

## Personal Statement for Veterinary School

Veterinary medicine is a career goal and childhood dream shared by not only myself, but an overwhelming number of children and young adults. However, accomplishing this dream is no easy task; it involves dedication to one's studies, a passion for people, animals, and medicine, and a deep understanding of the veterinary medical field.

In general, the responsibilities of a veterinary medical professional can be understood as protecting animal health and welfare, public health, and the environment. Furthermore, veterinarians work cooperatively with their clients to provide medical care to their animal patients while applying ethical considerations. By educating the client about medical concerns, veterinarians promote community awareness. They are also responsible for public health by inspecting animal products, maintaining herd health, and reducing the risk and spread of zoonotic diseases. They must be environmentally conscientious and promote proper animal practices that reduce environmental harm from animal management. Finally, the veterinary medical profession involves cooperation of veterinarians to share medical knowledge in order to actively advance the medical field and individual knowledge.

My understanding and interest in the veterinary medical profession has arisen from my experience with animal companionship; compassion for animal well-being; interest in medicine and biology; and ability to educate others, provide strong leadership, and work as a synergistic team. Furthermore, my experiences with small and large animal veterinarians as well as my work as an undergraduate learning assistant have strengthened my knowledge, interest, and preparation for a career in veterinary medicine.

Before all my experiences with veterinarians or even school, it took one special pet for me to realize the importance of animals in a person's life. When I was four years old, my parents allowed me to pick out my own kitten from a litter of free barn cats. The tabby I chose instantly became my best friend and taught me the joy of animal companionship. My lifelong animal friend initiated my childhood aspiration of becoming a veterinarian.

However, compassion for animals and a childhood dream alone do not form a successful veterinary career. While taking courses in high school and college I have developed an interest in medicine and biology. This interest compounded with my love for animals further pushed me towards a career in veterinary medicine.

In addition, working at a small animal clinic and job shadowing several large animal veterinarians gave me insight into the life of a veterinarian, veterinary and animal handling experience, and communication and teamwork skills. While communicating with clients in the large and small animal settings, I have learned that I not only enjoy

animals, biology and medicine, but also the interaction and collaboration with people to educate and provide care for animals which is essential in veterinary medicine. In addition to giving me communication, leadership and teamwork skills, a strong work ethic, and experience in the medical profession, these experiences have also prepared me for the professional program.

My coursework and extracurricular activities in high school and college have also prepared me for veterinary school by instilling quality study habits, a strong work ethic, time management, leadership and teamwork skills, and experience conducting myself professionally. In high school, I gained leadership and teamwork skills while being the captain of my soccer and tennis teams. In the traveling rock fiddle group, the Chelsea House Orchestra, I was both the lead violist and Vice President. I graduated valedictorian while working at Chelsea Animal Hospital. While managing sports, music, work, and classes, I learned to use my time wisely as well as work hard and efficiently.

In college, I have been a part of the Pre-Veterinary Medical Association which requires me to be a young professional and aid in community service and fundraising. Additionally, working as an Undergraduate Learning Assistant for the Honors Biology Lab gave me the responsibility of interacting with the students to provide safety and assistance while they learned the course material. This has enabled me to practice and enjoy educating people about biology much like a veterinarian.

Currently, my animal compassion along with my experiences with large and small animals, veterinarians, sports, music, clubs, classes, and teaching; has driven me to strive for a career in large animal medicine; however, I would enjoy the occasional opportunity to practice small animal medicine. I want my career as a veterinarian to provide a working relationship with my clients and the community as well as provide deeper insight into mine and the general knowledge of the medical field. Eventually, I would like to use my career as a veterinary medical professional to contribute to research and education.