FAQs for Junior High School Students

So, you want to be a veterinarian? Many people decide at an early age to become a veterinarian and it is never too early to begin preparing for your future in veterinary medicine.

Is Veterinary Medicine the right path for me?

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

How can I begin prepare 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 get as much experience with animals as possible. Working under the supervision of a veterinarian (job shadowing) is important as well as 4-H, volunteering at a human 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 experience in working with animals by keeping a journal. The journal will be a very useful resource when you apply to veterinary 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.

Leadership and community service activities help you to 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 which include: private practice (small animal practice like dogs and cats, large animal practice like horses and cows, and practices with both large and small animals), federal government (such as 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?

The college generally hosts an open house for the community in May. Please check out our website for specific dates at www.vet.ohio-state.edu. If you have questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Veterinary Medicine Student Affairs at (614) 292-8831.

Check out “So, you want to be a veterinarian” website at: www.vet.osu.edu/BeAVet.htm