

Vet activity 2 **Vet visit**

**Age
range:**
7-11

Duration:
Approx 60 minutes
to include worksheet
activity

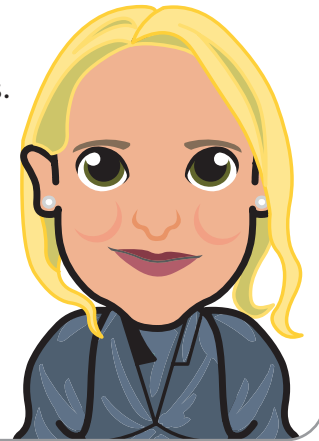
Aim

For pupils to learn about the work of farm vets by meeting one and asking questions.

Learning objectives

Pupils should learn:

- What farm vets do and what their daily life is like
- What type of person makes a good farm vet
- The advantages and disadvantages of the job



Curriculum links

England

- National Curriculum Citizenship: 1e, 2e, 4b
- English En1 1c, 2a, 2c, 2e; En3 1a

Wales

- National Curriculum English: Skills – Oracy 1, 2, 3, Reading 2, 6, Writing 4, 5, 8
- Welsh: Skills – Oracy 1, 2, 3, Reading 2, 6, Writing 4, 5, 8

Materials and equipment

- Rough books and pens/pencils
- Copies of Worksheet Ve2 (one per pupil if required – see below)

Preparation

This activity involves arranging for a farm vet to visit the class, to give a short talk and then answer questions from the pupils. A visit can be arranged by contacting a local vet directly (vets can be found in Yellow Pages or by web searches). If possible, contact a farm vet who works with large animals in a rural area.

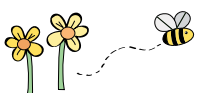
Alternatively, you can find a list of local vets through the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons at www.rcvs.org.uk. Click on 'Find a Vet' – this will enable you to carry out a postcode search with the listed results displaying which are large animal vets.

If you are in an inner city area where large animal vets are hard to find, ask a small animal vet to come to your school. Explain to them that you are covering farm vets and learning about the countryside. They will most likely be able to cover primary school-level information about farm animals too.

Ask your visiting vet if an illustrated talk can be arranged, although this is not essential. A talk of 15 minutes about what the job involves will be sufficient, followed by 25 minutes of questions from the pupils.

Key vocabulary

vet, veterinary, farm, specialism, career, surgery



Running the activity

a) Introduction:

Before the vet visits, go to Farm > Vet and watch the Vet video to ensure that pupils understand what farm vets do. Explain that the vet will give a short talk about his/her work and then the pupils have a chance to ask questions and make notes.

b) Discussion:

To help pupils think of questions, each pupil can be given a copy of Worksheet Ve2. The class can also discuss what types of questions might be interesting. Ask the pupils to try to think of original, interesting questions rather than the obvious 'Do you like the job?' type.

c) Making notes:

To make the talk interactive, pupils should make some notes about what the vet says. Pupils may need some reminders about the basics of making notes before the visit. There is space on the worksheet for notes.

d) Visit:

Choose a confident pupil to thank the vet at the end of the visit on behalf of the class and school for giving up his/her time.

e) Quiz:

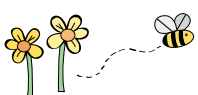
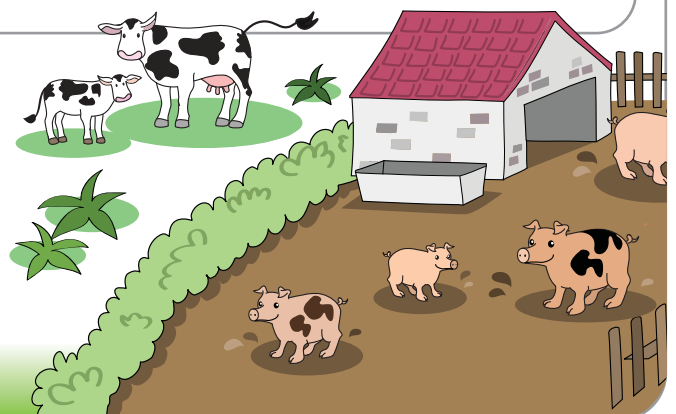
After the visit, direct pupils to Farm > Vet > Quiz to test their newly acquired knowledge of the vet's work.

Extension activities

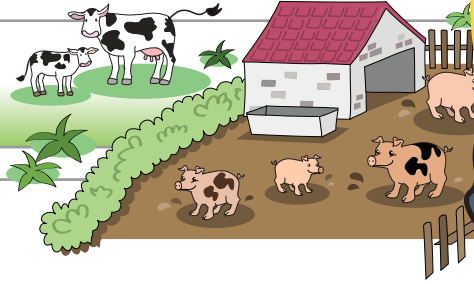
- 1 Some pupils can write 'thank you' letters to the vet, saying what they particularly enjoyed about the visit, what they learnt and mentioning if they have been inspired to work with animals.
- 2 Draw a picture of an ideal vet with labels showing the various features and qualities a person needs to work with cattle, pigs, etc.
- 3 The most famous farm vet is James Herriot, who died some years ago. He wrote many stories about his work with animals, which are suitable for pupils and very entertaining. He wrote about a period 30–60 years ago; talk about how a vet's work has changed since those days.

Background information for teachers

Go to Teachers > Useful links to find out more about farm vets and their work.



Ve2: Vet visit



A farm vet will be visiting your class to give a talk about his or her work and to answer your questions.

This is a great chance to find out about one of the most interesting and challenging jobs in the countryside!

Notes

While the vet is giving the talk, make some notes in the box below (and on the back) to help you remember what he or she says about the job. Here are some tips:

- Write down key words
- Do not use sentences – quickly jot phrases
- Use lines to join linked ideas (or use shapes)
- Lists or boxes can help you to organise the words

Questions

There will be a chance to ask the vet some questions about his or her job. Think of two interesting questions and write them down below. **Don't forget to make notes about the answers!** Here are some ideas:

- About becoming a vet
- Where the work is done
- The hardest or easiest parts of the job
- The best and worst aspects of the work
- What kind of person you must be
- Interesting experiences on farms
- Favourite/least favourite animal
- What hours he/she works

Question 1 _____

Answer: _____

Question 2 _____

Answer: _____

