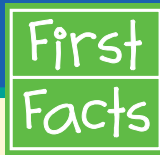


# A Day in the Life of a Veterinarian



By Heather Adamson

First  
Facts



Community Helpers at Work

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by Heather Adamson



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# What happens at the start of a veterinarian's day?

Veterinarians arrive early at their clinics. Veterinarians care for animals. Dr. Kip checks on the animals that spent the night at the clinic. She looks at the day's appointments. Dr. Kip and the other clinic workers gather supplies and tools. Everything needs to be ready to use.





# Do veterinarians ever operate on animals?

Veterinarians operate almost every day. A team works together during an operation. Dr. Kip finds gowns, caps, and gloves for the team. These clothes protect against germs. An assistant gives the dog a shot so it will sleep. The dog will stay at the clinic until tomorrow.



## Fun Fact:

Veterinarians and doctors who treat people need the same amount of medical school.



8:45 in the morning



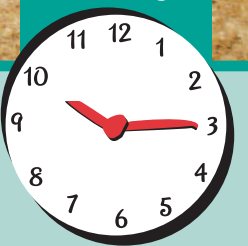


# What happens in an emergency?

Veterinarians must be ready to help in an emergency. Mr. Mishek calls the clinic. His horse has cut its leg. Dr. Kip packs her medical kit.



10:15 in the morning



She drives the medical truck out to the farm. She sews up the horse's cut and covers it with a bandage. The cut will heal in a few weeks.



12:30 in the afternoon



## Who helps veterinarians?

Veterinarians have assistants and technicians to help them. Dr. Kip's assistant helps weigh a big dog. The clinic also has workers who file records, set up appointments, and write out bills. Everyone works together to make the clinic run.







## Do veterinarians like animals?

Veterinarians love all kinds of animals. Dr. Kip checks the animals at the clinic.



She brings the dog some fresh water and scratches its neck. She gives a treat to a rabbit. Dr. Kip finds time to eat her own lunch, too.





# Why do pets need to go to the veterinarian?

Veterinarians help pets stay healthy and safe. Dr. Kip and a technician show a family how to take care of their cat. Dr. Kip gives the cat medicine. Now it will not catch diseases. Dr. Kip puts a tag on the cat's collar in case it gets lost. The tag helps the cat get returned to its family.



## Fun Fact:

Studies show that people with pets live longer than people without pets.



2:30 in the afternoon



# Do veterinarians groom animals?



4:00 in the afternoon



Veterinarians do some grooming tasks. Today, Dr. Kip files a turtle's sharp beak. She also cuts a ferret's nails. Veterinarians do not usually trim fur. They do tell owners how to keep their pets clean and healthy.



# What happens at the end of a veterinarian's day?

Veterinarians make sure the clinic is clean. They check on the animals before they go home. Dr. Kip visits the dog that had an operation. Another worker will stay at the clinic until morning. Dr. Kip thinks about the animals she helped today. She is glad she is a veterinarian.



## Fun Fact:

In the United States, more than 67,000 people work as veterinarians.



