

# Vet School Admissions Interview

## Practice Questions

### **YOUR CAREER GOALS**

- What makes you sure you want to be a vet? How do you know?
- What will you do if you did not get in? Will you reapply?
- What do you think it will be like to be a vet?
- What will you do when you get out of school? What are your career plans upon completion of your DVM?
- Where do you see yourself in ten years?
- Burnout is a common problem in our profession. What will you do to avoid burnout?
- How will you use your veterinary medical degree in your field of interest?
- What will you do to further your profession?
- Why do you want to come to [insert College/University] vet school? What other schools did you apply to? What would be your first choice if you were accepted at several schools?
- It sounds like most of your experience is \_\_\_\_\_, yet vet school curriculum is primarily focused on \_\_\_\_\_ related skills (small and large animal anatomy, physiology, and veterinary practices). How do you know that this is the right thing for you? Do you see this as a problem?
- How will you make sure that you stay up to date in your field once you have graduated?
- You are at your 40 year vet school reunion, what do you hope to have accomplished?
- Why do you want to go into research? Why then, do you want to pursue a DVM degree rather than a PhD degree?

### **Personal Skills, Qualities, and Interests**

- Tell us about yourself.
- What are your strengths and weaknesses? How will these affect your ability to be a vet?
- What will make you a good vet? What will you do to ensure that you are a good vet performing to the best of your abilities?
- You mentioned that you have certain skills X, Y & Z in your personal statement. How will you bring these to your profession?
- How did your background or experiences prepare you for veterinary school?
- It sounds like you have many varied interests (based on your letter of purpose). It will be difficult if not impossible to incorporate all of these interests into a single career. Is this a problem? How will you incorporate these interests in to your veterinary career?
- How do you know that you have what it takes to make it through 4 years of rigorous study?
- What are your motivations?
- Be prepared to explain how your experiences (work, school, extracurricular, research or other experiences you listed in your application) affected you and why they make you a good candidate.
- What happened to your grades here (while pointing to a not-so-stellar performance on your transcript)?
- What is the most disappointing event of your life?

- If your best friend was sitting here (and you were asked to leave the room) and we asked him/her “what is the applicant’s best and worst quality”, what would he/she say?
- What would you like us to remember most about you when we look at your application in two weeks and have to decide who gets in and who doesn’t?

### **Situations**

- A client pulls up with a hit by car dog that will die without immediate medical attention. They only have \$50. The short term costs for caring for the animal will be much more than that, not to mention the long term costs. What do you do?
- An owner brings in a young healthy dog and wants you to euthanize it because they will be moving out of the state. What do you do?
- Accidents happen in every profession. What if you kill an animal by accident (wrong drug, surgical mistake, overdose, etc)? What would you do?
- How will you react if you become aware that another vet has made a serious medical mistake or has practiced sloppy medicine on one of your clients?
- A client comes to you after having surgery performed by another vet. You notice that the surgery was sloppy to the point of being dangerous, and the animal is sick as a result of the surgery. What do you do?
- How do you feel about free/low income clinics? Would you participate in them?
- What would you do if you saw a patient that showed clear evidence of abuse?
- How will you deal with difficult clients?
- What will you do if you are working for a vet that only allots 15 minutes for routine visits/physical exams?
- With the busy schedule of a veterinarian, it is not always possible to provide a great deal of grief counseling or follow up help for clients who have lost a pet. Please comment.
- A couple brought in an orange tabby cat to your clinic for weekend boarding and another couple brought in an orange tabby cat for euthanasia. Your staff euthanized the wrong animal. What will you do?
- There is an overpopulation of deer at a local state park. The deer are destroying property, the natural beauty of the park, and the crops in adjoining land. They also have caused several car accidents while trying to cross a major highway that is adjacent to the park. As a vet, you have been placed on task force to create a solution to the overpopulation. What are your first steps to solve this problem?
- One of your top clients is a breeder of purebred dogs. He brings two puppies that he will not be able to sell because they deviate somewhat from the breed requirements. However, they are healthy. He asks you to euthanize them. What would you do? What if, the breeder tells you that if you do not euthanize them that he'll just go home and drown them?
- How will you deal with people on the other side of the animal rights issue?
- What is the difference between animal rights and animal welfare?

### **Work/Life Balance**

- Vets are often under enormous physical stress. How will you cope?
- It is a common problem that vets have too many things to do and too little time. How do you manage your time?
- How do you balance a hectic work schedule with the rest of your life?
- What other extracurricular things do you plan on doing?
- Vets are often looked upon as important leaders of the community - what will you do (do you have any plans) to further this community role? What part will you play in the community?
- What do you think a vet's role is in the community?