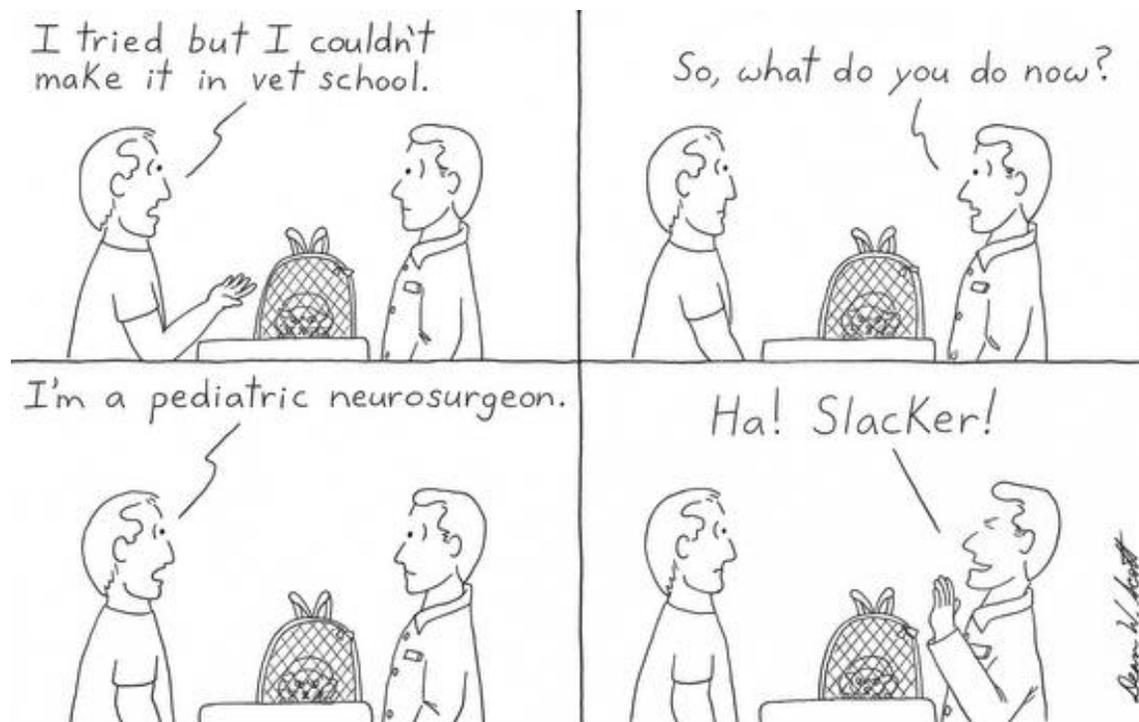


The Insider's Guide

**A look into life in the Lynn Hall Family:
Advice from those that have
been there, done that**



19th edition

Welcome DVM Class of 2017! This packet is designed to give you a head start on your life at Purdue, and includes everything (well, maybe not *everything*) we wish we'd known about before we got here. Utilize the helpful stuff, and ignore the rest. Once school starts, remember what you wish had been included, and put it in next year's edition.

*The Guide is definitive.
Reality is frequently inaccurate.*

- Douglas Adams

Acknowledgments and disclaimer

This is the nineteenth annual edition of the Insider's Guide, which has been created for first-year students by NO LONGER first-year students. Though the school supports the electronic distribution of this guide, editorial content is solely the responsibility of students. We are likewise responsible for any ill-considered opinions or egregious errors.

Our thanks to Dean Reed for encouraging this project and Connie Musser for her help in putting it together. Special thanks to the Tufts and University of Wisconsin Schools of Veterinary Medicine for copies of their student handbooks and to the Technology Community Association at MIT for HowToGaMIT.

© 2011

Tessa Meland '16 editor

Bret Moore '15 editor

Jeremy Cartagena, Ashley Clemens, Jasmine Coe, Kathryn Dittmer, Robin Gingrich, Anna Jansons, Sara Ludington, Kiersten Wiley, Andi Winney '14 editors

Joshua Taylor '13 editor

Lindsay Flesch, Claire Walther, Kimberly Anderson '12 editors

Mark Petersmann, Melisa Berning, Michael Mann '11 editors

Brook McAfee, Elizabeth Nunamaker, Lauren Wood '10 editors

Carrie Eichenberger '09, Jennifer Hamilton '09 editors

Tyler Simpson '08, Corey Swart '08 editors

Kristin Scott '07 editor

Bill Donohue, Hillary Houin '06 editors

Lynn Tuer '05, editor

Randalyn Raj '04, editor

Jana Josel '03, editor

Jeff Greenfield, Jill Gogel, Lisa DeRosa, Alison Rominger '02, editors

Bianca N. Zenor '01, editor

Ruth Landau, Noel Fought, Natalie Broomhall '00, editors

Laurel B. Douglass '99, editor

Lisa Jablonski '98, editor

Table of Contents:

Before You Arrive: An Introduction to Life in Lafayette/West Lafayette

Housing	4-6
What to Bring From Home.....	6
Food.....	6-7
Local Stores, Banks, etc.....	7-8

Before classes start

Why You Should Arrive a Few Days Early.....	9
Out-of-Staters.....	9-10
Financial Aid and Loan Checks.....	10
Books and Supplies.....	11-16

The Inside Scoop on Classes..... 17-23

Life As a Vet Student

Relationships.....	24-25
The "30 and Over" Club.....	25
Your Pets.....	25-26
Fun Activities/Traditions.....	26

Your Education Doesn't Just Come From the Classroom!!!

Getting an Education.....	27
---------------------------	----

Miscellaneous..... 29

Parting Words of Advice From

18 Years of 1st Year Students.....	30
---	-----------

Before You Arrive: An Introduction to Life in Lafayette/West Lafayette

Housing

If you don't have a place to live yet, you should get busy!

On-campus your options are: Young and Hawkins Grad Houses (only 2 blocks from Lynn Hall) or married-student housing.

Off-campus, if you want to be able to walk to school, your options are limited. The nearby student apartments can be noisy with undergraduate rowdiness. However a good number of vet students do live just around the vet school.

Many students who choose to rent off-campus rent further away from the school (5-6 miles away near the Wal-Mart) or over in Lafayette. The apartments and townhomes in these locations tend to be larger, nicer, and less expensive. The downside of course, is that you must drive to school on cold West Lafayette mornings when your car is covered in ice.

If you will not be staying through the summer, try to get a nine- or ten-month lease, or make sure your lease permits subletting.

Buying a house is also something to consider for the duration of your stay here in Lafayette. As we are in a college town the employment level and housing turnover rate has been relatively steady as professors and students are constantly buying and selling houses. Another option is to buy a mobile home - they are a less expensive alternative, which allows you to waste less money on rent. There are some good quiet trailer parks close to campus- Candlelight and Point West.

One point to remember is that **you technically cannot get a parking permit unless you live at least 1.5 miles from the outer edges of campus**. The Student Services office may be able to help with this, but no promises. This may influence where you look. If traffic adds to your stress level, you might want to consider living on the West Lafayette side. If you are not used to winter roads, driving at early morning hours for 7:30 classes is usually a chore as the roads are not always plowed and crossing the bridge can be a bit scary. So, remember to allow yourself some extra time for driving to school.

A great place to start would be at www.vet.purdue.edu/student-services/index.php (Student Services office website). Then click on the housing section.

You could also check out:

- BoilerApartments.com
- *Lafayette Journal and Courier* (good for finding independent landlords away from campus: 1-800-456-3223)
- The *Purdue Exponent* (school newspaper) (765-743-1111)

- Email and Facebook! Many have found it convenient to live with other vet students. Upperclassmen are often advertising empty rooms in their apartments/homes and other first-years are often looking for someone to sign a lease with. Unsure about someone? Ask your big sib for a reference (see section on big sibs in “relationships” section)!

