



Veterinary Bag Exploration

at the Sarah Allison Steffee Center
for Zoological Medicine

Teacher & Chaperone Guide

Thank you for registering your group for Cleveland Metroparks Zoo's Veterinary Bag Exploration activity. The following information is provided to ensure you have the necessary information to complete this activity. Should you have any questions, please reach out to the **Zoo's Registration Office at (216) 635-3391**. We hope you have fun and enjoy your time at the Zoo.

This role-playing activity is designed to challenge students to work together and think in a scientific manner. They will make observations, work with and manipulate data, change their ideas as new knowledge is gained, and draw their own conclusions in an effort to solve a scientific problem – a grizzly bear with a medical problem. All of these steps are key skills in the critical thinking process.

Students will participate in the scientific inquiry process, requiring them to learn, reason, think creatively, and make decisions to solve a problem. While playing a role as a member of a veterinary medicine team, students will:

- Gather data about a grizzly bear with a medical problem
- Develop a diagnosis (hypothesis) as to the nature of the problem
- Re-evaluate their hypothesis when presented with new data
- Plan an appropriate course of treatment to solve the problem

IMPORTANT: This is a self-guided exploration for you and your students. The goal is for you to guide your students through a critical thinking process and for them to develop reasonable explanations to the data they gather. There are no definitive right and wrong answers in this process. Please assure your students that science is a way of thinking and finding wrong conclusions is just as important as finding conclusions that prove to be true.

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

Purchase Zoo admission. Admission to the Zoo is not included with your program. Schools are eligible for discounted admission with advance reservations by contacting programregistration@clevelandmetroparks.com or (216) 635-3391.

WHERE TO GO

When you arrive at the Zoo, proceed to the Registered Groups window at the Box Office in the Zoo Ticket Plaza. This is where you will confirm your reservation and receive wristbands/tickets for your group for previously purchased admission. Please ensure each participant in your group has a wristband/ticket before entering. From there continue straight to the Sarah Allison Steffee Center for Zoological Medicine to pick up your program materials. You are welcome to store lunches/coolers for your group at the Roaring Lion Café or Palava Hut, both near the entrance, at your discretion so long as these sites are not reserved for an event. These are shared-use facilities for the general public. The Zoo is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

The program will take place at the Sarah Allison Steffee Center for Zoological Medicine. This is the Zoo's veterinary hospital with public viewing windows into the examination rooms. Upon entry to the Zoo, please proceed to this building. It is located after the rhino habitat on the pathway leading towards Wilderness Trek. Upon arriving, but before entering the building, head to the patio to the right of the entrance and locate the locked wooden crate. **The code to unlock this crate will be provided by email a week prior to the visit.** Retrieve all of the veterinary bags inside of the crate

and head inside. If you run into any issues, please call the Zoo's Registration Office at (216) 635-3391.

GETTING STARTED

Your group will need to be split up into smaller groups of four (4), as each group member will assume the role of a member of the Zoo's staff working to care for a sick animal.

Each veterinary bag will contain an iPad and items that each group will need throughout the program to diagnose and treat a grizzly bear with a medical issue. The group will be prompted by the iPad to utilize these items throughout the program. They should wait until they're prompted and keep everything together as they move through the program. The very first thing they should do is take the iPad out of the bag and turn it on. Each iPad will be pre-set to be open to the Vet Bag app.

DURING THE PROGRAM

The groups should remain inside the Sarah Allison Steffee Center for Zoological Medicine. They should find a spot somewhere in the building to sit down and work as a group. If they move throughout the building, they should remain together and keep the contents of their bag together. Please note that the exhibit will be open to regular Zoo day-guests.

The program is designed to take about an hour to complete.

ENDING THE PROGRAM

As each group finishes, have them check their bag to ensure each of the following is there before turning it in:

- iPad
- x-ray
- calculator
- plastic syringe
- plush grizzly
- felt bag containing grizzly tooth in jar

Once the whole group has finished the program and each bag and its contents are accounted for, place all bags back into the wooden crate outside and lock it. If you run into any issues, please call the Zoo's Registration Office at (216) 635-3391.

BEFORE YOUR VISIT - PRE ACTIVITY DISCUSSION POINTS

The following discussion points have been provided to ensure your group gets the most out of this program and are set up for successful completion.

Explain what the Sarah Allison Steffee Center is and why it's important:

- This is the veterinary hospital where the Zoo cares for and treats most of the animals that live here.
- Sick/injured animals come to the hospital, but the veterinary staff also does regular medical check-ups (like how we go to the doctor once a year for a physical or check-up).
- The Zoo does all it can to care for the animals that live here.
- There are many people that work in the veterinary hospital. They have various careers that dictate their jobs or tasks. For example, we have multiple veterinarians whose job includes animal check-ups, writing and keeping medical charts, and visiting our larger animals at their habitats.
 - You can ask, what other jobs or tasks might someone have whose career is being a veterinarian?

Ask the students, what happens when you get sick?

- When you get sick, what do you do? Where do you go? What do you tell the doctor?

Ask the students, what might be different when an animal gets sick?

- Can they tell us what's wrong? No!

- Therefore, we need to go through a process to try to figure it out based on things like observations, bloodwork, how they respond to medicine, etc.

Explain the general aspects of the program:

- Each group member will assume the role of a member of the Zoo staff working to care for a sick animal.
 1. Veterinarian – treats animals when they’re sick or injured, provides preventative medicine and check-ups, etc.
 2. Veterinary Technician – assists the veterinarian in the performance of their duties (a Veterinary Technician is like an animal nurse)
 3. Animal Keeper – responsible for the day-to-day care of the animal
 4. Group Leader/Mystery Role
- They will be working together in groups to diagnose and treat a grizzly bear named Dakota.
- Each group will be assigned a bag with an iPad in it. The iPad will be used to instruct them as they move through the program.
- They should keep everything together and the iPad will tell them when to use the items in their bag.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

To prepare for your field trip, please take advantage of the following Zoo resources:

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo’s website – FutureForWildlife.org

DISCOVER: Animals & Wildlife Conservation

Check out the Animals tab to learn more about the animals you hope to visit during your field experience. Click on Wildlife Conservation to learn how you and your students can take action and join our community that’s working to secure a future for wildlife.

LEARN: Education

The Online Resource Library, under Education\Science & Research is where you can find more in-depth animal information, pictures, and videos. It’s a wonderful resource for students doing research on particular animal species. A variety of student activities can also be found in the Online Resource Library under Lesson Plans.

EXPLORE: Plan Your Visit

With 183 acres to explore, we want you to get the most out of your visit to the Zoo. Use the Zoo Map under the Tickets & Attractions tab to plan which habitats you would like your students to see.