Foundations of Veterinary Science

Event Category: Health Professions

Eligible Divisions: Middle School	**Round One:** 35 Q test (60 minutes)	**Digital Upload:** NO
Solo Event: 1 competitor	**Round Two:** Skill(s) assessment	

New for 2026-2027

Breed identification will include both cats and dogs. Editorial changes have been made.

Event Summary

Foundations of Veterinary Science provides **Middle School Division** HOSA members with the opportunity to gain knowledge and skills required for a basic understanding and first aid of animals. This competitive event consists of two 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.	AAVMC American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges

General Event Information

General Rules	Competitors must be familiar with and adhere to the General Rules and Regulations.
Dress Code	Proper business attire or official HOSA uniform. Bonus points will be awarded for proper dress. ● Round One: Proper business attire, official HOSA uniform, or attire appropriate to the occupational area. ● Round Two: Attire appropriate to the occupational area.
Competitors Must Provide	● Photo ID for both rounds ● Two #2 lead pencils (not mechanical) with an eraser for test ● Neon colored foam earplugs, NOT earbuds, for noise control (Rd1-optional) ● Non-Latex Exam Gloves, 2 pairs (Rd2) HOSA Conference Staff will provide equipment and supplies listed in Appendix I.
Official References	The references below are used in the development of the test questions and skill rating sheets: ● Lawhead, James, and Baker. *Introduction to Veterinary Science*. Cengage Learning. Latest Edition. ● American Red Cross Pet First Aid App ● References for Companion Animal Breeds/Species Identification: Dogs = American Kennel Club - www.akc.org Cats = The Cat Fanciers' Association - www.cfa.org The following additional resource is available at HOSA Webinars**:** AAVMC - Journey to Veterinary School and AAVMC Vet Pathways

The expectation is that competitors read and are aware of all the content within these guidelines and associated links. Successful competitors will study all links for the detailed information.

ROUND ONE- Test

Test Instructions	All competitors will be given a test and test answer sheet. The written test will consist of 35 multiple-choice items in a maximum of 60 minutes. See test instructions here.
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.
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%
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 Assessment

1. 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.

2. Round Two is a selected skill(s) assessment. The skills approved for this event are:

Skill I: Identification of Companion Animal Breeds/Species (see list of dog and cat breeds that could be identified below)	**8 minutes**
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**

3. For all skills, body fluids will be a simulated product and live animals will not be used.

Below is the list of dog breeds used for the **Skill I: Identification of Companion Animal Breeds/Species**. This skill may be administered with the Round One written test. If this skill is administered with the Round One test, the skill assessment allotted time (8 minutes) will be added to the test time (60 minutes) to equal 68 minutes.

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

Below is the list of cat breeds used for the **Skill I: Identification of Companion Animal Breeds/Species**

Abyssinian	American Bobtail	American Curl	American Shorthair	American Wirehair
Balinese	Bengal	Birman	Bombay	British Shorthair
Burmese	Burmilla	Chartreux	Colorpoint Shorthair	Cornish Rex
Devon Rex	Egyptian Mau	European Burmese	Exotic	Havana Brown
Japanese Bobtail	Khao Manee	Korat	LaPerm	Lykol
Mane Coon Cat	Manx	Norwegian Forest Cat	Ocicat	Oriental
Persian	RagaMuffin	Ragdoll	Russian Blue	Scottish Fold
Selkirk Rex	Siamese	siberian	Singpura	Somali
Sphynx	Tonkinese	Toybob	Turkish Angora	Turkish Van

4. 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. A sample scenario can be found here. 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 competitors would not need to identify the patient twice.

5. 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.

6. 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 the patient's condition and will be included in the scenarios or judge script.

7. Competitors must complete all skill steps listed in the guidelines, even if the steps must be simulated/verbalized. (If the equipment is available, the competitors would complete all skill steps as the scenario warrants. The competitors will simulate/verbalize the steps if the equipment is unavailable.)

8. Competitors must use all equipment correctly and safely. Judges will stop a student and not award points for a step if they see a competitor is about to cause a risk of harm or about to damage equipment or other supplies.

Final Scoring

1. The competitor must earn a score of 70% or higher on the combined skill(s) in the Round Two-Skill Assessment (excluding the test and animal breeds) in order to be recognized as an award winner at the ILC.

2. 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

Skill I: Identification of Companion Animal Breeds/Species

Time: 8 minutes

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

	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 ID: _____	Total Spelling: _____

Total Points (20 possible): _____

The expectation is that competitors read and are aware of all the content within these guidelines and associated links. Successful competitors will study all links for the detailed information.

Foundations of Veterinary Science

Skill II: Wound Care for Abrasion (on either DOG or CAT)

Time: 7 minutes

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

*Animals used at ILC will be stuffed animals. Live animals will not be used.

	Skill II: Wound Care for Abrasion (on either Dog or Cat)	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: a. Top layer of skin is involved.	2 0	
	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 1quart of warm water.	2 0	
5.	Applied a sterile, water-soluble lubricant to the abraded area to prevent contamination of the 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 the wound".	2 0	
11.	Used appropriate verbal and nonverbal communication with the patient and others present.	2 0	
	Total Points- Skill II: 70% Mastery for Skill II: 18.2	**26**	

The expectation is that competitors read and are aware of all the content within these guidelines and associated links. Successful competitors will study all links for the detailed information.

Foundations of Veterinary Science

Skill III: Pad Wound (on either DOG or CAT)

Time: 7 minutes

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

*Animals used at ILC will be stuffed animals. Live animals will not be used.

	Skill III: Wound Care for Abrasion (on either Dog or Cat)	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: a. Bleeding.	**2**	**0**	
	b. Limping.	**2**	**0**	
	c. Noted not putting weight on 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). *The tape will act like stirrups to hold the bandage in place.*	**2**	**0**	
7.	Placed a non-stick pad or gauze sponge over the wound.	**2**	**0**	
8.	Wrapped the paw with a 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 the ankle.	**2**	**0**	
11.	Made sure the bandage is not too tight: a. Checked for toe swelling.	**2**	**0**	
	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 "the animal needs to be seen by a veterinarian".	**2**	**0**	
15.	Used appropriate verbal and nonverbal communication with the patient and others present.	**2**	**0**	
	Total Points- Skill III: 70% Mastery for Skill III: 26.6	**38**		

The expectation is that competitors read and are aware of all the content within these guidelines and associated links. Successful competitors will study all links for the detailed information.

Foundations of Veterinary Science

Skill IV: Tick Removal (on either DOG or CAT)

Time: 7 minutes

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

*Animals used at ILC will be stuffed animals. Live animals will not be used.

	Skill IV: Tick Removal (on either Dog or Cat)	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 a veterinarian if they have questions.	2 0	
8.	Disposed of the tick by placing it on a piece of tape and then placing it in the 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 the patient and others present.	2 0	
	Total Points- Skill IV: 70% Mastery for Skill IV: 16.8	**24**	

The expectation is that competitors read and are aware of all the content within these guidelines and associated links. Successful competitors will study all links for the detailed information.