

Foundations of Veterinary Science

Health Professions Event

Eligible Divisions: Middle School	Round 1: 35 Q test in 60 minutes	Digital Upload: NO
Solo Event: 1 competitor	Round 2: Skill demonstration	



New for 2025 – 2026

Breed identification includes both cats and dogs.

The spelling of Dachshund has been corrected on the dog breed list.

The spelling of Weimaraner and Collie have been corrected on the dog breed list.

The number of dogs included in the identification skill has decreased to 50 and are included in the guidelines. Editorial updates have been made.

Event Summary

Foundations of Veterinary Science provides Middle School members with the opportunity to gain knowledge and skills required for a basic understanding and first aid of animals. This competitive event consists of 2 rounds. Round One is a written, multiple-choice test, and the top-scoring competitors will advance to Round Two for the skills assessment. This event aims to inspire members to learn more about the field of veterinary care.

Sponsorship

HOSA-Future Health Professionals appreciates the sponsorship of this event by the [American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges](#).



Dress Code

Bonus points will be awarded for [proper dress](#).

Round 1: Proper business attire, official HOSA uniform, or attire appropriate to the occupational area

Round 2: Attire appropriate to the occupational area

Competitor Must Provide

- [Photo ID](#) for both rounds
- Two #2 lead pencils (not mechanical) with eraser for the test
- Exam non-latex gloves

HOSA Conference Staff will provide equipment and supplies as listed in [Appendix I](#).

General Rules

1. Competitors must be familiar with and adhere to the [General Rules and Regulations](#).

Official References

2. The references below are used in the development of the test questions and skill rating sheets:
 - a. [Lawhead, James, and Baker. Introduction to Veterinary Science. Cengage Learning. Latest](#)

- b. [Edition.](#)
- b. [American Red Cross Pet First Aid App](#)
- c. References for Companion Animal Breeds/Species Identification: (as posted as of Sept. 1, 2025)
 - Dogs = American Kennel Club - www.akc.org
 - Cats = The Cat Fanciers' Association - www.cfainc.org

Round One Test

3. [Test Instructions:](#) The written test will consist of 35 multiple-choice items in a maximum of 60 minutes.
4. **Time Remaining Announcements:** There will be NO verbal announcements for time remaining during ILC testing. All ILC testing will be completed in the Testing Center, and competitors are responsible for monitoring their own time.
5. **Written Test Plan** (Includes both Large and Small Animals)
The written test for Foundations of Veterinary Science is:
 - Anatomy and Physiology - 20%
 - Basic Nutrients - 10%
 - Diseases/Disease Prevention - 20%
 - Clinical Practice - 10%
 - Emergency Care/First Aid - 20%
 - Safety - 10%
 - Veterinary Careers - 10%
6. **Sample Test Questions**
 1. How many days is the average length of pregnancy for a cat? (Lawhead pp 140)
 - A. 15 - 20
 - B. 30 - 35
 - C. 58 - 65**
 - D. 90 - 112
 2. A dog who is exhibiting bumps on their face and muzzle and licking their flank is most likely experiencing: (American Red Cross Pet First Aid App)
 - A. Bleeding.
 - B. An allergic reaction.**
 - C. A torsion.
 - D. Frostbite.
 3. What is the normal respiratory rate for a hamster? (Lawhead pp 84)
 - A. 12
 - B. 26
 - C. 74**
 - D. 90

Round Two Skills

7. The top competitors from Round One will advance to Round Two. The number of advancing competitors will be determined by the scores obtained in Round One and the space and time available for Round Two. Round Two finalists will be announced on-site at ILC per the conference agenda.
8. Round Two is a selected skill(s) performance. The skills approved for this event are:

Skill I: Identification of Companion Animal Breeds/Species (Breed Identification includes both cats and dogs).
8 minutes

The following dogs will be included for the identification skill.

