



Good Production Practices: When to Call the Veterinarian

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Purpose: To teach youth the importance of having an established veterinarian/client/patient relationship (VCPR) when making decisions regarding animal health.*

Materials Needed

- Copies of each scenario pasted or copied onto pieces of paper (each person in the pair or group will need a copy of the given scenario for their group, so if you have the youth in pairs, you will need two copies of each scenario).
- One copy of the Sick Animal Steps per group or pair.
- One pair of scissors per group or pair.
- One glue stick per group or pair.
- 15 note cards per group or pair.
- One marker or pen per group or pair.
- Tabletops for each group to lay out Sick Animal Steps (you could simply lay these on the table or you could have a large sheet of paper or poster board for the youth to glue the steps to when they place them in order).

Steps

1. Have youth complete this activity in pairs or small groups.
2. Choose one scenario from the following four scenarios for each pair or group to complete. Each group should have a different scenario, if possible.
3. Instruct the youth to cut out the Sick Animal Steps and paste one step on one note card (this could be done for the youth ahead of time to save time during the activity).
4. Give each group or pair one scenario and have the group or pair read the complete scenario.
5. Instruct the youth to place the Sick Animal Steps in the order in which they would complete them based on their scenario. Some steps may not apply to their scenario; they can place those cards to the side.
6. Give each group five extra blank index cards to write on in case they want to add a step that is not in the steps provided.
7. Have the groups defend their decisions and compare their steps with those on the Sick Animal Steps Answer Key.

**This activity has been developed to supplement the information that can be found in the National Pork Board Good Production Practice No. 2: Use a veterinarian/client/patient relationship (VCPR) as the basis for medication decision-making.*

Remembering What Is Important

As a livestock producer, you must know what steps to take when you notice something is wrong. An established VCPR is a crucial part of this process because it will affect the decisions you make. Steps could vary based on your current VCPR and could be correct even though they differ from the suggested answer key.

Sick Animal Scenarios

Scenario 1

Sally went to the barn to feed her market goats. When she went in the pen to clean the feeder, she noticed that most of the feed was still there from the night before. She also noticed that the manure around the feeder was black and had traces of blood in it. She remembered that she has occasionally seen the goats in the feeder when she went to feed them, and that she has had to remove them from the feeder.

Scenario 2

Henry came home from school and went out to work with his show lambs. When he put the halter on Ringo, he noticed a small pink circular spot on his lamb's neck. Henry remembered seeing spots like this on the lambs that were in the pen next to him at the regional show two weeks ago.

Scenario 3

Johnny went out to the pasture to check on his baby calf that was born two weeks ago. He noticed that the calf had droopy ears, was slow to get up, and didn't nurse its mother. His nose was dry, and he wouldn't follow his mother when she went to feed.

Scenario 4

Betty went to the barn to exercise her show gilt. When she got to Charlotte's pen, she noticed that she could not get up. Betty also noticed that there were red spots on her skin that were diamond-shaped.

Sick Animal Steps.

- A. Observe the animals.
- B. Observe the animals' surroundings.
- C. Isolate the animals that are sick.
- D. Take the animals' temperatures.
- E. Call the veterinarian.
- F. Treat the animals that are sick.
- G. Take samples of the manure to send off for testing.
- H. Take safety precautions by putting on safety glasses, latex gloves, etc.
- I. Wash your hands and change your clothes.
- J. Clean your pens/equipment with sanitizer.

Sick Animal Steps Answer Key

Scenario 1

1. Observe the animals.
2. Observe the animals' surroundings.
3. Isolate the animals that are sick.
4. Take the animals' temperatures.
5. Call the veterinarian.
6. Treat the animals that are sick
7. Take safety precautions by putting on safety glasses, latex gloves, etc.
8. Take samples of the manure to send off for testing (this might be done before treatment, ask veterinarian).
9. Clean your pens/equipment with sanitizer.
10. Wash your hands and change your clothes.

Scenario 2

1. Observe the animals.
2. Observe the animals' surroundings.
3. Isolate the animals that are sick.
4. Take the animals' temperatures.
5. Wash your hands and change your clothes.
6. Call the veterinarian.
7. Take safety precautions.
8. Treat the animals that are sick.
9. Clean your pens/equipment with sanitizer.
10. Wash your hands and change your clothes.

Scenario 3

1. Observe the animals.
2. Observe the animal's surroundings.
3. Isolate animals that are sick.
4. Take the animals' temperatures.

5. Call the veterinarian.
6. Treat the animals that are sick.
7. Clean your pens/equipment with sanitizer.
8. Wash your hands and change your clothes.

Scenario 4

1. Observe the animals.
2. Observe the animal's surroundings.
3. Isolate animals that are sick.
4. Take the animals' temperatures.
5. Call the veterinarian.
6. Treat the animals that are sick.
7. Clean your pens/equipment with sanitizer.
8. Wash your hands and change your clothes.