



## Module 33

# Animal Welfare Organisations

## Student Activities

### Applied Learning Opportunities

#### Interview a vet (group work or individual)

The students should get in touch with a local animal welfare organisation that employs veterinary professionals and ask if they can interview one or more of the employed vets (either individually or as a group).

Students should compile their own list of interview questions which focus on the role of the vet within an animal welfare organisation. The following list may be given to them to get them started.

- What made you want to work with animals?
- Why did you want to become a vet?
- Did someone inspire you to work as a vet?
- Where did you train to become a vet?
- When did you first learn about animal welfare?
- How long have you worked for an animal welfare organisation?
- What is your role within the animal welfare organisation?
- Can you describe your day-to-day activities?
- What are the biggest challenges associated with your role?
- What are the most rewarding aspects of your role?
- What would you tell those who aspire to work as vets in an animal welfare organisation?

Students should be encouraged to record the interview in some way and report back using a format of your choice.

## Volunteer for an animal welfare organisation

Students should explore which animal welfare organisations exist in their local area and whether they can provide the opportunity to volunteer for a day (or longer if possible). Students may be able to volunteer within a range of departments: shadowing the veterinarian the in-house veterinary clinic; working with animals housed by the organisation; or in the administrative offices, etc.

Volunteering with a local animal welfare organisation could help students to:

- learn and understand how animal welfare organisations work and how vets can work for them
- meet people who work in non-veterinary roles within animal welfare organisations
- develop existing skills and gain new ones
- engage in work that is both challenging and rewarding
- spend quality time with animals who require veterinary attention.

After volunteering, students should write a report considering the following questions:

- What was the nature of your volunteering experience?
- Can you describe the day-to-day duties you completed?
- What type of activities did you participate in?
- How were the animals cared for within the organisation?
- How much contact did you have with animals? Which types of animals did you work with, and what sort of welfare issues did you see?
- Did you have the chance to assist the in-house veterinarian during the day and, if so, in what way?
- Did you provide advice for any animal owners or liaise in another way with supporters of the organisation?
- Did you have the opportunity to participate in any decision-making or problem-solving processes during your time volunteering? If so, please describe these scenarios.
- Did you have any new experiences (hands-on with animals or other forms of work), and can you describe them?
- Did your day of volunteering meet your expectations? How, or why not?
- What was the highlight of your volunteering experience?
- What was the most challenging part of volunteering?