Here are some other places to call to find out if there are any openings:

Graduate Student Housing Hawkins Grad House Young Grad House	(765) 494-7187 (765) 494-7045	You may want to only sign up for one semester; second semester sublets are fairly easy to find
Purdue Village	(765) 494-2090	Close to the vet school, but certainly not luxury
Purdue Research Foundation	(765) 494-8645	Cheaper housing around vet school. Pets sometimes allowed.
Livesay Management	(765) 743-5587	Lots of apts. all around campus; only caged pets allowed
Homer Shaffer, Landlord	(765) 463-6305	Many apts. near the vet school; very pet-friendly
Joe Schultz, Landlord	(765) 474-8155	Pet-friendly and fairly cheap
Beau Jardin and Mayfair Village Apts.	(765) 463-4663	5 minutes from school; pets accepted; huge rooms
Williamsburg on Wabash	(765) 743-4606	Pet-friendly; graduate student discount
Kris Sabins	(765) 474-2977	Realtor; call her for your house-buying needs
Franklin Apts.	(765) 463-4578	Pet-friendly; they even accept big dogs!
Historic Lahr Apartments	(765) 742-1856	Cat-friendly; beautiful building w/newly renovated apartments
Rental Property Management	(765) 449-8900	Really reasonably priced units, pets free, and they LOVE vet students.

Recycling in West Lafayette

The City provides curbside recycling to residents of West Lafayette living in houses or apartments with 4 units or less. Items accepted: mixed paper, newspaper, glass, aluminum cans, tin cans, plastics (1-7) and flattened cardboard. There is also a 24-hr recycling center located at 705 S. River Rd.. They accept a wider variety of materials such as: used car batteries, motor oil that has been placed in plastic one-gallon containers, anti-freeze that has been placed in plastic one-gallon container labeled "Anti-freeze," mixed paper, newspaper, plastic containers (1-7), aluminum cans, tin cans and glass (clear, brown, green).

- ◆ “If you like to study at home and value your sleep, then DO NOT get an apartment where a lot of undergrads live.”
- ◆ “If you have pets, Franklin Park allows any pets and it’s a nice community too.”
- ◆ “The Historic Lahr Apartments has beautiful, new apartments, an exercise room, is located less than five minutes from campus in downtown Lafayette and allows cats. If you happen

to be coming here with a spouse/significant other who will be working full time (i.e. not a student), you may be eligible for subsidized housing, which means super-cheap rent.”

- ◆ “Living just far enough away to get a parking pass is perfect.”
- ◆ “It’s a lot cheaper to live in Lafayette (as opposed to West Lafayette).”
- ◆ “Living near school is nice because you can come back anytime and it only takes a minute. But you’ll get sick of seeing this building.”
- ◆ “Copper Beech and Baywater have really spacious apartments with lots of room for pets. Plus the bedrooms each have private bathrooms.”

Forgettables you might want to bring from home (if you already have it)

As the year begins, it may come to your attention that you forgot to bring a few items. In the past, some have wished that we had brought along...

- Something to keep you physically active! It’s a great break from school and helps in dealing with stress.
 - Sports equipment: football, racquetball, baseball glove, cleats, bicycle, roller blades, fishing pole, bow & arrow, shotgun (Purdue has its own trap and skeet range), etc.
- School supplies: LOTS of spiral binders (2 “- 3”!), three-hole punch, stapler, highlighters, colored pencils, multi-colored “click” pen, lots of paper
- Milk crates for locker-can build custom fit shelves or snap together crates – more sturdy.
- Old notes and undergrad texts (cell bio text- Alberts The Cell if you have it, developmental bio text for Histology)
- Whiteboard and markers, especially if you are a visual learner or someone that needs to see the big picture
- **Bring proof of your vaccinations**, especially TB and rabies, if you have them. It’ll save you time and the hassle of being “encumbered” until you come up with the paperwork. If you’ve not been vaccinated, don’t worry – you’ll have a chance to get vaccinated here, however insurance coverage for rabies vaccinations is spotty at best! **Several** of our classmates were denied coverage by their insurance companies for vaccinations received here, so it is best to speak with your own healthcare provider now and receive your rabies vaccination over the summer to avoid paying for the entire rabies vaccination series out-of-pocket (about \$800)!! Even if insurance won’t cover vaccinations check with your county board of health for prices on the vaccines. Be sure you have enough time to complete the series before classes start (about 4 weeks before).
- **See Dr. Kreisle’s letter about freshman vaccination requirements in this packet.**

Food

Places to eat: There used to be an exhaustive list of restaurants and bars in this part of *The Insider’s Guide*, but in reality it’s not going to mean that much to you every day. Tag along with an upperclassman or just go exploring! Remember, you need to enjoy your time here in Vet School! West Lafayette is a (college) town like any other, and has its fair share of fast food, chain restaurants, bar food, and ethnic food. Some are great, most are average, and some you really have to wonder about, but you definitely won’t starve.

In the vet school: In Lynn Hall we have the Continuum Café, which offers wraps and sandwiches for about \$5, as well as various snacks and drinks (they serve lots of coffee...). Breakfast opens at the same time first-year classes start, so you may want to get in the habit of eating before

you leave (or bringing something with you) if you are a breakfast person (we encourage eating breakfast...five classes before lunch can make your stomach sound like the startup of a Brickyard 400). There are also multiple vending machines including hot drinks (coffee, tea, hot chocolate, etc), and one that actually has frozen meals (\$2) and ice cream. There are lots of restaurants and bars only about an 8 minute walk away (we have ~1 hr lunch breaks), but these seem really far, especially in the winter!

The vet school provides fridges and microwaves for students to use, so most of us pack our lunches. Various clubs host bake sales throughout the year so you can often pick up snacks throughout the day. The rest of the days most people rely on snacks stored in their lockers. Here is a list of popular grocery stores in the area:

- Marsh
2250 Teal Rd, Lafayette
3825 St Rd 26 E, Lafayette
2410 N Salisbury St., West Lafayette
- Meijer
4901 St Rd 26 E, Lafayette
- Payless
65 Beck Lane, Lafayette
2200 Greenbush St , Lafayette
2513 Maple Point Dr, Lafayette
1032 Sagamore Pkwy W, West Lafayette
- Wal-Mart
2801 Northwestern Ave, West Lafayette
4205 Commerce Dr (St Rd 26 E) Lafayette
2347 E 350 S, Lafayette, IN
- SuperTarget
3630 Indiana 26, Lafayette

Local Stores, Banks, etc

Here is a list of local stores that might be helpful when you get here:

Hardware Stores

- Lowes
100 N Creasy Lane, Lafayette
- Home Depot
311 Sagamore Pkwy N, Lafayette
- Menards
2868 US 52 W, West Lafayette
2850 S Creasy Ln, Lafayette

Pet Stores

- Aquarium World
116 S Earl Ave, Lafayette
- Buckles Feed Depot
220 S 4th St, Lafayette
- PetSmart
3500 St Rd 38 E, Lafayette
- Pet Supplies Plus
311 Sagamore Pkwy, Lafayette
- Tractor Supply Co
4841 SR 38 E, Lafayette
- Rural King
2500 Teal Road, Lafayette
 - (The last two places are good for those with large animals such as horses, etc.)

