The place to go for the Companion Industry

No animal industry can match the degree of involvement into the lives of Americans as can the companion animal industry. In the US 59.8% of all families own some companion animal; 45.7% own dogs, cats, or both. There are 52.9 million cats and 59 million dogs in the U.S., yet 4200 more families own dogs. While cats and dogs are still unrivaled in popularity, bird ownership has soared 14.5% in the past five years (AVMA, 1996). Indiana pet owners annually spend about $7 billion on veterinary care for their animals and $14 billion on feed and supplies. There are more multiple animal households with more exotic animal ownership. The companion animal industry in Indiana is well developed and has the capacity to employ a diverse workforce in pet food and health care industries, pet sales, kennel and breeding operation management, humane society management, and veterinarians. Little doubt exists that the urban and suburban populations and animal ownership will increase further the importance of animals in a non-farm lifestyle of Americans. Our student populations and resulting support industry opportunities reflect this popularity of companion animals.

Activities

PURDUE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY – Our club’s purpose is to provide students with an interest in the exotic animal industry an opportunity to explore career options pertaining to zoo, wildlife and exotic animals. (http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~zooclub)

Advisor: Dr. Ochoa-Acuna hochoaac@purdue.edu

PRE-VET CLUB– The purpose of the club is to inform Students of various options in the veterinary medical profession, inform students of parallel career opportunities that might interest them, promote fellowship among students, and promote closer relationships between students and faculty. (http://expert.cc.purdue.edu/~prevet)

Advisor: Dr. Darryl Ragland raglanld@purdue.edu

HELPING PAWS— We are a club dedicated to helping foster the human animal bond as well as aiding stray and homeless animals. We regularly help out at the Tippecanoe county humane society, raise funds to help individual animals, and walk the vet school's blood donor dogs. Visit us at (http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~paws)

Humane Society Advisor: Jenny Beal at jbeal@purdue.edu

ANIMAL SCIENCES AMBASSADORS – Animal Sciences Ambassadors serve a vital role to the department as a liaison between the faculty and students as well as promoting the department across the state of Indiana.

ANIMAL SCIENCES RELATED COURSES:
- Biology of Companion Animals
- Animal Genetics and Breeding
- Functional Anatomy and Animal Performance
- Applied Reproductive Physiology
- Applied Animal Management
- Computer Applications
- Animal Behavior
- Facilities Planning & Management
- Horse Management
- Animal Well-Being
- Applied Animal Nutrition
- Horseback Riding PE classes
- Physiology of Reproduction
- Exercise Physiology
- Companion Animal Management
- Foundations of Athletic Training
- Small Animal Behavior
- Livestock Marketing
- Horse Evaluation
- Building Structure Design

PURDUE EQUINE ASSISTED PROGRAM CLUB (PEAP) – Students use animals to assist mentally and physically challenged members of the community (http://www.purdue.edu/PEAP)

Advisor: Colleen Brady (bradyc@purdue.edu)
Employment Opportunities

The four year average starting salary of BS graduates is $43,500 with a 90% placement rate. Starting salary is only one of many ways you benefit from a degree from the Purdue College of Agriculture. While at Purdue many students gain valuable hands-on experience in extracurricular activities and make themselves marketable to the companion animal industry by seeking valuable summer internships and work experiences. Faculty work hard to assist students in locating industry internships. Students are not only marketable to the companion animal industry, but the broad background in Animal Sciences allows them to be more broadly employable in other animal-related industries. Students can earn credit or income while at Purdue by working in offices, Animal Sciences farms, assisting with classes, or doing undergraduate research projects.

Animal Biology Specializations

Animal Agribusiness  Pre-Veterinary Medicine
Animal Production  Biotechnology
Animal Products  Behavior/Well-Being
Animal Biosciences

Companion Animal Staff

Rod Allrich: 765-494-4844
Hugo Ochoa-Acuna: 765-494-5796

Department of Animal Sciences Vision Statement

The Department of Animal Sciences at Purdue University is the place to go for high-quality employees, animal management and care information, and cutting-edge research results to improve and serve the animal industry.