



Healthy Pets Hospital
Sponsored By:
Lafayette Veterinary Care Center



Welcome to the CMA's Healthy Pet Hospital, sponsored by **Lafayette Veterinary Care Center**, where children can take on the role of a veterinarian and treat the animals seeking their care! From screening various animal x-rays to weighing a puppy on the scale, this exhibit allows children to participate in the real-life situations to experience what it's like to work in a veterinary clinic. Learn about proper pet care from a variety of books on the counters and try to see if you can figure out which items are best for dogs and cats on our wall. Put on a vet's coat, fill out the animal check in form and help the animals be healthy, happy pets!

Healthy Pet Hospital Exhibit Areas:

Intake area – Our visitors will don the role as an office manager who will greet clients, take calls and schedule appointments using the office computer. This area will include desk, faux computer\keyboard and telephone. This station will use clipboards to note the problems you are having with your pet.

Examination and Grooming Station – Provides the young technicians with tools and station to examine the animals. They will explore and interpret the anatomy of animals using charts and x-rays. Multiple procedures can be conducted including applying bandages, general pet check-ups and pet grooming. Owner (lets include moms and dads) counseling sessions can be conducted discussing proper pet nutrition, activities and exercises.

Pet Kennels – Rounds begin with a stop at the clinic's kennels, where pet patients are kept while in the veterinarian's care.



The power of Play: By role playing and creating real life situations, children learn about the world around them and discover key skills important for their success with peers. During play, children strengthen their discoveries about suitable behavior in various situations, as well as enhance their ability to think creatively. In addition, to promoting the growth of imagination, improving memory and increasing vocabulary skills, the opportunity to engage in role play allows children the chance to learn valuable social and perspective-taking skills that they will continue to develop into their adult lives. This exhibit is an ideal place for undirected play to occur, which encourages children to share (“Can I use the X-Ray machine when you are finished with it?”) listen (“What kind of medicine should I give to my sick cat?”) and negotiating (“Let’s take turns washing the puppies. I’ll wash one, you can wash the other one and we will take turns drying them off – then we’ll switch!”) while learning to work in pairs and/or groups. Role play (such as pretending to be a veterinarian or an owner of a sick pet) enables children to make choices and explore while developing language and leadership skills.

Ask: How much does the large dog weigh? Can your child find a place to measure his height? What part of the animal is shown in the x-rays? What do X-rays tell us about an animal? What does a cat eat? How do you wash and care for a dog’s coat?

Listen: Does your child make animal noises as he plays? Listen to your child playing with other children: Is he/she playing the role of a pet owner or veterinarian? How is your child speaking to the animals. Encourage your child to use the bandages to wrap up the broken/sprained/rash leg-arm-tail-head.

Look: Observe the animals to which your child is drawn. Look at how he/she handles the pets: does he/she interact with them as toys or living creatures? Examine and look at the X-rays with your child to determine what may be wrong with the pets.

Key Vocabulary Words: Leash, collar, x-ray, veterinarian clinic, weigh, wash, dry, healthy, sick, bowl, kennel, fur, medicine, cast, bandages, surgery, fleas, heart, dog, cat, etc.

After Your Visit the Learning Continues: When you and your child return home, pull out some of his/her stuffed animals and clipboards outfitted with blank paper and pens. Encourage your child to pretend that the animals are sick and need to see a vet at the **Lafayette Veterinary Care Center**. Your child and a friend, sibling or care giver can play “Veterinary Clinic” at home by role-playing as vets and/or assistants who need to record animal symptoms. Encourage your children to draw and/or scribble-this is a good time to practice emergent writing skills. You and your family can also visit your local animal shelter or pet store to learn more about pets and how to properly care for them, as well as get the opportunity to be face to face with some animal friends!

Children’s Museum of Acadiana

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