

Jenny Stovall
Professor Rinehart-Kim
Writing Assignment #1
01/20/2023

My personal statement

Everyone has something that makes them special; a certain drive that is unique to them as individuals. Part of life is discovering who we are and who we want to be. Growing up, I always knew that I had a passion for helping others. I'd like to think that it contributed to the fact that both my mother and my father worked in the medical field. I have consistently felt compassion and empathy towards others that are in need, and felt a strong desire to help others who are down.

I realized my specific desire to help animals when I lost my childhood dog to cancer. From her initial diagnosis, to the day she passed away, I watched as she became more and more ill, all the while being by her side, helping her stand up when she couldn't, and realizing when it was time to say goodbye. The day that she passed, I watched as the veterinarian gently handled her, and how kind she was to my dog, even after her death. After that day, my desire to help animals grew exponentially, and I realized that no matter where I went in life, I wanted to be working with animals.

In high school, I began to search for volunteer opportunities in the animal field, and found a local animal shelter that was looking for volunteers to help clean the cat cages. At the time, this animal shelter only had cats for adoption, but they also had a spay and neuter clinic where they performed surgeries for public clients. The more I volunteered, the more sure I became that working with animals was what I wanted to do. I quickly rose up to being one of the top volunteers at the animal shelter. One day, the volunteer manager came up to me and told me about the opportunities they had working in the spay and neuter clinic. When she told me about those opportunities, I immediately signed up, and within a few weeks, I was volunteering alongside veterinary assistants and technicians, preparing and recovering cats and dogs from spay and neuter surgeries.

My passion for animal medicine was stronger than ever before; I enjoyed waking up early and not only being able to volunteer, but to also be able to observe the surgeries. One day, a job opening became available at the shelter for an animal care attendant. Although the job did not involve surgeries, it did involve everyday medications and overall care for the cats on the adoption floor. I applied, and was ecstatic when I was offered the job. Throughout my three years working at the animal shelter, I have not only learned tremendous amounts of information on animal behavior and medicine, but I was also able to watch the shelter grow and expand. Everyday at work, I evaluate and note both physical and emotional states of a variety of animals, and as an added bonus, I also help these pets find homes by counseling potential adopters. To this day, I have helped over 1,000 animals find homes. All the while being able to identify when a pet is sick, and being able to start them on medications, monitor their progress, and watch them make a full recovery. Working on the medical side is one of the things I love best about my job.

Overall, my drive is to continue working in the shelter environment, working and being a voice for the creatures that do not have one. With the multitude of job opportunities and the room for growth in this field, I am confident that I will be able to make this a successful career.