Post Office

- 3450 St Rd 26 E, Lafayette, Main post office, open later in evenings and Saturday mornings
- 360 W State St (University Bookstore), West Lafayette
- 610 W Navajo, West Lafayette

Banks

As a Purdue student, you are eligible to join the **Purdue Employees Federal Credit Union (PEFCU)**, with slightly better rates and convenient ATMs (they don't charge for withdrawal). Shop around for the best account for your needs. Minimum balances and service charges vary from bank to bank. ATM location is an important consideration; only certain banks have ATMs close to or on campus. There is no ATM or check-cashing service at the veterinary school; the closest are at the Stewart Center/Union or in the Village. Some of the supermarkets (e.g. Payless, Marsh, and Meijer) let you cash checks if you have their check-cashing card (free to get). Here are a few of the most popular banks and their telephone numbers. Ask for the branch nearest you:

- Purdue Employee Federal Credit Union (PEFCU): (765) 497-3328—free checking/ATM use with many locations on campus, good rates, easy to apply for student loans
- Chase Main office: (765) 423-0415- Also convenient and all over the country so easy for your parents to hand you money online
- Lafayette Savings Bank: (765) 742-1064
- Huntington Bank: (765) 463-5722—free checking, no minimum deposit
- Lafayette Bank and Trust Company: (765) 423-7100
- Lafayette Community Bank: (765) 429-7200
- Fifth Third Bank (765) 423-5557
- Old National Bank (765) 446-3620

Before Classes Start

Why you should arrive a few days early

Once Monday morning, August 19th, arrives you will be expected to hit the ground running. Getting errands done during business hours will be much more difficult because you have class during these precious times. Remember, although the veterinary school itself is small, Purdue University caters to over 40,000 students each year – and we have to go to the same administration offices to get our checks, ID's, etc. So do yourself a favor and put aside one whole, entire day to cut through the red tape, and try not to make it the Friday before classes start.

Get your ID (your Purdue ID, not your Vet School ID)

This means taking your paid-up tuition/fee receipt with your class schedule on it and waiting in line at the **Memorial Union, Rm 130** to get your picture taken and your ID made. If you are there at a peak time, you may be in line for an hour or more. If your tuition/fee receipt is not on record as being paid, they will not give you an ID and you will need to visit the bursar's office in **Hovde Hall**. Note that this office closes at 4pm and the line maybe cut off at 3:30pm.

Get a parking permit

You need to apply in person at the parking office in the **Visitor Center on Northwestern Avenue**, (765) 494-9494. You will need to bring proof of residency (i.e. lease, mail, etc.) at the time of your application. There are a few parking spots in the garage for people on Visitor Center business, but they are usually filled. Pick up a map of the parking areas at the Visitor Center. **You must live at least 1.5 miles from the outer limits of campus to be eligible to buy and use a parking permit.** Dr. Weisman can submit a memo of exemption for this rule if you need it. There are 2-hour spaces on streets near the vet school, parking is monitored closely and they do check for permits, monitor amount of time in a given space, and **give out lots of tickets**. Also, you probably won't have time to go move your car every 2 hours. There are parking lots located along Harrison Street that are used by veterinary students, Sheetz lot is your best bet. After 5PM (3PM in some lots) you can park in "A" permit spaces (right in front of Lynn Hall). So, as you can see, we strongly encourage that you buy a student "C" permit (\$100) from the parking office if you are going to be driving to school everyday. Also please note not to park in the "C" lot behind the vet school, this is to be utilized by 4th years only!

Out-of-Staters

Many of us in the Lynn Hall Family are not from the Midwest, and we still like it here. Cost of living is lower, food is good, and people are generally nice. As for getting here, if you're not planning or willing to drive there are two airport options. Chicago O'Hare (ORD) is a good hub to go through, but Indianapolis International (IND) is closer. There are Greyhound and Amtrac stations in Lafayette (which is across the river from the school < 10min).

Transport to/from airports

O'Hare (Chicago):

- Express Air Coach – one way \$69 pick up at Purdue Airport (pain in the rear to walk to..)
The return date must be chosen at booking.
<http://www.expressaircoach.com/>

Indy:

- Lafayette Limo – one way 27\$ - round trip \$50 Return trip is flexible and pickup is at the Memorial Union
<http://www.lafayettelimo.com/Shuttle/tabid/162/Default.aspx>
- Star of America – one way \$19 – round trip \$38 Pick up at memorial Union
<http://www.soashuttle.com/>

Financial aid and loan checks

Any **financial aid** you receive is first applied to your tuition and fees, and what's left for you to live on may not be available right away. The earlier you've signed your paperwork, the better, but plan your early semester cash flow accordingly. Thanks to the miracles of modern technology, **you can now sign up for direct deposit of your loan checks**, which means you will receive your money more quickly by cutting out the extra trip to the financial aid office. The form asks for your bank, account number, and signature of consent for the direct deposit. This can all be done online through My Purdue, financial tab , manage my account tab. Check with your friendly financial aid administrator with any questions.

It's best if you can straighten out any problems with the financial aid office over the summer to make sure you will not be prevented from registering, getting your ID, or getting your loan check. **Trudi Horner** is the financial aid administrator who handles all veterinary students. Call her if you need specific help. Sometimes you can get what you need from a generic financial aid counselor, or even the voice mail system. The financial aid numbers are **(765) 494-5081 or (765) 494-5050**. If you have problems with Financial Aid, it is always in your best interest to talk with Dr. Weisman as he is usually able to make things happen for you.



Books and Supplies

Okay, done with housing, done with menial tasks, so now let's get down to school stuff. First thing we'll talk about is getting your supplies together. You may want to do some of this early online (might find a good deal or two...and it will be out of the way).

The exhaustive list of stuff you get from the bookstore implies that you need to buy all of it right away. **RELAX-- it's not necessary.** Unless you have all the money in the world and endless bookshelf space, you will need to make informed choices about what to get and when. It's *very important* to talk to your Big Sib about what books are absolutely crucial. **All books will be on reserve in the library**, so it is not necessary to buy all of them. If you do decide you need to buy a book that you didn't order over the summer, you can still get it at the bookstore after the semester starts, though it might take a few weeks. The bookstore's regular stock may not include what you need, but special orders are commonplace. Note that the bookstore does not take credit cards-- **cash or checks** only.

The internet has many websites available to purchase textbooks. I would advise trying these textbook search engines such as Barnesandnoble.com, Amazon, eBay, and Half.com. Your book order form from the bookstore will list the ISBN # for easy searching. Big Sibs may also be willing to sell or let you use their books so be sure to check with them first. You can also use the library's scanners to scan, save & print selected pages of open reserve books that are recommended but only used a few times. If you email these documents to your classmates they will be very appreciative, too. The new scanners will even email you a pdf of what you scan for FREE!

Even though all the books will be on reserve in the library, you may be competing with your classmates for access (there are only a few copies at most). For expensive books that you'll only use a few times, however, it is often worth it to put up with the inconvenience. Reserve books can be checked out at 11PM on Sundays and weeknights, 4:30PM on Fridays, or 4PM on Saturdays and are due by the time the library opens the next morning. Remember to take advantage of this.

You will have 24-hour access to the library and computer lab, but the reserve books are only available when the library is open. There is also a scanner available for you in this computer lab. The computer lab color and B&W printers are very busy during peak times of use. It is recommended to take advantage of your 24-hour access to print off learning issues and Blackboard notes (there will be a LOT of these). The school is working hard as a whole to minimize the need to print by making much of the material computer based, so expect more of this in the future. The library staff will ask everyone to leave until they lock the doors for the night. You are able to swipe back in the building a few minutes after the staff leaves.

A copy room is available (also only during business hours) in the library. You will need to bring cash (bills not change) to "charge" your account. Easy to follow instructions are located next to the bill acceptor. Each copy machine has a screen to enter your log-in ID and password in order to make copies at 5 cents per copy. The new scanners will email you a pdf of what you scan for FREE, or you can save the pages to a flash-drive FREE!

Computers/Software/Email

You will have a required tablet PC which you must purchase the summer before classes begin. More information will be released from the Student Services Offices during the summer. However, the main point here is that computers are very important in Vet school. Classes will use electronic quizzes/exams, viewing slides in histo and path on Aperio, and it sure saves a lot of paper if you can take notes on your computer instead of printing off all the notes. In addition you will have a great resource in clinics to search your notes quickly.

