

Wild Side Wrap Up

Veterinary Technician

In this episode of The Wild Side of STEAM, we met Jessica, a veterinary technician at the Smithsonian's National Zoo. Jessica explained how she cares for animals at the Zoo and how her career as a veterinary technician differs from that of a veterinarian.

ACTIVITY 1: What is a Veterinary Technician?

1. Watch the Wild Side of STEAM: Veterinary Technician webinar. If you missed the live event, the video recording is available on:
<https://nationalzoo.si.edu/education/wild-side-steam>
2. After watching the webinar, can you describe how the career of a veterinary technician differs from a veterinarian? Based on what you heard, are you interested in the career of a veterinary technician? Why or why not?

ACTIVITY 2: How can I practice being a Veterinary Technician?

Now that you have learned more about this career, practice being a veterinary technician by choosing one of the two variations of this activity:

1. **Online Interactive Story: Routine Exam for an Andean Bear**
 - a. Access the story by visiting:
<https://nationalzoo.si.edu/zoo-tour/steam/vet-tech-wrapup>
 - b. In this interactive story, follow along as an honorary veterinary technician through seven guided steps of a routine animal exam for an Andean bear. This version requires internet access.
2. **Printable Activity Sheets: Examining Animal X-Rays**
 - a. Print out the following two activity sheet pages. As an alternative, you can also review the activity sheet pages and write your answers in a notebook.
 - b. In this print out activity, examine animal X-rays as an honorary veterinary. Try identifying radiographs by matching the X-ray to the correct animal. Then try labeling several parts of an orangutan radiograph.

RESOURCES: Continue learning about the Zoo's Veterinary Technicians and their work by visiting the following links.

- [Dental care](#)
- [Blood draws](#)
- [Vaccinations](#)
- [Mobility](#)
- [Blood pressure](#)

Name: _____

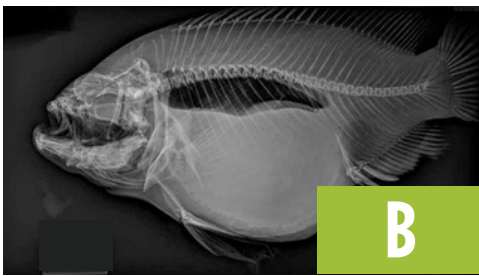
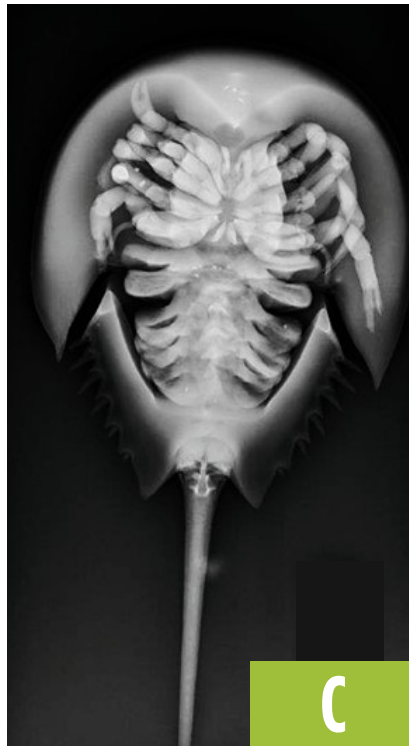
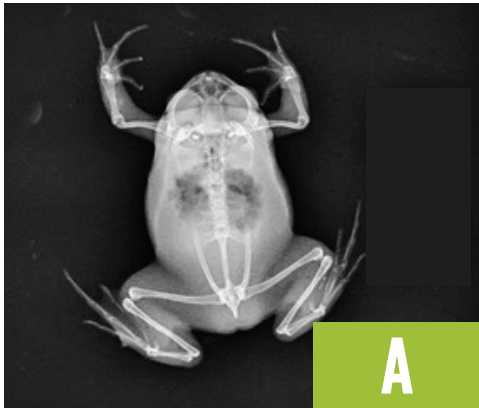
WRAP UP

Greetings fellow veterinary technicians!

Today you will be assisting in the lab by examining some animal radiographs or X-rays, just like veterinary technicians do at the Smithsonian's National Zoo.

1 X-ray Identifications

Uh oh! Our X-rays were mixed up and there are no labels on them. Can you match the x-rays below to the correct animal?



