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## Never Giving Up

As a child, I always had dreams and aspirations of becoming a Veterinarian when I grew up. As many would say and experience, you don't always end up becoming what you wish for as a kid and that it is very common to become something else. That is exactly what happened to me.

I grew up attending childcare that exposed me to many different kinds of animals on a daily basis. My babysitter owned multiple animals and would take us to the zoo and other animal functioning events, and I had an absolute blast getting to interact with many different breeds of animals. Growing up in this environment motivated me to want to work with animals when I grew up. In high school I had the opportunity to volunteer at my local Veterinarian office and shadow the doctor during appointments and surgeries. It gave me a clear visualization of what becoming a Veterinarian would be like and that solidified the career that I wanted to pursue. When I attended college, I started off as a Biology Pre-Med major, but all things changed for me and I ended up switching my major to Business with a concentration in accounting. At the time, I was juggling being a full-time student, with work and athletics. I ended up changing my major as it was hard missing classes for games and trying to balance work at the same time. I had also let the fear of the science classes get to me, as I was not the strongest in the field. After graduating college in 2019 with my Business degree, I worked as an accountant for a little over two years. During my time of being an accountant, I did some self-reflecting and knew that this was not the career path I saw myself being in the rest of my life. I began volunteering at animal shelters and became active with interacting with animals again. It amazed me how happy I always was, being surrounded by animals and helping them out.

After volunteering for a few months, it became apparent to me that I was still meant to work with animals. I started to take Veterinary prerequisite classes again while working full time as an accountant. Unfortunately, after two semesters of classes, I had to decide between school and my job. The class times were conflicting with work and I was unable to balance the two anymore. I decided to take a leap of faith and go back to school full time to pursue Veterinarian School again. It has been one of the best decisions I have made. After working for a couple of years and going back to school, I have more passion and dedication than ever to work towards something I love and have loved for so long. It has made me realize that you can do anything you set your mind to. If I could go back in time and change things, I would have told myself to stay strong and continue to have been a Biology Pre-Med major, but I have matured a lot since then and have learned many life lessons through it that I will take with me moving forward now.