Role of visiting veterinarians

- Expose students to the world of research and the life of a veterinarian.
- Investigation, including clinical diagnosis, involves critical thinking, imagination, intuition, use of your hands, and thinking on your feet.
- Why are veterinary medicine and biomedical-related careers interesting, exciting, and stimulating?
- What do you do all day?
- How does your work eventually make it into the hands and minds of the public?
- Remind students that good science and clinical investigation start by asking questions and being curious.

Careers in biomedical science and veterinary medicine

- Adventure - travel
- Excitement - discovery
- Opportunity – industry, government, medicine, and university
- Teaching - inform public
- Satisfaction - public good

Characteristics of scientists and veterinarians

- Curious and observant
- Creative and ask questions
- Reasonably smart and have stamina
- Conduct experiments and draw conclusions
- Female and male college graduates
- Public servants

“I wish there were more science-oriented guest speakers available because it is a really great experience for them and the kids.”

Kelly Lazo, Caldwell ISD

For further information:

Veterinarian Presentations for Schools
http://peer.tamu.edu/plans.asp

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Dept of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences - MS#4458
College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences
Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77845

Getting involved in your community can be fun and fruitful!

“Scientist presentations are a wonderful chance for our students to see professionals in action. All the hands-on activities are interesting to the students. They talk about the lecture for weeks! It is always exciting to get a visitor in our rural classrooms.”

Debbie Weir, Lazbuddie ISD
Why public school outreach?
- Increased publicity from newspapers, schools and local community gives instant recognition to a recently graduated veterinarian.
- An opportunity for service to the community through the education of youth.
- Increased awareness of public health issues helps narrow the focus of veterinary treatment by identifying client needs.
- Valuable interaction with community youth makes instant connections and establishes personal contact.

How can I improve education in public schools?
As a veterinarian, you have an ability to motivate students to make early decisions about their future. You have the ability to:
- Stimulate critical thinking
- Stimulate rational use of scientific method
- Stimulate enthusiasm for research
- Motivate students to take positions of leadership
- Interest students in science or medical careers

How do I get involved?
- Letters to teachers
- Letters to principals and/or superintendents
- Respond to school’s requests for scientific input or after-school programs
- Volunteer for your university-public school interaction programs
- Attend local PTA meetings
- Invite a class to your clinic for a field trip
- Allow students to shadow you for a day
- Offer biomedical science career counseling
- Participate in your local colleges’ recruitment efforts
- Be a science fair judge or advisor
- Mentor a student in your clinic

What can I present?
- Life as a veterinarian
- Preparation involved to become a veterinarian
- Your specific career path
- Time spent on the job each day
- Rewards
- Your interests or accomplishments in animal welfare
- Your area of study
- Current research
- The news
- Historical events
- Literature
- Research or case rounds presentations
- Classroom experiments
- Ethical issues (animal use in research and biomedical instrument/appliance development).
- Facts and fun with terminology
- Talk about biomedical-related careers

What do I need to remember?
- Time and the timing of your visit is critical!
- A school class period is generally 45 minutes long, but could be 90 minutes.
- Most teachers will have trouble adding to their curriculum, so help them enrich it.
- Help teachers meet their excessive demands.
- Encourage an understanding of math and science.
- Be creative.
- Be supportive.
- Encourage entry into college to obtain biomedical-related careers.
- Have fun and enjoy the interaction.

What should I expect, and what do they need?
- Expect anything and everything.
- Requests for the class to visit your clinic
- To see engagement
- To be appreciated
- To be flexible and responsive to the teacher’s needs/classroom restraints
- They need veterinarian’s stimulation of critical thinking, rational, use of scientific method in diagnosis, excitement of research, and role model.
- Knowledge about career opportunities
- You are the Source.

But, youth are intimidating!
- Make them laugh.
- Speak to them on their level.
- Use questions that the students can answer.
- Encourage their questions.
- Relax, be yourself, have fun, and enjoy the fruits of your efforts.

Download Presentations for Veterinarians and Follow-up Lessons for Teachers at:
http://peer.tamu.edu/plans.asp