

The Successful New Grad

How can you best prepare for practice?

We know that some new veterinary school graduates are able to hit the ground running while others struggle. The question is... why?

The University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine and Banfield Pet Hospital teamed up to answer this age-old question.

In our research, we found there is a lot you can do now while in school to get practice-ready.

Powerhouse to Success

You need to develop these three core skills to be successful as a new veterinarian.



Medical

- Practice preventive care
- Treat common ailments/conditions
- Develop diagnostic and treatment plans
- Strengthen general surgery skills
- Cultivate general dental skills

Communication

- Develop trust with clients
- Explain diagnoses and treatment plans
- Listen effectively
- Guide para staff
- Ask for help when needed

Business

- Use computer system
- Master daily schedule/work flow
- Learn to delegate and work with staff

Road to Success

Sometimes, it's the road less traveled that makes the difference.

This isn't a checklist; even just one or two of these experiences can help prepare you for practice!



Work in a Customer Service Role

Work in a busy environment such as a restaurant or retail job.

- Develop communication skills
- Deal with challenging clients/difficult situations
- Multi-task and prioritize
- Hone time-management skills



Work in a Business

Manage operations in a busy environment.

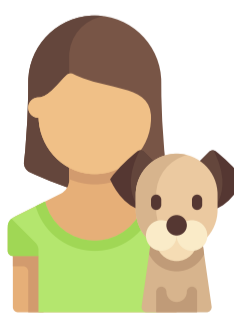
- Lead a team and delegate tasks
- Understand the financial side
- Talk about costs with clients
- Excel at time management
- Present a professional demeanor to gain clients' trust



Work in a Vet Clinic

Hands-on experience as a vet assistant, vet tech, receptionist, etc.

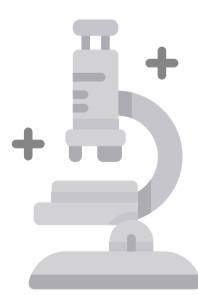
- Prepare for the hospital environment
- Understand focus of general practice
- Learn basic technical skills
- Develop communication skills
- Delegate tasks to para staff
- Understand case files (notes, tests, treatments)



Volunteer in an Animal Shelter

Volunteer in roles that provide experience with general surgery skills (spay/neuter).

- Develop technical skills in general surgery — especially spay/neuter
- Enhanced confidence
- Grow time-management skills



Work in a Research Environment

Participate in a research project as a student or employee (not necessarily related to animals), or do a research project in school.

- Hone critical-thinking skills
- Experience the diagnose/treatment cycle