There are some great note-taking programs you may want to play with and get used to before classes start ie. OneNote or the alternative, Growly Notes (for Mac users). In fact, I definitely recommend getting acquainted with them prior to vet school starting, seeing as many of my classmates utilize them. It took some of them almost a month to figure them out but found it to be a blessing.

Also, please remember to back up your notes and important documents through the semester! Technology mishaps happen and you don't want to be the one to lose everything before an exam. Although if you do, I guarantee all of your classmates will help you out!

Students have 24-hour access to the computer labs. Many people still use outside web-based servers (AOL, Hotmail, etc) and set up their Purdue account to send their mail to their internet account (e.g. Hotmail's POP mail). **Take caution when forwarding your Purdue email account to another email server. Student Services sends many important emails to students with document attachments, which are rejected by many web-based email suppliers. The resulting emails are sent back to Student Services and it makes their jobs difficult. Dr. Weisman and his staff work very hard to make our lives better, so please help them out.**

What books are worth purchasing and/or using?: The Good and the Bad

BMS 801, Anatomy:

Evans, *Miller's Guide to Dissection of the Dog*, 5th ed.

- ◆ Required for lab (bold type = course objectives)
- ◆ This is a book you will consistently refer to, even 3rd year
- ◆ **A must buy!! You will use this book very often!**

BMS 802, Comparative Anatomy:

Dyce, *Textbook of Veterinary Anatomy*

- ◆ Comprehensive, good comparative anatomy
- ◆ Multipurpose – can be utilized in several classes
- ◆ Decent diagrams and pictures (remember on the newest edition has COLOR pictures)
- ◆ Can be a little wordy, difficult to read, but has it all
- ◆ Highly utilized by Dr. Huse: He requires it and assigns reading in here. It isn't necessary to read, but he's obviously following it so it might be a good idea (although some describe it as “useless”)

Koning and Liebich, *Veterinary Anatomy of Domestic Animals*

- ◆ Absolutely the best comparative anatomy book
- ◆ Fantastic color comparative pictures
- ◆ Really nice neuro component in addition to the excellent comparative anatomy

- ◆ Downside is that it is \$500.00, so maybe only purchase if Dyce isn't cutting it for you.
- ◆ There are two copies in the library
- ◆ Dr. Huse highly recommended it

Pasquini, *Anatomy of Domestic Animals*

- ◆ Lots of supplemental clinical information
- ◆ Many found it very useful for many classes, others got along great without it
- ◆ Great coloring pictures & comparative anatomy. Recommended even first semester
- ◆ Often has different names, and has some errors, so make sure this is not your only resource.

BMS 807/808: Histology:

Bloom & Fawcett, *A Textbook of Histology*

- ◆ Best text for BMS 807
- ◆ Very good book
- ◆ Quite wordy, but it has it all (for first semester at least, it doesn't have comparative system histology)
- ◆ The bookstore doesn't carry it (out of print), so find it on the internet
- ◆ **Recommended for a good, detailed text of histology**
- ◆ Many prefer the "Concise" version to the long one

Dellman, *Textbook of Veterinary Histology*

- ◆ Best text for BMS 808
- ◆ Short, sweet & to the point (missing some good details, but pretty good on comparative information)
- ◆ Much of the lecture material comes from this one, especially second semester.
- ◆ Chapters are helpful for other classes as well.
- ◆ New edition has color pictures, which are much more useful than black & white.
- ◆ Dr. Hullinger wrote the Endocrine chapter, so you know he follows that quite closely...
- ◆ **Required for class, we HIGHLY recommend!!**

Bacha, *Color Atlas of Veterinary Histology*

- ◆ Histology slide pictures in this book are useful
- ◆ Ok but not as highly used as Gartner & Hiatt (below).
- ◆ Not widely used by our class.

Gartner & Hiatt, *Color Atlas of Histology*

- ◆ Very helpful for lab!
- ◆ Fantastic color pictures which follow course material quite well!
- ◆ Buy the one with the CD, its helpful for class & lab.

Gilbert, *Developmental Biology*

- ◆ Significant part of this Histology class is developmental material.
- ◆ An embryology reference that is helpful for Histo.
- ◆ Good charts, tables and diagrams-but the text is not so good.
- ◆ Bottom line: it's useful, but not useful enough to buy for Histo – ask your Big Sib to borrow it (if available) or use the copy available in the library.

Alberts, *Molecular Biology of the Cell* (AKA "The Cell")

- ◆ Dr. Andrisani's Bible, but you only use it for the first exam
- ◆ Most of the first exam is from this one.
- ◆ You can use the newest or previous edition of this book for class
- ◆ Figures can also be copied in the library or you can check out the figures on disks.
- ◆ Some people say it is not really worth buying, ask your big sib if you want it

Kierszenbaum, *Histology and Cell Biology: An Introduction to Pathology*

- ◆ Nice take on histology, has some good information not really found in other books
- ◆ Not many use it, but one classmate told me this book was what kept her from failing

There are other books out there that people have found to work better for them, and some people get by without using any books at all. I recommend using a couple different books (Dellman's and Bloom & Fawcett) and pooling what is presented in each.

BMS 811/812: Physiology:

Berne & Levy, *Principles of Physiology*

- ◆ Required reading and used by profs (though not the best)
- ◆ Very detailed chapters, sometimes much more in depth than we cover in class
- ◆ Useful on night when you cannot fall asleep

Guyton, *Textbook of Medical Physiology*

- ◆ Other physiology sections utilize this book
- ◆ Wait and see before buying it
- ◆ **Better than Berne & Levy**
- ◆ Reading level is in between that of Berne & Levy and Cunningham.
- ◆ Used often by our class, will be useful throughout your career.

Cunningham, *Textbook of Veterinary Physiology*

- ◆ Superficial but gives a good understanding of the material; start here if you are confused.
- ◆ However, Dr. Nour does tend to like this book though
- ◆ Not recommended by most other professors because it doesn't go into a lot of detail.

Boron and Boulpaep, *Textbook of Medical Physiology*

- ◆ Super detailed, more in depth than the rest.
- ◆ Great for getting to the very bottom, and has quantitative aspects to it as well
- ◆ Not necessary, but I used it quite a bit

BMS 815: Veterinary Neuroscience

deLahunta and Glass, *Veterinary Neuroanatomy and Clinical Neurology*

- ◆ This is available FREE online through Purdue library ebooks, once you have a Purdue email account, so no need to buy it.
- ◆ <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/book/9780721667065>
- ◆ **THE BEST book for neuro, deLahunta is the man**

Dewey, *A Practical Guide to Canine and Feline Neurology*

- ◆ A really nice resource, but not necessary unless you really like neuro

CPB 853: Immunology

Parham, *The Immune System*

- ◆ This class is hard, so reading in depth and having a solid understanding is a really good idea, and this is the book he recommends (I haven't seen anyone really use anything else)
- ◆ Only get the most current Immuno book because this field is changing incredibly fast
- ◆ **Get it, use it**

I know classmates own books from previous Immuno courses and they tend to be pretty similar. If you already own one don't bother buying a new one. It probably has the same overall information. However, this field is constantly changing so be aware of that when studying an older book!

BMS 813: Pharmacology, VCS 804: Behavior, VCS 801/802: Husbandry, VM 825: Grand Rounds

- ◆ NONE. There are great books that may be helpful in subsequent pharm classes second year, but it isn't necessary to purchase one now.

VM 820/830: Applications and Integrations

You definitely don't need a book for this course, but the ones listed below are books you will become very familiar with (among many others) for this course. They are all available in the library and are rather expensive (other than Saunder's), so you may want to leave it at that...

