

Living/Learning Center Programs
The University of Vermont
<http://www.uvm.edu/lcenter/>

Animalia

Overview

Animalia is one of the oldest Living and Learning programs at the University of Vermont. A main goal of Animalia is to make sure that all individuals within the program not only enjoy the hands on experience with animals that we will provide but also take from their experiences and grow as people. Animalia is a program for people who have a passion for animals, big and small and people who want opportunities to interact closely with animals while at school. We strive to gain consistent hands on experience with animals as well as developing a comfortable learning environment with a friendly atmosphere. This coming year we have high hopes of establishing a tighter relationship with the local Humane Society, volunteering at shelters and tabling to raise more for the care and awareness of animals.

Animalia is conveniently housed in the Living/Learning Center on the Athletic Campus. We are just a minute walk from the Davis Center and proudly have our own dinning/grocery facility in the building.

Learning Objectives

Animalia is dedicated to continual learning and growth of the individual. Our hope is to ensure that our members never stop learning new and interesting information about animals, their welfare, upbringing as well as any other interesting pieces of information.

Action Steps

- Student Presentations: Members will be responsible for reading at least one article a month about animals. After reading the article they will need to share the three most important or interesting facts that they learned from the article with the rest of Animalia at one of our meetings.
- Each member will create a sheet that lists areas in which they are especially knowledgeable. For example, a few members who are currently in Animalia know a great deal about horses and are a good source of information for other members who may be interested in the subject.
- Members will be responsible for attending every program meeting and getting to know each member. We think that it is very important that every member within

the program has a close bond with one another. As well as attending our program meetings, they will be responsible for coming to bonding activities within the program.

Members will acquire knowledge of animals through hands on experience and first hand observation throughout the year.

Action Steps

- Every two weeks, 5 group members will be responsible for volunteering a minimum of 1 hour each. Those members will be designated during meetings. A sheet will be given to each member to be signed by an authority at the organization.
- Once a month, as a program, we will take advantage of the UVM farm. This presents an opportunity to learn further about domesticated animals that most people rarely get to interact with. This will also offer the members who do work with the farm a chance to educate other members with non-animal related majors.

As representatives of Animal interests on the UVM campus, the program will provide information and garner support for animal causes. This will involve educating ourselves on these topics so as to educate others. Topics such as endangerment, population control, vaccination, animals rights and animal safety will be addressed and shared with the community.

Action Steps

- Taking advantage of the Davis center to raise awareness through tabling. Not only will this provide information to the public, it will further the programs interaction and relationship with the campus.
- Publicizing the Humane Society's hours so as to make other animal lovers of UVM aware of how they can help. This will hopefully aid the Humane Society, and of course the animals.
- Through our tabling, similar to a club, we will aim to raise money as well as awareness. The funds will be awarded to the Humane Society.

Community Service

We hope to get involved with the local Humane Society; every member volunteering at the shelter on a weekly basis. Also, we plan to look into reserving space in the Davis Center where we could table to raise money for animals in need. As Program Directors, we are very open to any other suggestions for our members and

anyone else that may have ideas. Also, we would be interested in hosting a movie night in the Living/Learning Fireplace lounge that concentrated on the importance of protecting animals as well as perhaps a guest speaker.

Plans for Interactions With Other L/L Programs

There is much collaboration within programs that Animalia would be interested in participating in or hosting. It would be a great experience for members of Animalia to enjoy the wilderness that surrounds UVM and we think that doing a combined hike with other programs would provide many great opportunities for getting to know others. Also, a joint field trip with the Farms/ 2+2 Dairy Farm Management program would be most cost effective and would help broaden members' perspectives.

Around Halloween, we would be interested in baking cookies, as well as buying some cookies, for dogs and local shelters. We would love to enlist the help from the Casa Italiana members who might have more knowledge on baking than Animalia members. Another idea for a community service idea for the Living/Learning community would be to co-host a relaxation day. Animalia could look into finding local therapy dogs and other programs could look into relaxation techniques or massages.