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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

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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.



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 Gain Veterinary Experience

- Students gain valuable practice discussing patient histories with pet owners, deciding which 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 hands-on experience.



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.

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 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
- 2) inspiring students to implement similar programs in their future communities when they graduate,
- 3) providing students with tools needed to be successful in organizing and implementing One Health community events.

