**THE VETERINARY BLACK BAG PROGRAM**

**Project Goals:**
- Develop Veterinarian’s Black Bags (VBBs) of instructional items and pamphlets for middle school teachers to support classroom visits by local veterinarians.
- Provide professional development for veterinarians and teachers on how to use items in the VBBs.
- Promote inquiry-based thinking about health-related subjects while emphasizing the value of biomedical research and promoting careers in science.

**Discovery requires research**

**Do YOU want to be the “guinea pig?”**

**Animals in Research**

**Veterinarian’s Presentation**

**Follow-up lessons on:**
- Pros and Cons of Animal Research
- Animal Research: Case Study
- Care of Lab Animals

**Peer Partnership for Environmental Education and Rural Health**

Dr. Larry Johnson  
Principal Investigator, PEER  
979-845-9279  
ljohnson@cvm.tamu.edu

Dr. William Klemm  
Director, Peer  
979-845-4201  
wklemm@cvm.tamu.edu

Department of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences  
College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences  
Texas A&M University, College Station, Tx 77843  
MS#4458

http://peer.tamu.edu/VBB/Summary.asp
Why do we use animals in research?

Scientists have developed many valuable non-animal models (i.e., cell culture, computer) that are useful for medical research, but these models cannot imitate the complicated processes that occur in a living system.

Animals are similar to humans and are good models when humans can’t be used.

Animal life is based on the same genetic, biochemical, and physiological principles as human life.

How has animal research benefited both people and animals?

Animals have been used to develop multiple vaccines for use in humans.
  - Anthrax: sheep (1880’s)
  - Cholera: various animals (1885)
  - Rabies: various animals (1885)
  - Polio: monkeys (1949) (earlier attempts with humans failed & even caused polio)

There is only one way to ensure that a vaccine, drug, medical device, or surgical procedure is safe and effective: test it!

HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY

Ethical treatment of animals means that those animals used in testing should be treated well.

Treatment of research animals is monitored by Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees.

Ethical treatment of animals includes:
  - Providing a comfortable living environment
  - Minimizing discomfort from testing
  - Humanely euthanizing animals

FEDERAL REGULATIONS FOR ANIMAL CARE

  - Derived from the Animal Welfare Act, with numerous amendments
  - Enforced by U.S. Dept. of Agriculture inspectors
  - Each research entity must have protocols approved by an independent panel of reviewers.