Saunder's Veterinary Medical Dictionary

- ◆ Lot more applicable than the (human) medical dictionaries
- ◆ Highly recommended, Great for A&I
- ◆ Free online through the library resources

Ettinger, *Textbook of Veterinary Internal Medicine*

- ◆ Buy it if you can afford it, because it is awesome. Makes a good Christmas or birthday gift.
- ◆ Small animal
- ◆ **Best book for A&I!** - **Veterinary Bible**

Smith, *Large Animal Internal Medicine*

- ◆ Great for large animal people
- ◆ It's expensive, but totally worth it if possible

Duncan and Prasse, *Veterinary Laboratory Medicine: Clinical Pathology*

- ◆ Great book for case examples and all the Clin path

School and dissection supplies

Be forewarned that you **may be** dissecting on the first Monday of classes! More than likely you will work on bone and skeletal structure for the first week, but be prepared in case Dr. Hannon makes a change in the schedule. Make sure you have at least the minimum of dissecting equipment: a blue smock and name tag, probe, scalpel and blades, forceps and scissors. Dissecting equipment has a tendency to sprout legs and run far away, so it's a good idea to label your equipment with colored tape and your name (there is usually some available in the lab).

The bookstore puts together new dissection packs that should be completed by the time you receive the First-year bookstore supply order form, so check there for what to get.

Opinions vary widely on what exam equipment to buy. Most of these items will be on sale at the bookstore. And remember, **ophthalmoscopes** were donated and you will be sharing them with sophomores as well as **microscopes**, so you don't need to purchase these (thank goodness). Don't forget a **lock** for your locker. The Indiana Veterinary Medical Association (IVMA) and Patterson Veterinary will host the Freshmen Stethoscope Dinner at which you will receive your **Littmann Stethoscope** as a welcoming gift by the IVMA.

Buy gloves for anatomy

Make sure you have gloves for anatomy. PVSA (Purdue Veterinary Supply Association) at the Veterinary school will sell you a box of 100 latex gloves for around \$8, or a box of 200 for about \$12. PVSA is on the ground floor of Lynn Hall near the central stairway and is open most days at lunch. This option will be included on your order forms for books and supplies. You will probably go through more than 200 gloves in a year. For some of the more odorous/grimy days involving gloves, or if you are allergic to latex, nitrile gloves may be the best choice. The first few dissections in anatomy are quite juicy, so we recommend double-gloving.

Ok, so how thrifty can I really be?

In review, here is a list of the absolute MIMIMUM baseline of books and supplies we recommend you purchase for your first semester (and where to buy them in parentheses):

- ◆ Smock (bookstore)
- ◆ Coveralls (bookstore)
- ◆ Gloves (bookstore)
- ◆ Dissection equipment (bookstore)
- ◆ Rubber boots for large animal stuff (anywhere, not available in the bookstore)
- ◆ Digital thermometer (bookstore)
- ◆ Penlight (bookstore)
- ◆ Percussion hammer (bookstore)
- ◆ Suture board (bookstore)
- ◆ Miller's Dog Dissection Guide Anatomy (anywhere, good price at bookstore)
- ◆ Dellman's Histology Book (anywhere)
- ◆ deLahunta's FREE online book (online)

"Get something to make your stethoscope stand out, we all end up with free black Littmanns from the stethoscope dinner, dog tags and charms work great."

"Lots of big binders (2" – 3"), colored pens/pencils, 4-color pens, lots of paper."

"Ask your vet for some of their old stuff."

"Buy a lot of binders – you are going to have enough paper to create a couple of trees."

"If you need a new backpack or lunchbox, hold off for the new ones you get for free at the beginning of the year. "

The Inside Scoop on Classes

Ok, this is what you've been wondering all summer: what are the classes like? Are they really that hard? Which ones do I have to really worry about? What if I don't do well? Are the professors mean? Well, here's our take...

But first, realize that you are about to be given a lot of information. Take it all with a grain of salt and try not to become overwhelmed! Remember you have your big sibs and they will give you the ins and outs of every class/professor when you start in the fall. So feel free to read the advice ahead, or else wait and ask your big! Either way, here you go...

First, every class has its own style, as with all the classes you've taken so far. Some people really like one style, but hate another, but this may be flipped for someone else.

All the professors are truly great people and experts in their own way, despite how they may come off in class. It's time to leave your undergrad behavior behind you and remember to be respectful and polite, you are in PROFESSIONAL school now! Many times all you need to do is approach them and they will be more than willing to help you with anything. A lot of faculty actually want YOU to take the initiative and come talk to them. As with classes, all the professors are different, so get used to it. Questions on exams and exam formats will be different, so get used to it. Try not to complain to them. If you, as a class, feel something needs to be brought up to them, you will have Class Representatives that should address the professors on behalf of the entire class. The last thing that will help is 80+ students complaining about the same thing!

- ◆ FYI: If something from a previous exam or a previous semester (or even year) pops up on an exam, don't freak out on the professor. Because guess what, you should have known it! We are learning for a profession, not an exam, so all the material is fair game!

There is another important point in that last example: focus on learning the material for your career instead of just studying for exams. This may take a bit of getting used to for some of you (trust me, we were all undergrads once....). It really helps if you try and do a little for a couple classes a day. Repetition will help you remember all the information and by doing a little each day you will stay current with your lectures (rather than cramming all the material for just one class into your head before an exam). This will make your life much easier, and it is the only way possible to survive later on so get in the habit. Keep using old stuff so it stays fresh in your head!

First year classes are basically all the 'normal' components of the animals. You may get weary/anxious not getting enough 'medicine', but remember you have to know normal before you can properly understand abnormal. Plus, A & I gives you that little 'I'm a doctor' high that we all look for early on, so you won't starve. This is the easiest year, so develop and make good study habits, friends, and have a good time!

BMS 801: Anatomy

This class uses the dog as the model. Anatomical structures are learned by lecture powerpoints given by Dr. Hannon, fixed-tissue dissections of dogs, and radiographs (primarily bone structures). Study the notes, read the book, do the dissections and know structures inside and out. This class is pretty self-explanatory. There are both written and lab exams. Written exams have a lot of conceptual (e.g. where are structures located on a cross-section?) and applied (e.g. if a dog is lame and flicking it's front paw forward as compensation, what nerve is likely damaged?) questions, whereas the lab portion is mostly identification of your dissections and

radiographs (with a few applied questions added in there). The exam format is similar in BMS 802, but Dr. Huse's style is different (second semester anatomy).

This is the advice we were given:

"You will leave the anatomy lab smelling just like it – equal parts baking soda and shampoo gets the stink out of your hair. Bring extra clothes to change into for anatomy unless you enjoy the smell of death all day."

In reality: Few people change clothes...

BMS 802: Comparative Anatomy

Based on what you learned 1st semester on the dog, you will expand on that knowledge comparatively, focusing on differences between different companion and food animals commonly encountered in American veterinary medicine. Dissections are usually based on cats, goats, horses, and cattle (we also have more dogs to use for comparison). Classmates within your dissection groups are responsible for teaching each other the structures on the animal they dissected. Dr. Huse gives 1 lecture per week; the rest of the time is spent in the dissection laboratory. It is very dissection oriented, and you will likely have to spend more time outside of class in the lab (than in 1st semester). Dr. Huse also give 'Questions to Ponder': Definitely do these thoroughly and understand them because he focuses on that material for the written portion of exams.

"Anatomy second semester requires a lot more out of class work than first semester so don't expect to get everything you need from class time. And make friends with your classmates and work together."

"Know the individual structures, their purpose, and how they fit in the big picture. Differences between species are a result in differences of diet and how they attain their food, i.e. hunting vs. grazing."

