

Small Animal Management

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) Subjects:

(1) The student describes the importance of responsible small animal ownership. The student is expected to:

- (A) explain the domestication and use of small animals;
- (B) identify the influence small animals have on society;
- (C) describe the importance of the small animal industry;
- (D) describe the obligations and benefits of small animal ownership; and
- (E) discuss the use and services provided by small animals.

(2) The student learns the hazards associated with working in the small animal industry. The student is expected to:

- (A) explain the importance of safe practices when working with small animals;
- (B) identify diseases that can be transmitted from small animals to humans;
- (C) describe methods of preventing the spread of disease;
- (D) follow guidelines for safety when handling dangerous chemicals and when working with small animals
- (E) demonstrate the proper use of laboratory equipment.

(3) The student evaluates current topics in animal rights and animal welfare. The student is expected to:

- (A) compare and contrast animal rights and animal welfare;
- (B) research important persons, organizations, and groups involved in the animal rights movement;
- (C) create a timeline of dates and acts of legislation related to animal welfare; and
- (D) analyze current issues in animal rights and animal welfare.

(4) The student knows the care and management requirements for a variety of small animals. The student is expected to:

- (A) discuss the physical characteristics for each species studied;
- (B) list the breeds or types of each species studied as appropriate;
- (C) discuss the habitat, housing, and equipment needs for each species studied;
- (D) compare and contrast nutritional requirements for each species studied;
- (E) explain health maintenance in each species studied, including the prevention and control of diseases and parasites;
- (F) describe and practice common methods of handling each species studied; and
- (G) use available laboratory equipment to perform procedures such as fecal test, blood testing, and basic grooming procedures.

(5) The student examines career opportunities in small animal care. The student is expected to:

- (A) identify, describe, and compare career opportunities in small animal care and management;
- (B) describe the nature of the work, salaries, and educational requirements for careers in small animal care.

- (6) The student learns the employability characteristics of a successful employee. The student is expected to:
- (A) identify career development and entrepreneurship opportunities in the field of specialty agricultural enterprises;
 - (B) apply competencies related to resources, information, interpersonal skills, and systems of operation in specialty agricultural enterprises;
 - (C) demonstrate knowledge of personal and mechanical safety and health practices in the workplace
 - (D) identify employers' expectations, including appropriate work habits, ethical conduct, legal responsibilities, and good citizenship skills.
- (7) The student develops a supervised agriculture experience program as it relates to agriculture, food, and natural resources. The student is expected to:
- (A) plan, propose, conduct, and evaluate entrepreneurship; placement; exploratory; research, either experimental or analytical; improvement; supplementary; laboratory-based; or other identified, supervised agricultural experience as an experiential learning activity;
 - (B) apply proper record-keeping skills as they relate to a supervised experience;
 - (C) design and use a customized record-keeping system for the individual supervised experience;
 - (D) participate in youth leadership opportunities to create a well-rounded experience program in agriculture
 - (E) produce a challenging approach for a local program of activities in agriculture.