Careers in Veterinary Medicine

**Positions of employment**

- **Veterinarian** – 8 years college
  - 4 yrs pre-vet college, 4 yrs vet college
  - DVM Degree

- **Veterinary Technician** – 2 years college
  - Associate Degree

- **Veterinary Assistant** – study course, work experience
  - Certificate of Completion
    - 4-H Veterinary Science Program
    - Ag Sc Veterinary Medical Applications Course
    - Online Veterinary Science Program
Fields of employment

- Companion animal health
- Exotic animal health
- Food animal health
- Laboratory animal health
- Human health
Kinds of employment (types)

- Private veterinary practice
  - Clinical service – individual animals, animal populations
  - Laboratory service
  - Consultant service
Public veterinary practice
- Education – teaching, extension (university)
- Research (university, military)
- Clinical service (university, military)
- Laboratory service (university, government)
- Regulatory (government)

Industry (Corporate) veterinary practice
- Research
- Laboratory service
- Clinical service
- Sales
Professional Career Development
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

- Evaluate interests and abilities
  - Advanced sciences
  - Animal well-being
  - Kinds of employment
  - Involvement of sick, diseased animals (live and dead) (blood, odor)
  - Compassion and caring for people and animals
- Communication skills (people person) (people skills)
- Business skills (private practice)
- Long work days (night, week-end emergencies - private practice)

- Not based on: “I love animals.”
- Make commitment (focus, blinders)
  - Highly motivated and dedicated
- Work with veterinarians
  - Develop veterinary experience
- Work with animals
  - Develop animal experience
Plan HS curriculum with advanced sciences

- Calculus
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Zoology (genetics, nutrition, biology)
- Microbiology
- Animal science (Ag Sc)
Participate in extra-curricular leadership and citizenship activities

- 4-H Veterinary Science Program
- Ag Sc Veterinary Medical Applications Course
- Online Veterinary Science Program
- 4-H animal projects
- FFA animal projects
- Ag Co-op program
- Animal associations/societies memberships
- Animal publication subscriptions
- Animal show/performance clubs
Initial enrollment

- Junior college
- Senior college
  - Know how to study
  - Study habits
  - Time management
  - Focused
  - Large classes
Pre-requisites completed in 2 – 4 years

- Biology
- Microbiology
- Genetics
- Nutrition
- Inorganic chemistry
- Organic chemistry
- Biochemistry
- Calculus
- Physics
- English
- Animal Science
Professional Preparation

- Leadership activities
- Citizenship activities
- Veterinary experience
- Animal experience
- Academic rigor
- Course loads