The Texas A&M University Part

utumn and the excitement of
back-to-school time bring a
renewed sense of enthusiasm
for opportunities to interact with stu-
dents in grades K-12. With a new school
year comes invitations for professionals
to make presentations and recommend
resources, and who can resist asking the
professionals who work with ani-
mals? No one.

Creating materials from scratch is
labor-intensive, and it isn’t where the
expertise of most veterinary profes-
sionals, whether veterinarian or tech-
nician, lies. You want to provide what’s
been requested, and you want it to be
grade-appropriate and reliable. Are
free, reliable materials available online
that you can use or recommend to oth-
ers? You bet.

Lesson plans, teaching advice and
other resources are offered online by a
variety of groups. Choosing materials
prepared by a group you trust is essen-
tial. With premiere programs in veter-
inary medicine, extension and educa-
tion, it is no surprise that Texas A&M
leads this list of programs and materi-
als worth checking out. Unless specifi-
cally noted, all materials mentioned in
this column are freely available, and all
links are grouped together.

Texas A&M has year-round programs
for K-12 students, including attending the
spring Open House, summer Veterinary
Enrichment Camp and guided tours.

The Texas A&M University Part-
nership for Environmental Education
and Rural Health (PEER) program is a
grant-funded initiative to both develop
and deliver science content for middle
and high schoolers. Of most interest
to readers of this column will be the
Veterinary and Science Partnership,
which provides materials for teachers
of grades 5-9 and veterinarians who
make presentations. Teacher materials
include lessons, videos and brochures.
Resources for veterinarians focus on
lowering the burden of creating a pre-
sentation from scratch by providing
PowerPoint presentations to download
and tips about speaking to these audi-
ences. PEER also has a YouTube chan-
nel (PEER at TAMU) and a Facebook
page. The YouTube channel has more
than 200 videos ranging from inter-
views with scientists and veterinary
students to procedures and lectures.

The National Center for Foreign
Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense
(FAZD) collaborates with PEER, and all
materials may be freely downloaded.
They developed a middle school zoo-
notic diseases curriculum for teachers
that follows the Texas Essential Knowl-
edge and Skills (TEKS). The site also
includes zoonotic disease brochures for
veterinary clinics. These are available in
English and Spanish.

The Institute for Infectious Animal
Diseases (IIAD) cooperates with Texas
A&M AgriLife to offer the Veterinary
Science Certificate Program/Youth Vet-
ernary Science Programs for students
attending high schools. 4-H pro-
grams or independently through self-
study for those who are interested in
becoming veterinary paraprofessionals
or pursuing a higher degree in a vet-
erinary-related discipline. The program
enrolls more than 30,000 students a
year. They also offer career day tours
in College Station. Check the outreach
section of the Youth Veterinary Science
site for current details. There is a cost
associated with this program.

The American Veterinary Medical
Association (AVMA) provides materi-
als for grades K-3, 4-6 and 7-12. These
include lesson plans, career-related
brochures, videos, comic books, Power-
Points and coloring activity books. Addition-
ally, there are specially focused les-
son plans, activities and presentations
for National Pet Week. National Pet Week
presentations include presentations and
scripts in English and Spanish.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture
(USDA) Food and Drug Administration
(FDA) hosts two sites of particular inter-
est. The Center for Veterinary Medicine
Kid’s Page primarily provides materials
for elementary through teen students
about a variety of pet topics and
careers in veterinary medicine. Lesson
plans for teachers are also available.
Their Science and Research (food) site
has teacher guides for middle level and
high school classrooms about food
safety and nutrition.

LINKS
TAMU-CVMA Open House
http://vetmed.tamu.edu/openhouse

Veterinary Enrichment Camp
http://vetmed.tamu.edu/bims/future/
veterinary-enrichment-camp

Guided Tours
http://vetmed.tamu.edu/about-us/
schedule-a-guided-tour

PEER
https://peer.tamu.edu/

FAZD
https://peer.tamu.edu/ FAZD/HomePage.asp

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