



My Veterinary ER Journal

Suggested Grade Level 4

Objective	The students will create a journal with entries for an imaginary day as an ER veterinarian based upon research they conduct using the Internet and other library resources.
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AVMA poster • Internet access • Journal and graph paper

<p>Procedure</p> <p>National Standards:</p> <p>Language Arts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing skills • Research for data <p>Math</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graphs and patterns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teacher talks about animal medical emergencies and asks if anyone in the class has been in an emergency situation with an animal. Next, information from the poster story is shared with the students to explain what an ER veterinarian is and what he/she does to help animals. • Students are asked to conduct research on the computer to gather material for a journal entry in which they imagine themselves spending a day as an ER veterinarian. If available at the school library, a good resource book is <i>ER Vets: Life in an Animal Emergency Room</i> by Donna M. Jackson. • Once each student has collected information, a journal entry is made using complete sentences with details describing what the emergency room veterinarian has done during one workday. They should include their thoughts and feelings about the experience and keep the journal in writing style. • The students may add pictures to their journal entry as an extension of the activity. • When entries are completed, students trade journals with one another and critique each other's entry, writing down what they liked best and asking questions that were not answered in the writing (i.e., <i>how long will it take for the dog to heal from his surgery today?</i>). • Additional work might include writing a second entry for another day or for follow-up visits as the animals treated begin to heal. Another possibility is to have students read their journal entry aloud to the class. • Have each member of the class keep a tally sheet for how many times each type of emergency occurred. Students graph the results showing which emergencies were treated the most frequently, second most frequently, etc.
--	--

Ideas to extend this lesson	<p>Go online to learn what a veterinary technician does to help doctors and animals by Googling "Emergency Room Veterinary Technician" and clicking on "images." Describe some of the duties of the technicians you see illustrated by the photographs you find.</p> <p>Plan a visit to a local veterinary emergency hospital or invite a veterinarian to visit the class and talk about ER medicine.</p>
------------------------------------	--