BMS 807/808: Histology:

Dr. Hullinger has been here forever, and has probably taught most veterinarians that you know that graduated from Purdue. Point: he is a great resource and has a wealth of knowledge to share, and he loves to share it with you if you seek it. You are going to here complaining from upperclassmen, and hear horror stories about this class, but this class really isn't that bad. Dr. Andrisani lectures for the first few, covering more molecular cellular material (e.g. signaling, transport, etc.). She follows 'The Cell' directly, and this book is a great supplement if you aren't grasping what she is talking about. When Dr. Hullinger starts lecturing, it will be a shocker like no other: 90% of his lectures consist of him standing up in the front of the room with colored chalk, drawing developmental progressions, histological relationships, and physiological processes. It can be quite confusing, but you CAN gain a LOT from him. My best advice is to watch and listen to his videos prior to attending class. These videos will give you a little background on what he talks about, that way you aren't completely lost in the drawing and the information flowing out of his head. The videos are online, you will get that information once class starts. It is often really tough to find time to do your readings BEFORE that lecture is given, but I think if you can do that it will be especially useful for this class. It really helps you focus and not zone out during lecture: considering the incredible amount of material you have to get through before an exam, think of sitting in lecture as 1 more time going through that material to try and make it stick.

For labs, we have a new software system called Aperio, which is an online microscope database system for viewing slides. Bringing your laptop/tablet to Histology lab will allow you to view the slides on your computer instead of using your microscope. I highly recommend using both, because second year you will use your microscope EVERY DAY, so figuring out how to use it effectively will be to your advantage. Also, benefits such as zooming through the planes of a tissues (very helpful in identifying cell types) are lost with the Aperio system. Also, **If you wish, you can get a copy of these slides on a writeable DVD by giving two blank writable DVD to the medical illustration department (downstairs of Lynn Hall G226) see Curt Sherwin 765-496-6699 sherwin@purdue.edu. (do this before school starts).**

First semester involves more basic structures (connective tissue, epithelial tissue, bone, muscular tissue, etc.), while second semester is a little more organized by system (endocrine, gastrointestinal, etc.). But everything builds on itself, so stay up on all the material. His exams consist solely of true and false questions, but don't let that fool you, his questions are difficult, extremely. He expects a lot of integration from other things you should know, so physio-type information will appear and you'll have to integrate knowledge. There is always a lab portion to the exams as well, involving identification of tissues, cells, structures, etc. There are also things called composites, but you'll hear more about that later, plenty more...

Historically, this is the big remediation class (along with Immunology), so put the time in to make sure you pass. Nobody wants to come back for the summer and spend a bunch of money to take another final exam. Don't fret about it, it is totally do-able, but you will have to put in the effort. The VSRC reviews for this class will be quite helpful, so take advantage of those.

"Histology is possible. Don't listen to anyone saying it is not worth studying for because then you won't study and it will seem impossible. The videos help! Watch them! Every medical or veterinary student has to take histology so there are a lot of references out there. But at the end of the day don't be concerned as long as your grade is passing. While some do very well in histo, it's ok if you only *just* pass. Seriously, a C can be a great accomplishment in this class!"

"This is an overwhelming class, taught in a non-traditional way (or non-modern way actually). Find a way to study that works for you. Reading is very important. Visuals are very helpful for visual learners. Search for diagrams, drawings, figures, etc., anything that helps you learn. Remember in histology the whole point is that STRUCTURE = FUNCTION."

BMS 811 Physiology:

The first semester of physiology is taught by Dr. Nour, and he covers blood, muscle, fluids briefly, some other things, and a whole bunch of digestion. He is a wonderful professor, respect him and he will indeed respect you! This is one course where there is actually points from something other than exams... He has little wikipedia assignments (really dumb, but just do it and be thankful for the easy points). There are also weekly quizzes. Study for these, because at 10 points apiece they really add up, and it will help keep you on top of the material. Lastly, make sure to do his reading assignments, they tend to help you be prepared for exams!

BMS 811 Physiology:

Physio second semester is a collaboration of professors and subjects, and you will feel like you are starting the semester over every other month. Do your best to be open minded at the start of every section and be willing to be flexible in your study habits for each section. You start with cardio and Dr. Harbin. She is not a DVM, so there isn't a ton of clinical application, but everything you will need for future applications is presented. Many people do not take it the right way, which seems to turn many people off of the subject, so think about how it is important clinically and make the most of it rather than pissing and moaning (it won't help). She gives a large note set, and that is really all you'll need. Don't be intimidated by her mathematical approach: the cardiovascular system is very mathematical so just think through the equations and understand each component. Pay attention and be involved with the labs for this section, they truly will help you better grasp the information, especially in a clinical manner. Dr. Green (our wonderful cardiologist) will likely be more than willing to give a few 'extra' lectures or help sessions to help clear up some of the more difficult aspects (especially clinical ones, like the ECG).

Next up you have the renal/respiratory exam. Dr. Adams loves his kidneys, and he is a great internist! He teaches from his brain not from a book so go through his powerpoints and the nice note set he posts. For Dr. Adams (and renal as a topic), make sure you know what everything means and WHY. His questions are really involved, as is the topic in general, and you have to THINK through them, not just regurgitate information. His exam is historically the toughest this semester in physio, and part of that can be contributed to Dr. Couetil and his respiratory section. He also seems to teach from his brain, and his powerpoints are quite poor in helpfulness. Basically you will have a hundred symbols and equations without any definition of what is what, so you're going to have to read the book for this section. Don't be afraid, but the average is usually quite low on his portion of the exam. Read a physio section out of Cunningham or another one of the books listed above, and be able to use the equations. Basically, if you are given a problem and you can solve it by manipulating the equations, you'll do just fine (so know what the variables mean!!!).

Third quarter you get Dr. Hullinger for more hours of the day for endocrine physiology. Histo and physio start to become a blur, especially when he starts drawing on the board again... Dr. Andrisani also gives some more lectures. For physio, however, Dr. Hullinger actually posts notes for you! Read the notes, but then study important details! It will help to go through the endocrine section of a more details physiology book, so try and do that (they especially help add meat to Andrisani's lecture powerpoints). Once again, the exam is all true and false, with similar style questions as in histology.

Finally you have Dr. Asem, another awesome guy! He loves his reproduction, and he will give you a wonderfully organized packet of notes. It is fairly detailed, but the notes are sufficient. His exams consist of a lot of 'all of the above' or answers 'B and C', so even though it is multiple choice you need to know your stuff.

BMS 815: Veterinary Neuroscience

This is such a cool class, a favorite of many! Dr. Packer is only in her 4th year teaching it, but she has done a wonderful job at making it everything we could want in a neuro course as a student. There is great material, and great clinical application (a huge focus in this class). Go to labs, because they are often case-based and are a lot of fun. The class is also very helpful for other classes, as you learn how to localize CNS lesions and you learn transduction pathways (need to know for physical exams), so soak it up. The mid-term is take home, but it is quite detailed so don't wait until the last day to work on it. The final isn't bad, mostly multiple choice. Enjoy this class, it's really fun!

“Neuro is fun and complicated. Go to the labs, ask questions, and utilize the AMAZING professor we have here.”

CPB 853: Immunology

Ok, Immuno is a pain for most. Material is so important, professors are great and actually the material seems pretty ok, but the tests are pretty hard. Dr. Snyder is a genius, and he always thinks that we over-think the exam questions (a lot of times this is true), but they are quite difficult in a way as well. If you've have an immuno class, don't come in thinking you are going to breeze by this course; I have seen a student with a Ph.D. in Immuno get a B!!! But it's doable, and people get A's. Just be sure to spend a lot of time on this course, especially for 2 credit hours.

“Immunology is not fun or easy. One day it will probably be useful. For now, just study hard.”

BMS 813: Principles of Pharmacology

This is really introductory pharmacology, a lot of equations, dosage, industry, theory. Kind of boring really. The first exam isn't bad at all, but people tend to do much worse on the final, so don't lose this class in the hustle of the rest. The exams are mostly multiple choice, and I think he is going completely towards this because of the increased number of students. Do well on the weekly quizzes to give yourself a cushion for the final!

“Pharm is a little random but Dr. Coppoc loves to teach so he is always willing to help.”

