Volunteers taught brownie girl scouts about safety around dogs and canine communication. Puppet pups were used to demonstrate how to interact with and approach, as well as understand dogs’ feelings. Sam, a working felt puppy, was used to teach basic dog care associated with a leash, toothbrush, a food dish, and a fence. Scouts practiced approaching dogs with the felt puppy and with volunteer pooches.

On November 17th, approximately 20 Rotary Club members met with both members of VSOP and the Wildlife Medical Clinic. After a short course about the resident birds, the rotary club members took a tour of the vet school and learned about the hard work and dedication it takes to be veterinary student. The Rotary Club is a worldwide organization that focuses on humanitarian service and building peace in the world.

On November 21, 2005, at Rose E. Krug Elementary School in Aurora, one would have found nine VSOP volunteers and 5 four-legged volunteers giving presentations to approximately 400 students. Elementary students responded enthusiastically when taught how dogs communicate, how to “stand like a tree” or “act like a rock” if approached by a dog, and how to properly approach a dog. The four-legged volunteers offered practice of approaching and petting dogs.

The Veterinary Mentor Program is a cooperative effort between the College of Veterinary Medicine (Dr. Pijanowski) and the Anti-Cruelty Society in Chicago (Tammie Bouschor) to introduce high school students to the underlying science of clinical veterinary medicine. The program meets one Saturday morning each month from September through April. Topics range from the biology of wound healing to pharmokinetics to immunology to epidemiology, with hands on simulations. VSOP students accompany Dr. Pijanowski are essential for successful presentations and the high school students love to interact with them.

For more information, visit our website: www.cvm.uiuc.edu/asa/vsop.

Questions or comments? E-mail us at vsop@cvm.uiuc.edu