

Throughout local  
small animal practice.  
i gained



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Throughout my education I've always enjoyed learning about the inner workings of life.

The anatomy and physiology of an animal is incredible. My love for learning about these particular areas of biology was one of the reasons I became interested in the veterinary field. My time spent caring for my family horse, which we have owned for just over four years now was ultimately the biggest influence in my decision. It allowed me to gain a lot of first-hand experience in animal husbandry which I have found to be thoroughly rewarding and interesting. I am responsible for their daily care and make an effort to ensure their general wellbeing by making the effort to increase my own knowledge of common health problems. I have achieved by attending public lectures and events hosted by my local equine hospital, as well as completing a course in equine first aid organised by the British Horse Society.

Due to this interest in animal husbandry I arranged a two week placement on a small farm to assist them in the lambing of around four-hundred ewes. I was involved in all aspects of lambing, including the care of ewe's pre and post lambing; cleaning and preparing pens; caring for the ewe and lamb during the lambing process; penning ewes and lambs individually and into nurseries; tagging and castrating lambs; feeding and caring for pet and orphaned lambs, and providing veterinary treatment where necessary. It was an experience that taught me a lot and one which I thoroughly enjoyed. To explore the veterinary field and discover what a career in it would entail, I arranged two weeks of shadowing at a local small animal practice. I gained a greater understanding of the structure of a typical vet practice with opportunities to observe and speak to the staff.

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Throughout the placement I observed consultations, blood sampling, dental work, radiography and minor surgery. I even had the unique opportunity to assist a veterinary cardiologist while they carried out an electrocardiogram and echocardiogram to diagnose the heart problems of two of the practice's patients. With the cardiovascular system being of particular interest to myself, it was fascinating to see it from a diagnostic perspective. For example I was able to see how problems in the heart's valves can cause abnormal blood flow through the heart. Overall it was a thoroughly enjoyable experience and gave me a greater insight into the important role a veterinary nurse plays within a practice.

I have arranged a further two week long placements with other local practices over the next month to build upon this experience and further expand my insight into veterinary nursing. Currently I work as part of the KEA restaurant team in a busy customer orientated environment. The role involves working and interacting with a variety of co-workers within the department to ensure we provide a quality dining experience to our customers. Due to the nature of the role I deal with a wide range of different customers on a daily basis. This has given me the opportunity to improve my interpersonal skills, helping develop my ability to adapt my language and questioning technique in order to provide the service the customer expects. These skills will be valuable to me when working within a veterinary practice where there is constant interaction with a wide range of different clients, which will have a different attitude and expectation. I look forward to the social and academic challenges of veterinary nursing.

I am aware of the demands of the course, but my commitment and desire to develop a career within the field has only strengthened through my experience and work in a voluntary capacity.