

Interviewer Name: Sydney Albertson

Mentor Name: Dr. Ginny Bischel

Internship Site:

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SYDNEY: Thank you so much for letting me come back and interview you!

DR.GINNY BISCHEL: Of course! We love you!

S: So let's start by where did you attend college? How did you make that choice? Where did you attend vet school?

DR.B: Okay so I was very lucky to have been extremely prepared when I graduated from High school, so that when I applied to the University of Mexico, Mexico City, they accepted my transcripts right from high school. I had good grades, I had done all of the requirements, I had even one a little internship over the summer with a vet, a local vet, so all of the requirements that the university had, I met and so I was able to start a pre vet course in college at the University. And that's what I did right after I graduated from High School

S: Cool! So that is where you got your DVM (doctorate of Veterinary Medicine)?

DR.B: I did, I graduated with a DVM degree and a degree in animal husbandry

S: How was that, the animal husbandry degree?

DR.B: It was good, it was something I wasn't going to dedicate my life to because it is more with the large animals, and all of the, you know, the cows and the specialized kind of field, and I knew that I wanted to be a small animal vet.

S: What was the first year out of vet school like?

DR.B: It was challenging, it was scary actually. Because I knew that I had to now put into practice everything I had learned in the theory, you know in books, and by teachers. So it was exciting but it was a little scary because you know you're going to make mistakes and you're going to have to go back to your textbooks for a lot of things. But slowly, just like anything else, anytime you ride a bike you fall three times but then you get back up and then you're off.

S: What is the most difficult part of your day? How do you overcome it?

DR.B: The most difficult part of my day? As far as the practice in general or as far as practicing medicine specifically?

S: Both

DR.B: Okay, so in general the hardest part of my day is probably managing staff, because I'm not just a vet, I'm also a business owner. And so doing all the day to day managing staff and

making sure orders get placed for product and medications and things, that is probably the most tedious. As far as practicing medicine, obviously the hardest part is having to do euthanasias. It's always tough having to walk into a room knowing that i'm going to have to end the life of a pet. But I always cope with that knowing that we are also ending suffering. But really all the rest of it, i've been doing it for so long it kind of comes second nature to me

S: What would you say a good leader looks like?

DR.B: A good leader I think has to be assertive, they have to have a passion for what they are doing otherwise they can't pass on that passion. Because as leaders, we have to set an example. We have to have a presence in the workplace, to be a leader. You have to, like I said, be assertive and follow through. I am a big believer in say what you mean and mean what you say. I think those are some key qualities to being a good leader.

S:What is the best part of your day?

DR.B: The best part of the day is when a pet comes in, and they haven't eaten for three days and they are really dehydrated and their tummy hurts or something hurts and something's not right and we start them on treatments and we put them on IV's and get rid of their pain with medications. We coax them to eat a little bit and by the end of the day, they walk out and they go home wagging their tail at least, and feeling better. THAT's the best part of my day.

S: What advice do you have to your teenage self about college and career?

DR.B: Well, the big thing is keep a good head on your shoulders, you know a lot of what I was talking to you about the other day. Is that don't be a sheep, be a leader even in school you know. Pick your friends don't let your friends pick you, and prioritise. Prioritise. I know that it's hard, growing up and being especially in high school and college where there is a lot of partying going on. Trust me I had to turn down a lot of partying. But it's all going to be worth it in the end, you have to keep your time and all your effort into your academics otherwise without your academics and without your grades and without school, you just will never get here. It's really tough to get into the career. It's even tougher now, i mean everybody will tell you it's harder to get into vet school now than it it medical school. If you think about it, the doctors only study one species, the human species. While vets have to study I mean monkeys are different than dogs, and dogs are different than birds, and so we have to study all species and it's tougher. I think they are only taking one student out of ten at vet colleges now, so it's tough.

S: What is some advice you have for me, going into vet school or getting my bachelors degree, anything academic wise.

DR.B:I think academic wise, stick to keeping your direction. Focus on the path that you want to take. Because if you dab a little bit here and dab a little bit there, I have found that a lot of young people that have the mindset to go to vet school, kind of get deviated and end up doing something that they weren't that passionate about, but they just kind of lost their focus. So you just have to really stay focused and keep that path if it's your passion. And if it is truly your passion it's going to be easy to do because I know that it was mine and I have known since I

was 5 years old that I said I want to be a vet.

S: Same,

DR.B: See?

S:I love coming here and really affirming that this is what I want to do in my future

DR.B: And that's what you have to do

S:What is some advice you would give to someone who wants to open their own vet clinic?

DR.B: Oh boy, save a lot of money because it's expensive, equipment is expensive medications are super expensive, hiring staff is super expensive. So, save your money, look for areas that don't have a lot of competition, so when I first opened up here I was the only one for ten years, fifteen years, then other vets started popping up. Which is normal, as the areas fill with homes and development you are going to have it. But always look for things that will set you apart. What will make you different, what services and how will you practice to make things different from the vet that's your competition. I'm always thinking of what do I do to set myself apart.

S: I think that's it, thank you so much!