

From the Desk of a Vet !

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Sitting at his newly built house in Adoor Dr. Shibhu was wondering with the email which he had received in the morning from his 'Alma mater'. It has been more than fifteen years since he had passed out of the Govt. Veterinary College and the email has been mailed on behalf of his old teacher who is the present Dean. The Dean, Prof. Mathew has requested him to give a write up about 'Career in Veterinary Science' based on his experience so that the institute can use the material for promoting the subject among potential candidates and creating awareness among the general public.

The next day evening after work based on all the thoughts assimilated the Doctor had keyed into his laptop the following draft.

"I grew up in a rural family which owned a modest farm and this gave me a love of animals. It meant that I was working with farm animals from a very early age. Becoming a veterinary surgeon was therefore the right career move for me. It was all I ever wanted to do as a contribution to society. After Pre Degree, I applied for and was successful in gaining a place at university where one can train as a vet."

As part of my study the university veterinary school requires candidates to spend a suitable period with a senior vet as part of internship. Students are usually required to undertake clinical placements, for example in veterinary surgeries. I was lucky to be trained under the mentorship of a leading Vet and moreover it was an eye opener for me to know the difference between real practice and theory. After the successful completion, I was easily placed in the government service. Along with the routine clinical job the administrative work was a demanding affair.

For aspirational students I would say:

"It's a long course that demands concentration to gain the essential practical skills and theory. Clinical placements are an important aspect of the course. Aspiring vets have to be prepared to spend as much time as possible gaining practical experience and building up their knowledge."

My definition of Vet is :

"A veterinary surgeon is responsible for the prevention of disease and for the medical and surgical treatment of animals including household pets, zoo animals, farm animals, horses, birds, fish and aquatic mammals. This means that every day can be different in a veterinary practice."

What do I like most about the profession :

"Being able to help animals in need of treatment. I love animals and get great personal satisfaction from being able to make a difference. I also enjoy dealing with people, particularly in a rural community where a vet is still a respected profession."

Career Opportunities ?

Prospects for qualified vets are extensive. There are plenty of opportunities in government service and the majority of Graduates naturally opted for the same. Some choose, to set up their own practices-small business but earnings are not attractive. Veterinary surgeons are involved in protecting public health in government departments and are also employed in meat plants and food processing companies. Very few choose to become veterinary researchers, who play an important role in advancing our understanding of diseases. This research enhances the health, welfare and usefulness of both food producing and companion animals. It safeguards the public from diseases spread from animals in food. Presently Food Security is also an emerging issue addressed. A recognized veterinary degree can sometimes be a passport to work overseas.

"To my mind, the essential requirement for anyone wishing to be a vet is a love of animals. It's tremendously rewarding to have helped a sick animal back to health. This is one of the reasons why I enjoy being a vet."

I feel it is a requirement that all veterinary surgeons keep their skills and knowledge up to date throughout their careers whatever.....
His thoughts got interrupted by a phone call from a client who wanted the Doctor's help urgently.

The Caselet does not imply any right or wrong decisions and do not necessarily reflect all facts. This has been prepared as an in house training material to be used for academic purpose.