VCS 804: Behavior

Alright, so many people were frustrated with this course because the material seemed really 1-sided (in terms of the proper ways to train animals), but it is useful. For example, most problems involving animals and the clinic are related to behavior and how they were raised, and you can condition animals to not be afraid of coming to visit you. Dr. Ogata is really nice and wants you to do well. She tends to change exam format during the semester depending on what you as a class prefer (multiple choice vs short answer). The exams weren't bad at all, just study the lectures and you'll be fine.

VCS 801/802: Husbandry

Alright, Dr. Hill. He is a great guy, but this course can be a little frustrating. Before we even talk about the bad, please just remember 2 things: 1) this is a great opportunity to actually work with animals before clinics and really learn your techniques and examination skills (e.g. physical, neuro, ortho, ophtho) for all the species, and 2) it is easy, so enjoy the break from the books.

This course isn't the most tightly organized. Dr. Hill seems to spend 8-hours every day struggling in a life-long battle with Blackboard (our online class network for the professors to post our notes, grades, etc.). He hates it, and it hates him. He's a really nice guy, sometimes seems a bit vulgar and bitter (the British in him I guess?), but he really is very nice. He also isn't afraid to give you crap, and it's best to give it right back; he likes to joke that way.

This course used to be taught by Dr. Hill and Bill Reese (the sweetest man and vet-tech you will ever meet). However, sadly Bill retired this spring. It seems that now Dr. Fulkerson is taking over Bill's spot. She is wonderful, really balances out Dr. Hill so get to know her and utilize her time wisely because she does have several other responsibilities here at PVM! Amanda and Mindy are two of the sweetest girls you'll ever meet, and they will be your go-to people when things get hectic in this course.

The material is at large hands on. Your labs involve things like aseptic technique, accreditation, injections and other techniques, bandaging, all types of exams as mentioned above, animal handling, suturing, farrier-related stuff, and much more. Lecture material involves nutrition, milking, industry, breeds, and a bunch more stuff. His written exams are pretty random, as are his little breed quizzes. And it doesn't help that he is fighting Blackboard even more to try and make everything online. But, it is a good idea and he'll figure it out sooner or later. There are also small animals orals and large animals orals. These are practical exams where you will have to demonstrate (from a random draw) some of the techniques you have learned throughout the year. People tend to freak out/anxiety is at an all time high for these, but try to avoid this because they are very fair and all the evaluators want you to do well and will help you during the exam if you need it!

Another portion of this class is that we have dogs to take care of. These are the dogs that we use during labs. They will have to be walked and some have medication that will have to be administered. This is a fun time to actually deal with the animals we love and cool thing is, all the dogs are up for adoption! Many, many students adopt their dogs (or any of the dogs really); my class found homes for every dog!

Overall this course gives you a ton of information you will use for the rest of your career. Don't get frustrated and push it all off. Remember it's all cumulative, and there is also another Husbandry class 4th semester that is cumulative from here as well. But I guess I shouldn't have to say that because all of vet school is cumulative right!?

“Play along in husbandry. Like it or not the class is a great break from the strenuous other courses and it gives you a chance to interact with live animals and learn practical skills. That aspect is such a privilege, many schools do not provide that opportunity. Don't waste your time angry or ranting just enjoy your only “easy” class in vet school.”

VM 825: Grand Rounds

This isn't really a class, it's just a morning lecture from a visitor about something random like study abroad, diversity, etc. Just go because attendance is mandatory and your only points. Also, please be respectful while speakers are talking (especially guest lecturers), put your books and study material away for the time being and listen to the (usually) amazing talks!

VM 820/830: Applications and Integrations

Finally, A and I. This class rocks, if you make the most of it. Basically what happens is that you have a group of 7 classmates, and a tutor (one of the vets), and you work through cases. The way to work through cases is very systematic and they will teach you that. You will begin to learn your Clinical pathology, diagnostics, begin making differential diagnoses, among many other things. It's really fun, you get to play doctor and solve the case! Throughout the case you will come across terms, topics, mechanisms, etc. that you don't know. These become 'Learning Issues', and your group will divide them up at the end of class. That person will then be responsible for researching in depth that learning issue and teaching it to the rest of the group at the beginning of the next class.

There are regular written exams (2) and an oral exam. The written exams are based on the case material and the final sheet of compiled learning issues. During orals you are presented with a case, alone, without resources, and you have 42 minutes to work through the case and 30 minutes for the oral interview with 2 clinicians. During the 42 minutes, you will have to make a problem list, identify learning issues, think of 4-5 detailed mechanisms for the primary presenting problem, and interpret the diagnostic tests. It is great preparation for 4th year and real life, so work hard at them. When studying for orals, don't just sit around and try to memorize detailed mechanisms for every presenting sign and symptom you can think of. It is better to train yourself to THINK through the creating of a differential and of the mechanisms explaining why they are on your list. They are stressful, but just relax and tell them everything you know (it is quite a lot whether you know it or not).

“Many veterinary programs don’t have an opportunity like this class, especially for first years. Take advantage of this amazing opportunity!”

Life As a Vet Student

We're so engaged on doing things to achieve purposes of outer value [like passing your classes] that we forget the inner value [like the journey, and fun], the rapture that is associated with being alive, is what it is all about.

- Joseph Campbell

It's very easy to let the little world of the veterinary school become your whole life. Don't let that happen – **YOU NEED TO MAKE TIME FOR PEOPLE & ACTIVITIES THAT ARE OUTSIDE THE VETERINARY SCHOOL.** The University is a large and diverse place; take advantage of the activities, clubs, and groups on campus and in the larger community. You will need to work hard to *make* time for these things.

Get some exercise. Be it karate club, a run, or a game of volleyball, physical activity can really help when your head is spinning from trying to assimilate hundreds of new anatomy terms and those loveable histo slides. You pay for the athletic facilities at the Co-Rec (athletic complex) in your student fees anyway; you may as well use them. You will **need** to take breaks from being a dedicated studying machine. Also, there comes a point late at night when you hit rock bottom, and trying to stay awake because you have so much more to do is not effective. **GO TO SLEEP!**

Relationships

We all know that relationships take work. Well in vet school it is extra tough. You will have a lot less quality time to give your significant other, and I'm sure stress will cause you to be a little less pleasant than normal during some of that little, precious time. Be sure you TELL your significant other that vet school is going to occupy a TON of your time! Don't let them figure it out on their own (especially if it is right around the first round of exams...this doesn't help to simplify ANYTHING!!! The truth is that unless they (and this goes from friends and family as well) have gone through what you are about to go through, they will have no idea how demanding it is. And you will not be able to explain it. It is best to prepare them as well as you can.



A Significant Other's Perspective

- ◆ "Make time for each other – it can be a great stress reliever!" - and failing can be a great source of stress...."
- ◆ "Maintaining a relationship while in vet school is *hard!* Good luck!"
- ◆ "Talk as much as possible. Try to have a weekly (monthly?) date night."
- ◆ "Give 100% support! Your significant other won't *always* be so stressed out!"
- ◆ "Talk, Talk, Talk; Patience, Patience, Patience!"
- ◆ "Some significant others schedules allow them come to Lynn Hall to share the lunch hour, which is a nice way to spend time together."
- ◆ "Vet school can be a strain on relationships because it demands so much time. Spending an extra couple of hours each week on a relationship may be more beneficial in the long run than spending it studying more."
- ◆ "A support group or a friend to confide in is essential for Vet school survival at times."
- ◆ "Communication is the key to every relationship."
- ◆ "Make time to hang out or talk on the phone regularly – many times it's more important than studying."
- ◆ "Try to involve them in your life here."
- ◆ "Patience and understanding on both sides is critical."
- ◆ "For long distance relationships, plan visits around exams – write, email, and call for the time in between. And SKYPE! Its free video chats, and it works wonderful. It's a great way to 'see' eachother. Keep a pattern, call every night before you go to sleep, or when you're walking home from class."

