

Houston Zoo at Home

VET CLINIC

Veterinary Dress Up

Ages 4 and up

Our veterinary staff make sure all our animals are healthy and they have some incredible tools and resources to use. They do regular checkups, write prescriptions when animals are sick or need medications, take radiographs, treat injuries and perform surgeries, and even help when baby animals are born. Some animals can visit our vet clinic, and some stay in their habitats to be seen by our vet staff, like a house call.

For this activity, watch the video of Dr. Joe as he checks out a sea turtle at the vet clinic! Listen for any specific tasks our vets, technicians, or keepers do as part of their daily routine to care for our animals. Next, have your family play dress up and role play what it's like to spend a day in an animal clinic. You can turn your home or a single room into your own animal care unit. Some household items you can use for dressing up include:

- A large button-down shirt or smock/apron
- Clipboard and pencil/pen
- Stuffed animals
- Mittens or gloves
- Bandana for a scrub cap
- Paper or stickers to make a name tag
- DIY stethoscope: headphones with a paper circle attached to the plug end

Some tasks you can role play with your pretend animal include:

- Give an animal a checkup
- Practice counting beans out to fill medicine prescriptions
- Prepare a diet
- Give an animal a bath

Level up challenge: If you have a pet at home, have your child help an adult safely role play a check-up with your pet. You can practice feeling for a pulse, looking in eyes, ears, noses and mouths, trimming nails, and even give them a bath. Be sure to provide a treat to your pet for positive participation and safe interactions! We only encourage this part of the activity if your pet has previously been exposed to these types of activities in a positive manner or it's part of a regular training routine.

Share your project with us!

Tag your photo using #HoustonZoo or email us your story at communications@houstonzoo.org.

Vet for a Day Mad Libs

Ages 8 and up or with parental guidance

I want to be a veterinarian when I grow up! Veterinarians help keep
animals _____ and _____. Some veterinarians take care of
(adjective) (adjective)
animals that are _____ like _____. But I want to be a vet at the Zoo so I
(adjective) (domestic animal)
can take care of _____! I imagine I would have to wake up really early at _____ 'o
(zoo animal) (time)
clock and _____ to work. When I arrive, I would need to _____ all
(verb) (verb)
the animals and check the _____ for my schedule. I know some animals would need
(noun)
_____ and there is a lot of _____ to do. I'm not sure how easy it
(noun or verb) (noun)
would be to give _____ medicine or check a _____'s teeth. It would probably
(zoo animal) (zoo animal)
be really hard to weigh a _____ too! I would need a really _____
(zoo animal) (size adjective)
_____. There are lots of other cool tools to use though. Vets use some of the same
(noun)
tools as human doctors like stethoscopes and _____. My favorite is
(hospital tool)
the _____. It's used to _____ to a _____. Before going home at
(hospital tool) (verb) (noun)
the end of the day, I would make sure the animals were _____, _____, and
(adjective) (adjective)
_____. I think the _____ part about being a veterinarian is helping to
(adjective) (adjective)
_____ all the animals!
(verb)

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