

Lesson One – Careers as a Veterinary Technician

FOCUS: What is it?

5-10 minutes

Purpose:

Understanding the definition of a vet tech is the first step here. Participants will have a greater understanding of what a vet tech does on the job.

Materials:

- “What is a Veterinary Technician?” video link

Facilitation Steps:

1. Share these statistics with the participants:
 - There are over 114,400 jobs available as vet techs
 - Veterinary technologists and technicians must complete a postsecondary program in veterinary technology. Technologists usually need a 4-year bachelor’s degree, and technicians need a 2-year associate degree. Typically, both technologists and technicians must take a credentialing exam and become registered, licensed, or certified, depending on the requirements of the state in which they work.
2. Ask participants for what they think are the benefits of working as a vet tech. Explain that they are going to watch a short video that introduces them to what a veterinary technician is.
3. On a white board make a K-W-L chart. Ask for participants to identify what they already know about being vet tech. Also have them identify what they would like to learn.
4. Play the “What is a Veterinary Technician?” video link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5-Op43B8RM>
5. The playing time is less than four minutes. In lieu of this link, other video clips may be searched for on YouTube using keywords like “veterinary technician careers.”
6. Return to your K-W-L chart. Ask for volunteers to fill in the column “L” identifying what they have learned by watching the video clips you have shared.

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LEARN: Would You Rather...

20 minutes

Purpose:

Participants will reflect on two different career paths as a vet tech. They will research to assess the subtle differences between the two paths

Materials:

- *Career Collage* handout
- Small and large animal vet tech video links

Facilitation Steps:

1. Give participants the *Career Collage* handout. Ask participants what they think a career collage might look like for either of the two paths given.
2. Explain that each participant will choose one of the vet tech career paths listed.
3. Explain to participants that they will have about fifteen minutes to research the career and take some notes.
4. Debrief as a class. Ask participants to identify which path they preferred. Was there a big difference in the number of participants choosing one over the other? Why or why not?
5. Share these video links on each type of vet tech or share some of your own. Career Profile:
Small Animal Vet Tech
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GI3XBjr0grM>
Large Animal Veterinary Technician
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGx0KRleoBM>

Career Collage

Directions: Choose one of the two careers listed below. Use the space provided to research key facts about the career. Collect as much information as possible

Vet Tech Career Options:

- **Small Animal Vet Tech or Large Animal Vet Tech**

Main Duties:	Required Training:
Job Outlook:	Other:

Which career option would you choose (small or large animal vet tech) and why?