

Careers in Animal Health & Welfare

Activities that encourage students to explore various animal-related careers.

Curriculum Connection

Alberta Education Program of Studies: Health and Life Skills (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)

C4. 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 who work with animals. If you have students with a passion for a career promoting animal health and wellbeing, there are many different options open to them.

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

You can provide students with the following categories to help them to expand their list:

- Animal Health
- Companion Animals
- Livestock and Horses
- Wildlife
- Law Enforcement
- Research and Education
- Office Support.

See next page for a list of careers working with animals

2 Career Research

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

ALIS, the Alberta Learning Information Service, has great career resources at

alis.alberta.ca/hs/high-school.html



Careers (continued)

3 Job Shadow

After sharing information on the many types of careers that involve animals, students can contact someone that works in a field of interest and set up 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 may set up an interview instead.

Careers working with Animals

These are some possibilities to get started—not an exhaustive list.

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

Livestock & Horses

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

Wildlife

Animal Trainer
 Animal Handler
 Wildlife Biologist
 Park Naturalist
 Conservation Officer
 Zoo Keeper
 Wildlife Rehabilitation Specialist
 Park Naturalist

Law Enforcement

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

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



Career Research Cyber Search

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.e. <i>writing reports, collecting laboratory samples</i>) | Working Conditions (i.e. <i>hospitals, farms</i>) |
| | Hours of work (i.e. <i>nights, weekends, on-call</i>) |
| | Who would you work for? (i.e. <i>animal shelters, government, zoos</i>) |
| | Location: (i.e. <i>rural, city, national parks</i>) |
| Personal Characteristics (i.e. <i>organized, independent, good math skills</i>) | Salary Range: (i.e. <i>\$25/hr, \$50,000/year</i>) |

How to get there! Education, Training and Experience

| | |
|---|---|
| Education/ Training Requirements: (i.e. <i>technology diploma, masters degree</i>) | Additional Requirements? (i.e. <i>membership to the AVMA</i>) |
| Where can you take this program? (i.e. <i>Olds College, University of Calgary</i>) 1 | Requirements for admission into program (i.e. <i>Biology 30, Pure Math 30, 80 hours of volunteer work</i>) 1 |
| 2 | 2 |

What I can do right now! (i.e. *volunteer, talk to a councilor, work on math skills, set up a job shadow*)