Sporting Group	Working Group	Toy Group	Herding Group
American Water Spaniel	Alaskan Malamute	Chihuahua	Australian Shepherd
Brittany	Boxer	Chinese Crested	Border Collie
Cocker Spaniel	Bullmastiff	Havanese	Cardigan Welsh Corgi
English Setter	Doberman Pinscher	Maltese	Collie
Golden Retriever	Great Dane	Pekingese	German Shepherd

Sporting Group (con't)	Working Group (con't)	Toy Group (con't)	Herding Group (con't)
Irish Setter	Great Pyrenees	Pomeranian	Old English Sheepdog
Labrador Retriever	Mastiff	Pug	
Weimaraner	Newfoundland	Shih Tzu	
	Rottweiler		
	Saint Bernard		
	Siberian Husky		

Hound Group	Terrier Group	Non-Sporting Group
Basset Hound	Airedale Terrier	Boston Terrier
Beagle	Miniature Schnauzer	Bulldog
Bloodhound	Rat Terrier	Chow Chow
Dachshund	Russell Terrier	Dalmatian
Greyhound	Scottish Terrier	Lhasa Apso
Whippet		Poodle Standard

Skill II: Wound Care for Abrasions (on either DOG OR CAT) 7 minutes
 Skill III: Pad Wound Care (on either DOG OR CAT) 7 minutes
 Skill IV: Tick Removal (on either DOG OR CAT) 7 minutes

(FOR ALL SKILLS, BODY FLUIDS WILL BE A SIMULATED PRODUCT & LIVE ANIMALS ARE NOT USED)

- Skill I may be administered with the Round One written test.
- The selected skill(s) will be presented to competitors as a written scenario at the beginning of the round. The scenario will be the same for each competitor. Some scenarios may involve the combination of multiple skills. In the event rating sheets are combined, it is not necessary to repeat a task a second time. An example would be that competitors would not need to identify the patient twice. A sample scenario is available [here](#).
- Timing will begin when the scenario is presented to the competitors and will be stopped at the end of the time allowed.
- The scenario is a secret topic. Competitors MAY NOT discuss or reveal the secret topic until after the event has concluded or will face penalties per [the GRRs](#).
- Judges will provide information to competitors as directed by the rating sheets. Competitors may ask questions of the judges while performing skills, if the questions relate to patient's condition and will be included in the scenario or judge script.

Final Scoring

14. The competitor must earn a score of 70% or higher on the combined skill(s) of the event (excluding the test and ID equipment/animal breeds) in order to be recognized as an award winner at the ILC.

15. The final rank is determined by adding the round one test score plus the round two skill score. In the event of a tie, the highest test score will be used to determine the final placement.

FOUNDATIONS OF VETERINARY SCIENCE

Competitor #: _____ Judge's Initials: _____ Total Points (20 possible.) _____

Skill I: Identification of Companion Animal Breeds/Species (Time: 8 Minutes)

	Companion Animal Breed Species	One point for correct identification	One point for correct spelling
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
	TOTAL:	Total ID: 10	Total Spelling: 10

FOUNDATIONS OF VETERINARY SCIENCE

Section # _____ Division: Middle School
 Competitor # _____ Judge's Signature _____

Animals at ILC will not be live animals. Stuffed animals will be used.

IF EQUIPMENT IS AVAILABLE, COMPETITORS SHOULD COMPLETE THE STEPS WHILE VERBALIZING

Skill II: Wound Care for Abrasion (on either DOG or CAT) (Time: 7 minutes)	Possible		Awarded
1. Washed hands or used alcohol based hand-rub for hand hygiene.	2	0	
2. Put on gloves.	2	0	
3. Observed and verbalized signs of an abrasion:	2	0	
a. Top layer of skin is involved.			
b. Dog and Cat may lick or scratch the area.	2	0	
c. Noted if area appears red or oozing blood.	2	0	
4. Verbalized "preparing a saline solution": added 1 tsp. of salt to 1 quart of warm water.	2	0	
5. Applied a sterile, water-soluble lubricant to the abraded area to prevent contamination of wound while clipping hair.	2	0	
6. Verbalized "clipped hair around wound with grooming clippers".	2	0	
7. Simulated flushed and washed the wound with warm water or saline solution to remove the lubricant and wash away any remaining dirt/debris.	2	0	
8. Removed gloves.	2	0	
9. Washed hands or used alcohol-based hand-rub for hand hygiene.	2	0	
10. Verbalized "veterinarian has been contacted to discuss wound".	2	0	
11. Used appropriate verbal and nonverbal communication with patient and others present.	2	0	
TOTAL POINTS -- SKILL II	26		
70% Mastery for Skill II = 18.2			

