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| Project Discovery  My long-term passion for Veterinary Medicine helped me decide to integrate this interest with my enjoyment in math by collecting data from a [survey](http://docs.google.com/survey.html) I planned to give Veterinarians. My original project goal was to see if pets could be an indicator of the health of the environment. I would determine this by looking for a correlation between toxic substances in local surface water and the frequency of feline cancer seen by veterinarians in that area. The survey would ask veterinarians for the number of animal diseases, specifically cat cancer, that has occurred each year in the past 10 - 20 years. I chose cats specifically because they are a popular domesticated animal that, if allowed outdoors, would not be limited to the enclosed yard and would interact with the surrounding ecosystem.  My original prediction was if cats are a good indicator to the health of the environment, then when local veterinary clinics are surveyed on their records on cancer cases in cats, the statistics will prove that where there are large amounts of toxins in the water, there will be many cases of cancer in cats. After contacting numerous government and veterinarian [agencies](http://docs.google.com/gov_agencies.html), I found out veterinarians are not required by law to record and submit any epidemiological records.  My project has made a shift and now focuses on why veterinarians and public health agencies maintain only limited epidemiological records on the incidence of certain animal diseases when this information could be used to prevent disease in humans. By evaluating the data gathered, if there was such a law, the state could see the impact of an environmental hazard more immediately in outdoor pets than humans. This could be used to control the hazard before many humans become diseased.  Although domesticated animals may not be the best sentinels for public health, they are the closest link to the health of the environment. With this cancer data, environmental hazards could be detected before they become devastatingly harmful to other animals and humans. Even in 1963, President Kennedy recognized the importance of future public health by saying:  . . . the number of children and grandchildren with cancer in their bones, with leukemia in their blood, or with poison in their lungs might seem statistically small to some, in comparison with natural health hazards, but this is not a natural health hazard--and it is not a statistical issue. The loss of even one human life, or the malformation of even one baby--who may be born long after we are gone--should be of concern to us all. Our children and grandchildren are not merely statistics toward which we can be indifferent. (President...Nuclear Test Ban)  So, it is our duty to protect the health of the public by preventing diseases as well as aiding those who it has affected. Therefore, veterinarians should be required to submit animal cancer data to government agencies and cancer registries on the occurrence of cancer in the animals they examine.  ([Project Discovery](http://docs.google.com/introduction.html))([California Law](http://docs.google.com/intro2.html))([Physiological Link](http://docs.google.com/intro3.html))([Cancer Clusters](http://docs.google.com/intro4.html))([Environmental Disasters](http://docs.google.com/intro5.html))  [[Home](http://docs.google.com/home.html)][[Introduction](http://docs.google.com/introduction.html)][[Hypothesis](http://docs.google.com/hypothesis.html)][[Procedure](http://docs.google.com/procedure.html)][[Data](http://docs.google.com/data.html)][[Conclusions](http://docs.google.com/conclusions.html)][[Bilio/Links](http://docs.google.com/biblio.html)]  [[2002 Projects](http://docs.google.com/AP2002/index.html)][[2001 Projects](http://docs.google.com/index.html)][[2000 Projects](http://docs.google.com/AP2000/index.html)][[1999 Projects](http://docs.google.com/AP99/index.html)][[1998 Projects](http://docs.google.com/AP98/index.html)] |