A

B

C

D

Fish

Snake

Frog

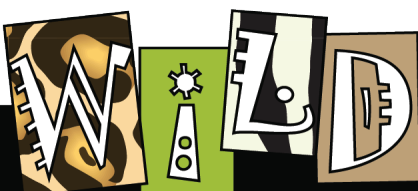
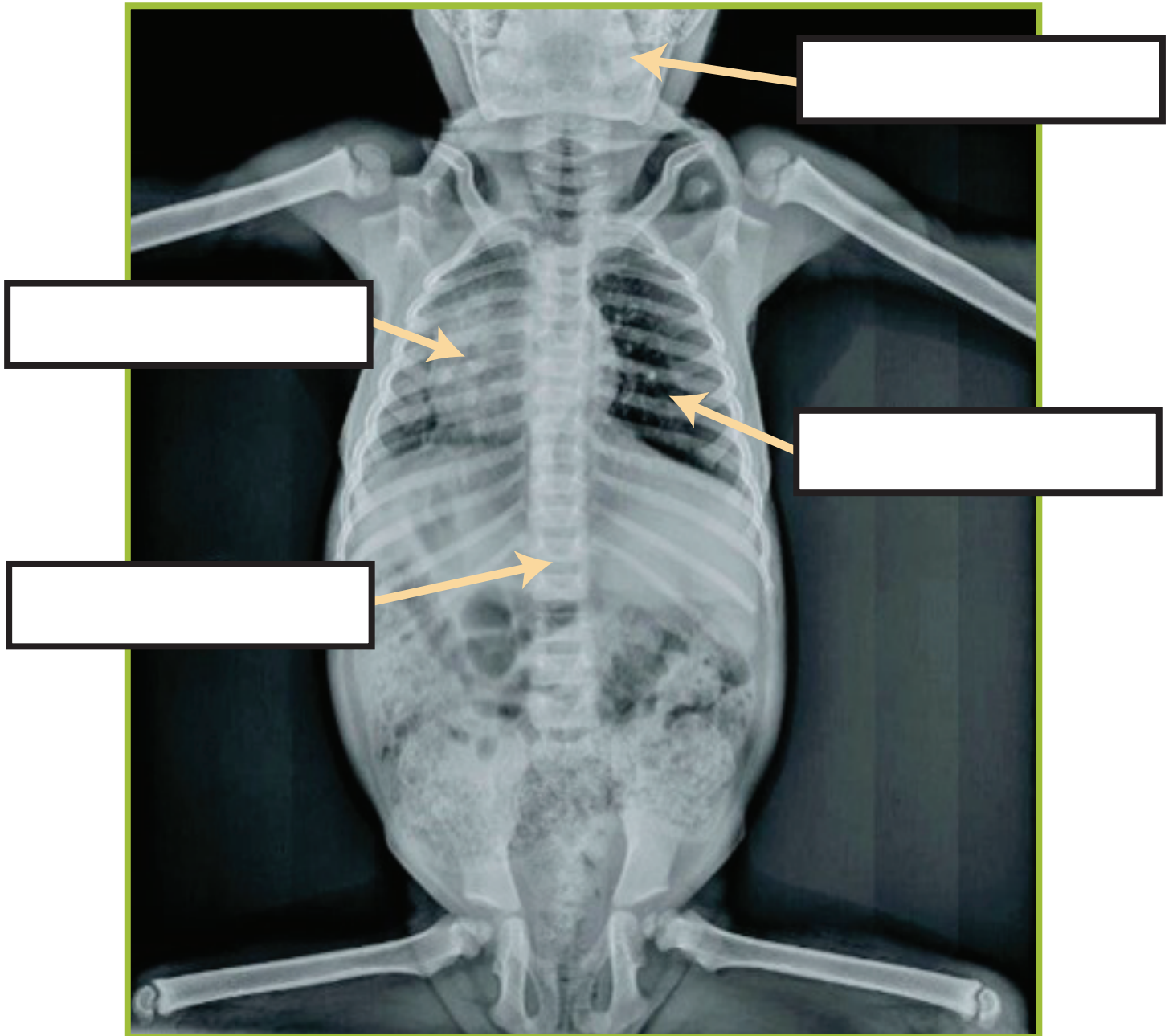
Horseshoe crab

Name: _____

WRAP UP

2 Label an X-ray

A veterinary technician needs to know how to read an X-ray, including how to recognize an animal's bones and organs. Can you label the orangutan X-ray below with **heart**, **lungs**, **skull**, and **spine**?



Activity Sheet, page 2



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National Zoological Park
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