



Vet Science

Learning Breeds

Levels

Cloverbuds, Juniors

Lesson Objective

The objective of this lesson is to familiarize 4Hers with the different breeds of horses, cattle, sheep, swine, goats, dogs, cats, small mammals, birds, and common reptilian and amphibian pets.

Time

1 hour.

Materials

Have each 4H member bring photos of pets, animal project photos, and or stuffed toy animals, and have done some research on what breed(s) of animal they are bringing.

Space Required

Room with table space.

Before the Meeting

Set up tables with chairs for members to sit at.

Background

For centuries, as animals have been domesticated, old breeds have changed, some disappeared, and new ones have emerged. Today, breed characteristics are used by many organizations as distinguishing factors among breeds. Organizations such as the American Kennel Club (AKC), the American Hereford Association (AHA), the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA), and many more classify animals into their breeds and allow for the animals to be registered and acknowledged as part of a particular breed. Classifying an animal's breed can be an important step when deciding how to medically treat and physically handle an animal, as different breeds have different problems, possible solutions, and histories of medical or behavioral issues. For example, pugs (small dog breed) often having breathing and sight problems due to their shorter muzzle. German Shepherds (large dog breed) are predisposed to hip problems due to their usual structural design. Some breeds of cats are more aggressive than others, and some breeds of lizards will lose their tail when scared! Knowing the breed of an animal can be important when caring for that animal.

Activity Instructions

1. 4H members will take turns at their group's table.
2. Each member will show their pictures and or stuffed animals, and the group will try to decide what kind of breed each photo or toy is.
3. The owner of the animal will then tell the group what kind of animal it is, and explain what characteristics lead them to their conclusion.

Reflect and Apply Questions

1. Did you expect there to be so many different breeds?
2. Have you seen some of these breeds before? Where?
3. Why is it important to know the different breeds of animals?
It is important to know the different breeds of animals because different breeds have different characteristics and traits, and therefore may need to be medically treated or physically handled in different ways.

References:

<http://dogtime.com/dog-breeds>
<http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/horses/>
<http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/cattle/>
<http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/cattle/jersey/index.html#goats>
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<http://animal-world.com/encyclo/critters/critters.htm>
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