

How Do Veterinarians Use Math in Their Jobs?

by Lisa McQuerrey; Updated June 29, 2018



Although you might not think of math as a key part of a veterinarian's job, it actually plays an important role. Vets use math in many different areas of their work. In fact, solid math skills are vital for a vet to make sure they make the right diagnosis and prescribe the right dose of medication.

Weight Gain or Loss

Vets use math from the moment their patients enter their practice and are weighed. It's important for a vet to track an animal's weight, as atypical weight gain or loss between examinations can indicate illness. Vets use weight to help track growth and development of young animals also.

Measurements

In addition to tracking weight, vets also use math to track measurements related to animal care. Vets also measure waste and fluid output to assess various conditions. Using mathematical formulas, vets can accurately assess a wide range of health-related issues.

Surgery

When an animal must be put under anesthesia for surgery, vets use math to assess the pre-op blood work and to determine the appropriate amount of anesthesia required to keep the animal sedated.

Medication

Appropriate medication dosing requires a keen attention to mathematical formulas. For example, the amount of pain medication or antibiotic given to a horse would be much greater than the dosage given to a kitten or a small dog.

Business

Many vets play an active role in running the business side of the veterinary practice. This can include using math for duties such as internal accounting, paying suppliers for equipment and medicine, handling payroll of their staff and making sure the Vet practice can still run day to day.

Can you choose a different career/job role and think about how they use Maths in their job?

You could share your ideas with an adult at home or via Showbie.