Veterinary

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Dr. Jeffrey Edelson, a veterinarian from the Manheim area. Dr. Edelson is assisted by a co-advisor, Sandy Winters, a para-veterinary medical technician.

This year's club became organized in January and has held four meetings since that time. Each meeting has been organized around a different phase of veterinary medicine with the youths hearing speakers on veterinary medical education as well as observing small animal surgery.

When Lancaster Farming visited the group on Tuesday evening (March 11) they had gathered at the Atlantic Breeder's Coop in Lancaster to hear Dr. Chris Barton speak on his bovine medical practice.

Most of the young people enrolled in the group do not have rural backgrounds and a large percentage of them are young ladies who have found veterinary medicine to be of interest.

These students, who come from all over the County, do have a genuine interest in veterinary medicine and are highly academically inclined. In fact their questions have at times left the speakers somewhat bewildered. Most of the young people have shown an interest in starting pre-veterinary work following their graduation from high school.

Just what do these young people learn? Dr. Edelson explained the program in this manner.

"The program helps to familiarize young people with veterinary medicine. They learn just what is involved in the work and also what opportunities are open to them if they do not go into vet school."

"We don't teach the actual veterinary mechanics but give the young people exposure to the career and let them know what the profession is like."

Many of the interested students in the group are young ladies who have shown interest in the profession. When asked what seemed to be the attraction, Sandy Winters the co-advisor explained it in this manner.

"Years ago it was very difficult for a girl to be accepted into vet school but now the ratio has become more equalized."

"These young ladies are really interested and have come to find out just what the profession is all about."

Of course not every young person involved in the Veterinary Explorer Post will go on to become veterinarians as the competition to be accepted into vet school is quite keen; however, the career exposure they are getting now will no doubt help them to decide just what branches of animal work they would like to go into.

As most people know, veterinarians are always quite busy and thus it seems difficult to understand how they could take time just to talk to students. But Dr. Edelson commented on the situation by explaining, "I've always felt that if I could help someone understand their animals, the animals would be better off and so would the owner."

"These young people are interested and we'd definitely like the program to continue."

The group has four more meetings until May which will include talks on equine practice and public health along with a trip to the New Bolton Center.

Whether they choose to go on to be veterinarians or not, being a member of the Veterinary Explorer Post 509 has at least allowed them to learn just what the profession is all about.

Dr. Jeffrey Edelson, a veterinarian from the Manheim area and advisor of the Veterinary Explorer Post 509, points out some specifics on a pedigree during the group's recent visit to the Atlantic Breeders Coop.

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