

# Medical School Personal Statement

As children, we are often asked what we want to be when we grow up. For many, these childhood dreams are just fleeting visions of a future life that will no doubt be changed as we grow older, and as we gain more experience and knowledge of the real world. In my case, however, the answer of “I want to become a veterinarian” has never changed.

Throughout my life, I have always found that taking care of animals was a way to take care of myself. I have yet to find something more fulfilling than the feeling of helping an animal or fellow human in need. I believe that when we help an animal, that the animal is, in turn, helping us. Maybe it is because animals are not so different from ourselves. Animals are often the mirror image of whom I want to be- compassionate, loving, and excited about life- and they often do so with a sense of humour and distinct personality. Throughout my life I have worked hard to have the opportunity to learn about and work with many different animal species. I have found that no matter what the species, I feel a dedication towards learning more about them and helping them in whatever way I can.

One of the most important parts of my life has always been horses. My passion for horses and horseback riding began when I was just a young girl, and has never left me. Horseback riding has taught me many things that have helped shaped who I have become as a young adult. Learning to work with horses taught me how to be confident, independent, and patient. It also taught me how to be a good sport- not being able to afford an expensive horse never stopped me from achieving my goals. Horses also bring me happiness. No matter what I go through during my day, time taken to care for and ride a horse relieves my worries. Horses have a way of reminding me to slow down and appreciate the small moments in life. Many years ago, I watched as a horse, struck by a moving vehicle, passed away at the side of the road. Although I was quite young, I remember my thoughts that day vividly, as if it was just yesterday. As I watched the event unfold, I recall thinking that one day, I would be able to save that horse. Now that I am older, I realize that not every animal can be saved. However, I believe that it would be an honour to be able to dedicate my life towards helping as many animals as I can.

Although I have always been around horses and farm animals, I was introduced to the world of a large animal veterinarian from Dr. Lotje Kouwenberg. Travelling through the county working with horses and cows is hard work, but I love learning more about the animals and what it is like to work as a veterinarian.

In addition to house pets and farm animals, I also have an interest in avian biology. The passion that my Ornithology professor has for birds was immediately transferred to me when I began studying with him at the University of Windsor. I am now an avid bird enthusiast and am always looking for ways to increase my knowledge and experience. I find birds fascinating because they are unlike any other animal. I would like to be able to share my passion for birds with others because I believe that many people don't take notice of the animals that surround them everyday. To further my education on birds would be incredible. I would love to use my knowledge of birds to educate others, whether it is to improve the life quality of their pets or to aid in the conservation of wild species.

Between my classes at the University, I was lucky enough to volunteer with Dr. XXX of Lesperance Animal Hospital. In the clinic environment, I was introduced to many small animal veterinary techniques that I believe will greatly aid in my performance in veterinary school. Assisting with animal care, X-rays, and medical emergencies greatly increased my confidence towards my veterinary school application. I was encouraged to assist the veterinarian in surgical procedures, and was responsible for surgery preparations and anesthetics. At the clinic, I was exposed to emergency situations where I had to think critically in order to help an animal in need. It was here that I learned many veterinary skills, but was also shown the charity and compassion towards clients and their animals that I know is important in a successful veterinarian.

I believe that in veterinary medicine, understanding the animal's owner can be just as important as understanding the animal itself. I have always been very good at understanding how others are feeling, whether they are human or not. I have demonstrated my ability to work well with others and understand their needs in my many volunteer positions, my membership in the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) Youth Engagement Strategy Team, Phi Sigma Sigma International Sorority, and in my work as a Sales Associate at the Ambassador Duty Free Store, where I work with international customers travelling from all over the world.

I have also done extensive volunteer work as a member of the kennel crew at the Windsor-Essex Humane Society, which has opened my eyes to the extreme problem of animal abuse. As I witness an abused dog learn to love again, I myself am reminded of what is truly important in life.

My lifelong goal has always been to become a veterinarian, and if given the opportunity to study at the Ontario Veterinary College, I believe that my passion for animals and helping others would only continue to grow.

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