

# Information for Middle School Students

Many people decide at an early age to become a veterinarian—and it is never too early to begin preparing.

## Is veterinary medicine the right path for me?

Choosing a career is one of the most important decisions in life. Students who are interested in veterinary medicine should have a passion for animals, science, learning, and for people, too. Admission into veterinary school is highly competitive. You need to work hard in advance to prepare for a future in veterinary medicine.

## How can I begin preparing for a career in veterinary medicine?

Deciding to pursue a career in veterinary medicine is a huge commitment. To help you make a career decision, you should know what a veterinarian does and what personal attributes a good veterinarian needs. The other very important thing to do is to get as much experience with animals as possible. Working under the supervision of a veterinarian (job shadowing) is important, as well as participating in 4-H and volunteering at a humane society, zoo, livestock farm, etc. You have to do things that will show how dedicated you are and make you stand out from the crowd. Students should also write down any experience working with animals in a journal. The journal will be a very useful resource when you apply to veterinary school.

## What courses should I take in high school?

If you are planning your high school schedule, you are strongly encouraged to complete four years each of English composition, mathematics, and laboratory sciences. It is very important to challenge yourself academically so that you can gain good study habits, time management skills, and be better prepared for the challenging science curriculum of college.

## In what other types of community service/extracurricular activities should I participate?

Leadership and community service activities help you prepare for a career in veterinary medicine. Get involved in extracurricular activities including sports, clubs, and volunteer work. Colleges look for well-rounded students and those with outstanding qualities. Be active in your community. Community service promotes humanitarianism, citizenship, fellowship, and social experience. University admissions officers respect these qualities.



## **What career opportunities are available in veterinary medicine?**

There are many different career options in veterinary medicine: private practice (small animal practice such as dogs and cats; large animal practice such as horses and cows, and practices with both large and small animals); federal government (food safety); state government (public health); research (private or public); teaching; food animal industry; zoo medicine; exotic animal medicine/science; wildlife health; and private industry (such as pet food or animal pharmaceutical companies).

## **May I visit The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine?**

We are happy to provide tours of our Veterinary Medical College and academic buildings for individuals or groups of students interested in pursuing a career in veterinary medicine. If interested in scheduling a tour, or a tour and advising appointment, please complete the following form: [vet.osu.edu/osu-cvm-tour-request-form](http://vet.osu.edu/osu-cvm-tour-request-form).

- Tours last approximately 45-60 minutes
- Typically tours are offered Monday through Friday at 12noon
- Tours are not offered on weekends, evenings, or holidays
- Tours must be scheduled at least one week in advance
- You will receive a confirmation email with your tour date and time

The Veterinary Medical center is a working hospital and our patients are our top priority. Like patients in a human hospital, our patients are here because they need medical attention. Because of this, the tour is not a hands-on experience. Also we must be mindful of security, liability, patient confidentiality and operational issues: therefore, the following restrictions have been implemented:

- Visitors must be 14 years of age or older to tour the college
- No photos or videos are allowed to be taken in the hospitals due to patient privacy
- Visitors must refrain from touching patients
- Visitors must be accompanied by a tour guide at all times while in the medical center

## **Want to learn more about veterinarians?**

### **Checking out the following websites**

[explorehealthcareers.org/filed/veterinary-medicine/](http://explorehealthcareers.org/filed/veterinary-medicine/)  
[vet.osu.edu/prospectivestudent](http://vet.osu.edu/prospectivestudent)

For upcoming events, please join our mailing list at: [vet.osu.edu/maillinglist](http://vet.osu.edu/maillinglist) or visit [vet.osu.edu/buckeyeacademy](http://vet.osu.edu/buckeyeacademy).

## **Who should I contact for additional questions about the College of Veterinary Medicine at The Ohio State University?**

If you have questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine at (614) 292-2257 or email us at [DVMprospective@osu.edu](mailto:DVMprospective@osu.edu).

