

## 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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## Veterinarians' Visits to Public Schools



## 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

- Be a guest speaker
- Attend Career Day
- Donate supplies
- Send newspaper and magazine clippings on toxicological and current public health concerns to interested teachers

## 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



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

## Presentation Approaches?

- Use diagnostic examples to illustrate the scientific method process
- Help teachers and students relate curricular topics (standards) to public health
- Biological and medical concepts like ingestion, absorption, injection or inhalation as the four basic routes of environmental exposure
- Bring props and relate them to what the students already know.

## 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!