FOUNDATIONS OF VETERINARY SCIENCE

Section # _____ Division: Middle School
 Competitor # _____ Judge's Signature _____

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Skill III: Pad Wound (on either DOG or CAT) (Time: 7 minutes)	Possible	Awarded
1. Washed hands or used alcohol based hand-rub for hand hygiene.	2	0
2. Put on gloves.	2	0
3. Observed and verbalized signs of pad wound:	2	0
a. Bleeding.		
b. Limping	2	0
c. Noted not putting weight on the limb.	2	0
d. Foreign object in pad.	2	0
4. Simulated washed the area with saline solution (1 teaspoon salt to 1 quart water) or warm, soapy water.	2	0
5. Dried the foot.	2	0
6. Bandaged the foot by placing a strip of adhesive tape on each side of the foot, starting several inches above the wound and extending several inches past the bottom of the foot. (Tape directly on fur). <i>The tape will act like stirrups to hold the bandage in place.</i>	2	0
7. Placed a non-stick pad or gauze sponge over the wound.	2	0
8. Wrapped the paw with gauze roll, starting from the toes and ending just above the ankle or wrist.	2	0
9. Pulled the ends of the sticky tape over the end of the gauze roll bandage as far as it will go, with the sticky part twisted to face and adhere to the bandage.	2	0
10. Placed an elastic cling roll bandage over the cotton, working from toes to ankle.	2	0
11. Made sure the bandage is not too tight:	2	0
a. Checked for toe swelling.		
b. Felt the limb just above the bandage for coolness, swelling or pain.	2	0
12. Loosened the bandage if any evidence that bandage is too tight OR verbalized "no evidence of bandage being too tight".	2	0
13. Removed gloves and washed hands or used alcohol-based hand-rub for hand hygiene.	2	0
14. Verbalized "animal needs to be seen by veterinarian".	2	0
15. Used appropriate verbal and nonverbal communication with patient and others present.	2	0
TOTAL POINTS -- SKILL III	38	
70% Mastery for Skill III = 26.6		

FOUNDATIONS OF VETERINARY SCIENCE

Section # _____ Division: _____ MS
 Competitor # _____ Judge's Signature _____

Animals at ILC will not be live animals. Stuffed animals will be used.

Skill IV: Tick Removal (on either DOG or CAT)	(Time: 7 minutes)	Possible		Awarded
1. Washed hands or used alcohol based hand-rub for hand hygiene.		2	0	
2. Put on gloves.		2	0	
3. Part the fur around the tick.		2	0	
4. Used blunt end tweezers, or tweezers made for tick removal and gently grasped the tick as close to the skin as possible.		2	0	
5. Used a slow, steady motion, pulled the tick out.		2	0	
6. Verbalized to judge "the type of tick would be identified now"		2	0	
7. Verbalized would call veterinarian if questions		2	0	
8. Disposed of tick by placing it on a piece of tape and then placing it in a trashcan.		2	0	
9. Removed gloves.		2	0	
10. Washed hands or used alcohol-based hand-rub for hand hygiene.		2	0	
11. Verbalized would monitor the area for signs of redness, swelling, pain or discharge.		2	0	
12. Used appropriate verbal and nonverbal communication with patient and others present.		2	0	
TOTAL POINTS -- SKILL IV		24		
70% Mastery for Skill IV = 16.8				