



NORTHSTAR VETS®

# Do you have what it takes to become a veterinarian?

(LOVING ANIMALS IS ONLY PART OF THE JOB)

Becoming a veterinarian is an exciting career, but you'll have to consider the requirements, hurdles, and the rewards that come with this noble profession. Below are some great questions and honest answers from our team members at NorthStar VETS®.



**KIMBERLY HAMMER,**  
VMD, DACVIM  
Internal Medicine

I wrote a career report in the 6th grade on large animal veterinary medicine. We had to interview someone in the profession so I visited a local large animal veterinarian. He invited me out on house calls and after that I was hooked — I have never wanted to do anything else.



**MATTHEW GROOTENBOER,**  
VMD  
Avian & Exotics

I knew when I was around 10 years old when I dealt with losing my first pet, our family cat I felt so sad I wanted to make sure no animals ever had to die. I understand that's impossible now, but I dedicated my life to making sure animals did not have to suffer.



**JENNIFER KIM,**  
DVM, DACVIM (Oncology)  
Oncology

After college I was deciding between cancer research (PhD) and vet school while working part time in a veterinary clinic. I chose vet school because a DVM degree would give me versatility and allow me to pursue research in the future.



**DANIELLE MENDELSON,**  
VMD, DAVDC  
Dentistry & Oral Surgery

It was a natural transition for me. I grew up riding horses competitively and always had a menagerie of animals in my house. I would follow my horse vet and our family veterinarian around when I was little.

## Q.

### How did you know that you wanted to pursue a career in veterinary medicine?

### What are the ideal personal qualities and skills for this career?

### What are some of the advantages to your career?

Compassion, patience, good communication, strong analytical/science background, and a lifelong interest in learning.

You have to love both people and animals. Clients are sometimes scared, angry, or confused and you must be able to communicate calmly and clearly. You also have to be determined because not every animal is going to survive despite your best efforts. You can't let this get you down and you have to take the good of the job with the bad.

Great people skills are essential and being able to communicate what is best for the patient is important. Our job is people and education. I also think having a generally positive attitude and a sense of humor help greatly.

Compassion, patience, and communication. Pets are now considered people's "children" so emotions can run high. You have to explain the pet's medical condition while relating to the pet parent. Many have said that they work with animals because they don't want to deal with people — but pets and humans are attached so its equally important to help both.

Being a veterinarian is intellectually stimulating. I get to touch the lives of people and help animals every day. I always find every day interesting.

I get to make a difference for both clients and their pets. Sometimes I can stitch together a wound and ease an animal's pain immediately. Sometimes all I can do is make an animal comfortable at the end of its life. I also get to make some amazing friends with coworkers and clients.

Meeting great people. My clients come from all walks of life and our common factor is our love for animals. My amazing co-workers are the main reason we are able to provide veterinary care that wasn't possible 20 years ago. Continued advancements in medicine make our job exciting.

The biggest advantage to my career is the instant gratification when a pet goes home and starts acting like themselves again. It's very rewarding to be able to help an owner and their pet.