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### KSU Veterinary Health Center Joins 'Everybody Counts' to Serve Community Pets

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# KSU Veterinary Health Center Joins Everybody Counts to Serve Community Pets

### **Everybody Counts Event**

- Everybody Counts is a one-day community event in August that provides free services including healthcare, clothing, and food in a single location to vulnerable neighbors in need in Riley County.
- In 2018, the KSU Veterinary Health Center joined Everybody Counts to provide free physical exams, vaccines, and other preventative care, and pet food for pet dogs and cats in need.
- Through this program, KSU has served 85 dogs, 43 cats, and 72 families.

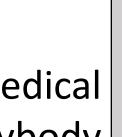


# **KSU Veterinary Everybody Counts Team**

- Veterinary, MPH, veterinary nursing, and pharmacy students all participate in Everybody Counts in each year.
  - 16 students in 2018, 30 students in 2019
- Veterinarians, Veterinary Nurses, Pharmacists, as well as Medical Records and Receptionist Staff are also part of our critical Everybody Counts team.



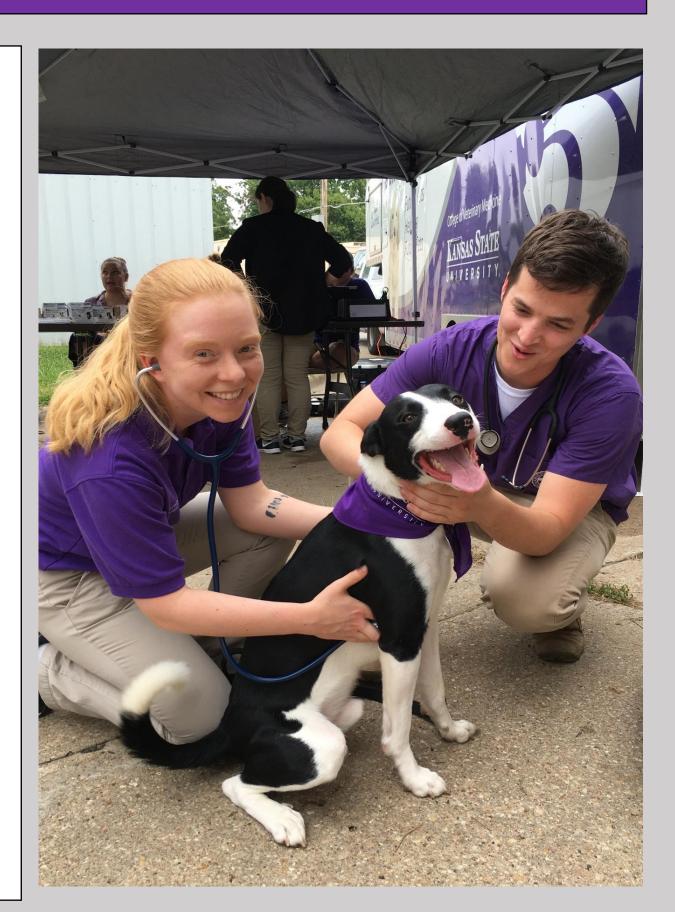
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### **Students Gain Veterinary Experience**

- Students gain valuable practice discussing patient histories with owners, deciding which pet vaccines are due and appropriate, and listening to pet owner concerns.
- Students are paired with a veterinarian and perform physical exams, discuss any abnormalities identified, draw blood for basic diagnostic testing, and administer vaccines and other treatments.
- Students from all 4 years of the CVM curriculum participate and enjoy this opportunity for handson experience.



## **Students Engage with the Community**

- Veterinary students can feel isolated from the community, taking heavy class loads (on average taking 21 credits per semester) and spending most of their non-classroom time studying.
- The KSU CVM student body lacks diversity, mirroring the entire veterinary profession.
- Everybody Counts offers a valuable opportunity for our students to:
  - 1) reach out beyond their normal studies
  - 2) engage and meet members of the community who are different than themselves
  - 3) learn about struggles of pet ownership for low-income neighbors
  - 4) observe the strong human-animal bond at this event and the value of fostering and supporting these pet owners in need
  - 5) realize that their community efforts can make a difference in the lives of the pets and families in their communities



### **Students Listen to Community Needs**

- A student-designed survey for pet owners is administered to better understand the needs of pets that we serve in the community and ways to improve service for their owners.
- Students hear from pet owners about the need and value of our presence as well as the other services at the event.



# **Students Help Secure Sponsorship**

Students gain experience working with corporate sponsors to secure donations (vaccines, treatments, pet foods) and discussing these products with pet owners.

### **Students Learn to Serve**

Through student involvement in Everybody Counts, we are:

- 1) demonstrating the benefits that student engagement can have on a community
- inspiring students to implement similar programs in their future 2) communities when they graduate,
- providing students with tools needed to be successful in 3) organizing and implementing One Health community events.