



# Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

## Pre-Vet Newsletter

December 2012



### Class of 2017 Applicants

Thank you to all who completed an application to our Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree program this year! We are honored that you choose to apply to Cornell and delighted to have the opportunity to review your application.

We understand applicants are anxious to know when they might hear from us regarding their application, so we are providing a timetable that covers the next few months (see third page of this newsletter).



### Cornell Vet Student Profile

*Editor's Note: Sara Huckabone is a third-year student at the College. She was recently recognized by one of the clients of the Cornell University Hospital for Animals for the compassionate and highly skilled care that she gave to Riley (pictured). We asked Sara to share a bit about her experiences in the clinics and the thoughts and emotions that they bring to mind. Enjoy!*

By Sara Huckabone, DVM '13

I began clinics in January. Academically I have really enjoyed working up difficult cases and observing procedures such as biopsies, ultrasounds, and surgery. Some of my favorite cases were those referred to Cornell. I found these cases fascinating. Obviously it is most rewarding if we have an answer at the end of the day, but just seeing the process a veterinarian goes through in search of that diagnosis has been really valuable for me. On a more personal note, however, I enjoyed connecting

with people by taking care of their animals.

My short time on clinics affirmed that veterinarians spend tons of time working with people and need excellent client communication skills. At first I was unnerved by all of the questions that the clients asked me. *Do I remember the facts correctly? Shouldn't I consult someone who has already graduated?* Gradually I grew more confident in my answers and this transition has been really important for me. I also learned a lot from observing how the clinicians interact with clients. I am most impressed with the veterinarians who are confident, patient, and have the ability to describe complex disease processes in a way that is understandable. They listen to the clients, have a sense of humor, and build trusting relationships.



I believe that it is absolutely appropriate for a veterinarian to express emotion. It is impossible not to sympathize with clients whose animals are sick. I had one owner come in with a dog who she believed was healthy and in less than a day we discovered that the dog had an aggressive form of cancer and needed surgery. I completely empathized with the woman's sadness and fear. Owners look to veterinarians to help them gather the facts they need to make difficult and powerful decisions. The balance that good veterinarians obtain, in my opinion, is the ability to show clients empathy while, at the same time, giving them the information that they need to make informed decisions they feel good about.

Clients are seeking the best medical treatment for their pets, who they consider to be part of their family, so it feels like a big responsibility to care for their animals. I empathize with how hard it must be to leave their animal with a student they just met, and I appreciate the trust most clients put in us. The animals in the hospital are often scared and stressed, which does not promote healing. I think that part of our job as students is to make the animals feel comfortable and safe and many of my classmates go above and beyond to make this happen. My first patient was a pomeranian who could not walk and was missing an eye. I spent two weeks caring for him, and I would often pet him and give him treats in the middle of the day. I liked to see his ears perk up and hear him bark, which his owners told me signified happiness. It is

## Admissions Timetable

- Decisions will be sent out early January 2013
- Applicants will receive an email directing them to their **Tracking Page** with a PIN Number that will allow them to access their decision letter

*For applicants made an offer of admission or an alternate offer will be invited to an **Information Session** (option to choose one of the four dates to attend):*

- ❖ January 25, 2013
- ❖ February 1, 2013
- ❖ February 8, 2013
- ❖ February 15, 2013

*It is extremely important for all admitted students and alternates to attend one of these Information Sessions.*

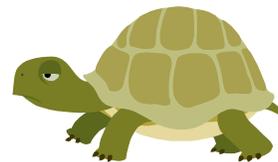
Additional Dates to consider:

- ❖ Deadline to submit Financial Aid applications is February 1, 2013
- ❖ Deadline for Dean's Certification is March 15, 2013
- ❖ Deadline to notify the Admissions Office of decision regarding offer of admission is April 15, 2013
- ❖ Final Transcripts are due by June 15, 2013; we do not require Fall transcripts.
- ❖ All prerequisite course work must be completed and on a final transcript by the above date

rewarding to positively impact the animal's stay in the hospital.

When clients express to me that I did a good job working with their animal it definitely makes me feel happy and more confident. Some clients have sent me pictures, and I enjoy seeing their healthy animals and feeling as though I have had some part in the healing process.

My father used to tell me that the most important aspect of a job in life is whether or not you enjoy it. I am really enjoying clinics, which affirms that I have taken the right path. I am drawn to wildlife medicine in particular because these animals are often injured by humans, directly or indirectly. They don't have thoughtful, loving owners, and it is rewarding to help offset the negative impact that we, as humans, are having on the other inhabitants of our planet by caring for these animals.



### **Turtle Time**

*Some people bring home stray puppies. Veterinary students, like Sara Huckabone, bring home orphaned turtles.*

In the fall of 2011, Huckabone was a supervisor at the Janet L. Swanson Wildlife Health Clinic when a mama painted turtle was rushed to the Center after being hit by a vehicle. Although she didn't survive, the Center hatched eight of her babies.

Pecking into the world just barely bigger than a quarter, the baby turtles needed some TLC before they could be released into the wild. Huckabone and several fellow students have served as foster parents for the young turtles, learning a lot about turtle husbandry and reptiles along the way.

Huckabone made sure the juveniles had a heat lamp and UVB light during their time with her, and her charges were released permanently in late May 2012. Sara was interested in aquatic medicine before starting veterinary school, and fostering the turtles, she said, was a great way to combine her interest in aquatic and wildlife medicine. This summer, Huckabone will spend three weeks at the Marine Mammal Center in California, helping with the organization's rehabilitation and research programs. She hopes to pursue aquatic and wildlife veterinary medicine after graduation.



### **Cornell on the Road**

A representative will be attending the following programs this Spring 2013:

- **AAVMC Career Fair**  
Sunday March 10, 2013  
Alexandria, VA  
(time and location TBA)
- **APVMA Symposium**  
**University of Florida**  
First weekend in March (date and times TBA)

### **Open House**

**Saturday, April 13, 2013**

**10:00-4:00**

Open House is a day-long event held each April that is run by students. Exhibits and information booths are set up to educate the public about animals in general, pet care, wildlife, and just about anything else that is related to veterinary medicine. Popular attractions include the painted horse and cow, large animal exercise treadmill, cow milking, baby animals, and many others. Admissions presentations with a DVM student panel will be held 3 times during the Open House.

### **Pre-Vet Club Meetings**

Would your club like to learn more about Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine and the DVM admissions process? There are options to meet virtually! If you have video conference capability or can Skype™, we can meet!

Contact Jennifer Mailey, Director of Admissions at

[vet\\_admissions@cornell.edu](mailto:vet_admissions@cornell.edu)