5:30 in the evening

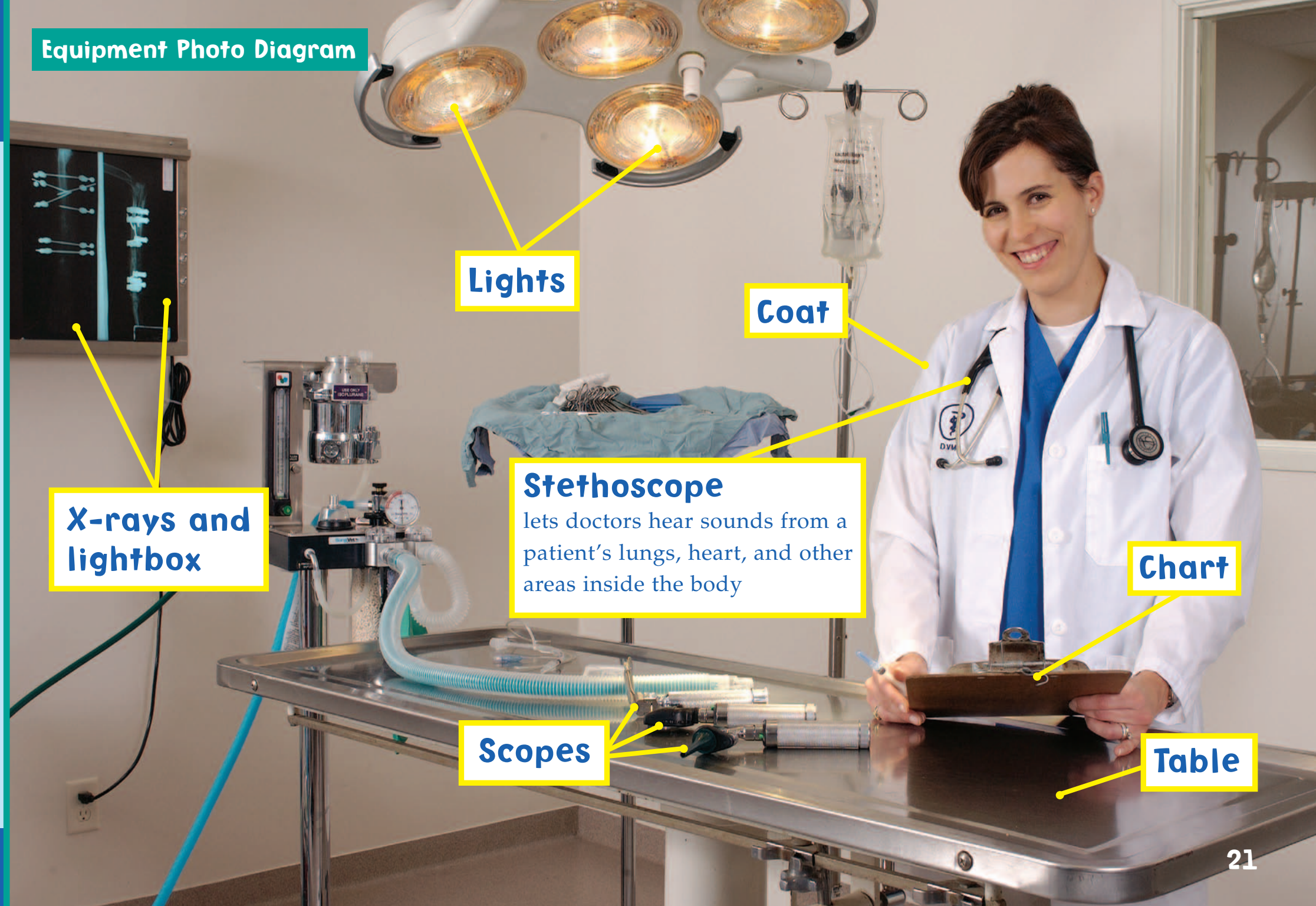


## Amazing But True!

Zoonoses (zoh-uh-NOH-sez) are diseases that can spread from animals to people. Rabies and tuberculosis are zoonoses. Some veterinarians work in labs studying zoonoses. They find treatments to keep people and animals healthy.



## Equipment Photo Diagram



**Lights**

**Coat**

**Stethoscope**

lets doctors hear sounds from a patient's lungs, heart, and other areas inside the body

**Chart**

**Table**

**Scopes**

**X-rays and  
lightbox**



# Glossary

**appointment** (uh-POINT-muhnt)—an agreement to meet at a certain time

**clinic** (KLIN-ik)—a building where medical care is given; veterinary clinics care for animals.

**disease** (duh-ZEEZ)—a sickness or illness

**emergency** (ee-MUR-juhn-see)—a sudden and dangerous situation

**germs** (JURMS)—small living things that cause diseases

**operation** (op-uh-RAY-shuhn)—medical treatment where the body is cut open

**technician** (tek-NISH-uhn)—someone who can work with lab equipment and tools

# Read More

**Englart, Mindi Rose.** *A Veterinarian.* How Do I Become A. San Diego: Blackbirch Press, 2004.

**Raatma, Lucia.** *Veterinarians.* Community Workers. Minneapolis: Compass Point Books, 2003.

**Riddle, John.** *Veterinarian.* Careers with Character. Broomall, Penn.: Mason Crest Publishers, 2003.

# Internet Sites

Do you want to find out more about veterinarians and pets? Let FactHound, our fact-finding hound dog, do the research for you!

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# Community Helpers at Work

Spend a day with Dr. Kip. Go along with her as she operates on a dog, gives a cat a checkup and trims a ferret's claws.

Meet Community Helpers at Work in this beautifully photographed First Facts series. A simple question-and-answer format invites children to spend an entire day on the job with a real community helper.

## **Titles in this series:**

**A Day in the Life of a Dentist**

**A Day in the Life of a Farmer**

**A Day in the Life of a Firefighter**

**A Day in the Life of a Police Officer**

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