Veterinarians aren’t just animal lovers. They’re animal experts! Your family veterinarian is highly educated and receives regular training to ensure she always up to date on animal behavior issues, diseases and conditions—and how to treat them. Read on to find out why your veterinarian is the best source of animal-related information.

Veterinarians are committed to animal well being and care.

Animal welfare is a cornerstone of veterinary medicine. The Veterinarian’s Oath states that veterinarians will use their scientific knowledge to protect animals, prevent their suffering, and better society through their proper treatment. Veterinarians also pledge to practice their profession responsibly and ethically. To do so, they must balance veterinary science with ethical values to ensure that their decisions reflect appropriate animal care concerns as well as food safety. There is no “one size fits all” approach; veterinarians must use their knowledge and experience to consider a variety of data, animal behavior, societal views, disease prevention and integrity of all elements of a well structured food supply system.

Intensive education provides veterinarians with a broad range of knowledge and skills.

Veterinarians are equipped to deal with a variety of animal health issues, both physical and mental. A solid knowledge of these issues and how to treat animals — both individually and as a herd — allows veterinarians to assess each situation on a case-by-case basis, taking in unique factors that influence each situation differently. Because of their education, veterinarians are uniquely qualified to consider all aspects of an animal’s well-being: suitable housing, proper diet, responsible care, disease prevention and treatment, and, when necessary, humane euthanasia. A veterinarian is educated to weigh each factor to come to appropriate and responsible decisions regarding animal treatment.

Why should I trust my veterinarian?

Veterinarians are responsible for maintaining high standards set by licensing boards.

In order to practice, veterinarians must meet certain requirements. These standards ensure veterinary professionals receive continuing education, maintain facility standards, and comply with all regulations that govern the profession.

Veterinarians are trusted by society to make animal care decisions.

Americans consistently rate veterinarians high on the list of trustworthy professionals. In the 2007 Gallup ethics and honesty poll, 71 percent of the population rated veterinarians’ ethics as being either “high” or “very high,” ranking the profession third on the list in terms of honesty.