

**Agriculture Standards**

**Pet and Companion Animal Science**

**Course Overview: The study of basic pet animal science and basic veterinary science.**

**Unit 1: Introduction to the Small animal industry (2 Weeks)**

**Description:** The Small animal industry will be studied and its relevance to the US economy will be discussed as pets are a very important part of society.

**Standards:**

1. The students will be able to describe the importance of the pet industry to the economy of the United States.AS1.a.5.b.
2. The students will be able to tell how companion animals were used and are still used in agriculture. AS.a.7.h.
3. The students will be able to explain how dogs are classified according to their use. As2.a6.h
4. The students will be able to describe how by products are used in the processing of pet food, A4.a.5.h
5. The students will be able to explain the regulations governing the raising and importing of companion animals.AS1.a.8.h

**Unit 2: Safety (10 Days)**

**Description:** The topic of safe handling of animals will be studied. Diseases that can be transferred to humans will be researched.

**Standards:**

1. The students will be able to explain the importance of safety when working and playing with small animals. AS3.b.4.h
2. The students will be able to list the ten types of diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans. AS3.b.5.h

**Unit 3: Cats (5 Days)**

**Description:** The history of cats and the care and management of them will be studied. Health and reproduction issues will be learned.

**Standards:**

1. Students will be able to discuss the history of the cat. AS.1.a.3.m
2. Students will be able to list the major groups and breeds of cats. AS1.a.5.h.
3. Students will be able to discuss the proper methods of feeding cats.AS4 a.4.h
4. Students will be able to discuss the health care and various diseases of catsAS2.c.5.h.

**Unit 4: Dogs (5 Days)**

**Description:** The study of canines and thee management of these animals will be studied. Different breeds and their uses as pets or working animals will be discussed.

**Standards:**

1. The students will be able to discuss the history of the dog. AS.a.3.m
2. The students will identify the seven major groups of dogs. The students will be able to list the different breeds of dogs and identify basic characteristics.As1.a5.h
3. The students will know what to consider when selecting a dog breed. As2.c.6.h
4. The student will be able to identify the various types of food for dogs. AS2.a.3.m.
5. The students will be able to discuss the 6 groups of diseases that affect dogs. AS2.c.5.h.

**Unit 5: Rabbits (5 Days)**

**Description:** Rabbits as pets will be discussed. Their reproductive habits will be studied. Different breeds and colors will be learned.

**Standards:**

1. The students will be able to discuss the history of the rabbit.AS1.a.3.m.
2. The students will be able to identify the 9 different groups of rabbits.As.5.c.3.h
3. The students will recognize different ailments and diseases of rabbits.AS2.c.5.h
4. Students will learn the care of rabbits.AS3.a.10.h, AS7.a.5.h

**Unit 6: Guinea Pigs (5 Days)**

**Description:** Guinea Pigs as pets will be studied along with types and diseases of various breeds.

**Standards:**

1. Students will be able to identify the 6 kinds of Guinea pigs.AS 2.a.3.m, AS 3.a.10.h.
2. Students will be able to identify the major ailments and diseases of Guinea pigs. AS3.a.10.h
3. Students will learn the care of guinea pigs. AS2.c.5.h

**Unit 7: Ferrets (5 Days)**

**Description:** The students will study the history of ferrets as pets. Diseases and ailments will be learned. Different breeds of Guinea pigs will be studied.

**Standards:**

1. Students will learn the different kinds of Ferrets.AS1.a.3.m
2. Students will learn the ailments and diseases of Ferrets. AS2.c.5.h
3. Students will learn the care of Ferrets.A53.a.13.h

**Unit 8: Hedgehogs, Hamster, and Gerbils (5 Days)**

**Description:** The smaller of the pets such as gerbils, hamsters and hedgehogs will be studied. Each type will be studied individually for diseases and ailments. Different breeds of each animal will be learned.

**Standards:**

1. Students will learn the basic care and safe keeping of hedgehogs, hamsters, and gerbils. AS.1.a.3.m.AS1.a.5.h.
2. Students will learn the ailments and diseases of hedgehogs, hamsters and gerbils. AS2.c.5.h, AS3.a.10.h

**Unit 9: Reptiles (5 Days)**

**Description:** Reptiles will be discussed as far as breeds, diseases, and reproduction habits. We will study the best choices of reptiles for different situations.

**Standards:**

1. Students will learn the common reptiles used as pets today.AS2.c5.h
2. Students will learn the diseases of reptiles. AS1.a.3.m
3. Students will learn the basic care and needs of keeping a reptile. AS1.a.5.h. AS7.c.4.h

**Unit 10: Amphibians (5 Days)**

**Description:** Students will learn how to choose the right amphibian for a pet. Student will learn the difference between a reptile and an amphibian. Students will learn the care and maintenance of amphibians.

**Standards:**

1. Students will learn the common amphibians that are being used as pets.AS1.a.3.m.
2. Students will learn the care and basic needs of amphibians. AS2.b.10.h. AS1.a.5.h
3. Students will learn the diseases of amphibiansAS2.c.5.h

**Unit 11: Fish (5 Days)**

**Description:** Students will learn the various types of fish and how to care for them. Different size fish need different size aquariums.

**Standards:**

1. Students will learn the various kinds of fish for use in aquariums and ponds. AS2.c4.h
2. Students will learn the basic care and sicknesses of fish.AS2.c.5.h
3. Students will learn selection of fish based on size restrictions of aquarium.AS7.a4.h

**Unit 12: Birds (5 Days)**

**Description:** Students will learn the various types of birds. Diseases will be discussed. Black market sales of birds will be discussed...

**Standards:**

1. Students will learn the basic care of Parrots, cockatiels, parakeets, finches, canaries, and a few larger birds. AS1.a.3.m
2. Students will learn the ailments and diseases of pet birds.AS1.a.5.h. AS2.c.5.h.
3. Students will learn to identify the kinds of birds used as pets. AS2.a.3.m.

**Unit 13: Careers /SAE/ Leadership/FFA (10 Days)**

**Description:** Students will take part in team building and leadership activities. FFA projects will be discussed. Supervised Agricultural Experiences will be planned. Career projects will be done.

**Standards:**

1. Students will discuss various careers in the Agriculture field and research various pet and therapy animal jobs. LE.1.a.10.h. LE1.a.11.h, LE.1.a.12.h, LE.1.a.13.h, LE.1.a.14.h. LE.1.b.9.h, LE.1.c.6.h, LE1.c.9.h
2. Students will start to develop a SAE (Supervised Agriculture Experience) in their field of interest. This is needed to further their FFA experience.
3. Leadership qualities will be emphasized in team building exercises. This unit will correspond with the FFA speaking contests at the end of the semester. CD.1.a.3.h.