The "30 and Over" Club

Don't worry--you're not alone! It's not hard to blend in. Lots of us are career-changers returning to school. Be patient; you've got lots of great classmates and colleagues of all ages and stages. You will develop enough in common with your classmates that you will feel comfortable with the younger crowd. Give yourself time to adjust to being a full-time (and then some!) student again. Hang in there...it gets easier!

Your pets

Besides the difficulties of finding a place to live that will allow pets, you will have to leave them home all day; **pets are not allowed** in the school building during the day.

There are perks, though. Animal food and drug companies court veterinary students. You will get your share of company-provided pens, mugs and free candy. Purina, and Hills pet foods are available at Pet Food Sales for a reduced price, but both companies give away free food every month or every other month.

Since your tuition dollars fund much of the teaching hospital, it's only fair that you get substantial discounts (50% off physical examination fees, everything else varies) at the hospital and the pharmacy. If your pet needs care for a specific problem, it's worth asking around for the best doctor to see. You can also try to get free advice from your professors (try to ask the ones with clinical experience).

There are some great parks to run, walk, hike, and play with your dogs: Wabash Heritage Trail (access it off 9th Street); Horticulture Park (it's "Doggie Heaven" around 5PM daily); Ross Park; Happy Hollow Park; Fort Quiatenon; Celery Bog on Lindberg Road; Libolt Sports Complex (fenced in baseball fields); campus fields. Perhaps you'll want to set up "doggie daycare" with other classmates' dogs. If you don't have a pet, but are looking for one, you will have plenty of opportunity to adopt animals here!!

If you need help finding a place to board your horse(s), inquire in the large animal hospital or contact members of Purdue's Equine Club (Kiersten Wiley, kwiley@purdue.edu)

Finally, small animals make great pets too: guinea pigs, ferrets, hedgehogs, hamsters, snakes, lizards, gerbils, birds, etc. are often well tolerated by landlords and may easily handle getting less attention due to your busy school schedule.

- ◆ "If you don't have one, there will be PLENTY of opportunities for you to get one (or five) here."
- ◆ "They love you even if you did poorly on a test."
- ◆ "Makes practicing surgery convenient." – that's obviously a joke. But they are great for physical, neuro, ortho, and every other type of exam practicing!
- ◆ "You will need them around sometimes. I don't know how I would have made it through without them."

Fun Activities/Traditions

Here at the College of Veterinary Medicine, we are a Family! Therefore, there are a lot of school wide activities and traditions throughout the year. Here is a little about a few of those activities:

- Café night is a casual night of laughs early in the fall and spring semester in which the sophomores poke fun at various professors, classmates, and life in veterinary school. During this event, you will be able to join various clubs and get to know others in the school!
- Open House is a spring event where we create a fun atmosphere to teach the general public a little more about our wonderful profession. It is very kid-oriented, but the adults have a lot of fun to. We normally have booths and exhibits throughout the school, as well as a petting zoo, demonstrations, and other fun activities.
- The talent show is just what it sounds like, and is a ton of fun. The more people that participate, the more fun it is. Even many professors join in. We know you all have talent, so sign up and show us what you got!
- The fall auction is a fund-raiser where alumni come for a fun-filled evening and bid on donated items. All the money goes towards scholarships for us! There is also free food, silent auction tables (including students tables, where you can get really great textbooks for cheap!!!!), and other fund things, so be sure to come! Extra help is always needed, and the alumni could always use extra encouragement to put in one more bid!

Your Education Doesn't Just Come From the Classroom!!!

Getting an education

I have never let my schooling interfere with my education.

- Mark Twain

You may feel that you must narrow your focus and concentrate exclusively on your classwork. Don't fall into that trap - the clubs, seminars, workshops, volunteer and research opportunities will be an indispensable part of achieving your goals. Often something you hear at a talk will invigorate and motivate you, and send you back to your books with renewed enthusiasm. Just going through the coursework will not be enough to prepare you for your career as a veterinarian. While the practical realities of getting good grades and passing licensing board exams need to be taken seriously, take advantage of all the talented people around you, and make sure you explore what you want to learn. A great deal of opportunities will arise now that you are a vet student. Try to take advantage of these as often as possible.

But in physics I soon learned to scent out the paths that led to the depths, and to disregard everything else, all the many things that clutter up the mind, and divert it from the essential. The hitch in this was, of course, the fact that one had to cram all this stuff into one's mind for the examination, whether one liked it or not.

- Albert Einstein

Professional clubs

The hosts of clubs at the vet school engage in various educational, social and philanthropic activities. Most have regular meetings and invited speakers. These are a wonderful opportunity to hear about aspects of real-world vet medicine that you don't get in class. At Cafe' Night in September, the various clubs will set up booths so you can find out what they do. It usually costs around \$5 in dues to join. Clubs include emergency medicine, internal medicine, pathology, business, equine, Christian Veterinary Fellowship, and everything in between. Meetings throughout the semester offer interesting lectures from guest or in house experts, awesome wet labs, and many more opportunities to learn! Anyone can go to hear speakers presented by the clubs, but sometimes the really cool workshops are for club members only. You will be receiving a booklet later in the summer from Dan Thomassey (President of SCAVMA) regarding all the clubs.

Food and Drug Reps

Pet food and drug companies often hire student representatives to manage communication between the school and their company. This is a great way to get involved with the products we will use every day (and to make a little extra cash). Informative lunches (FREE food) and discounts something the companies provide, and reps will help organize all of this.

Conferences and Workshops

Throughout the year there are conferences around the country and workshops that may be of interest for you. Take advantage of these as well. A lot of time breaking work, new ideas, and emerging fields will be made known to you at these events, and you may find yourself with a new primary interest. They are also great opportunities for networking!

“Save up for the Spring SCAVMA Symposium. These are where memories and friendships between classes form! Plus, conferences help you remember exactly why you are here and realize how much you are learning.”

Research

If there's something out there you want to learn about, you can find a way to make it part of your education. There are many opportunities for research, and most professors will encourage exploring that field; it is why we are where we are today, and it is the only way we will move forward!!! If you want to get involved in a project but aren't sure exactly where to start, find a professor you want to work with and ask her or him for ideas. Most faculty members have lots of ideas which they themselves don't have time to work on, and one of them may be perfect for you. So drop in on a lab you're interested in and ask what's going on, or volunteer in a department of the animal hospital. Trying to get paid to do your project is difficult but not impossible. There are summer jobs and fellowships available. If what you want isn't on campus, you can make it part of an off-campus fourth-year block or volunteer with a local specialist. You can also get a ton of up to date information at veterinary conferences, and you may even understand more of the clinical lectures than you think you will. If research is an interest, maybe you would like to do anything from a small project to a Ph.D., feel free to contact Bret Moore (now a second year vet student, in the D.V.M./Ph.D. program; bamoore@purdue.edu) for some insight on how to handle doing research while in Vet school.

Learning From Each Other

You and your classmates will bring in a wide range of education, experience, and perspectives to your class. You don't need to learn everything on your own - your classmates will be great resources. Try to get to know them all; you can support each other with your different strengths and weaknesses. **Though you have undoubtedly had to be a good competitor to make it into vet school, now it will be to everyone's advantage to share their special skills and strengths.** Remember, everyone is here for the same reason. Many of your projects will be team efforts; helping each other through the rough spots will make all the difference in preparing you to succeed as a caring and competent veterinarian.

Education is not filling a bucket but lighting a fire.

--William Butler Yeats

Miscellaneous

Student Services Center of the Vet School

The School has a “one-stop” shop resource center for students of our school. The Student Services Center is on the main floor hallway (Room 1185). All of the staff is totally awesome, and are here and more than willing to help you with anything. You are encouraged to bring any questions, ask for advice, sit down to talk, or to just stop by and say hello. Dr. Weisman is the Director of Student Services. He is an alum of our School so he knows pretty much everything about everything. Dr. Weisman, as well as Connie and the rest of the Student Service Assistants, can and will do everything in their power to help you. You are encouraged to go there to ask any of your questions or to seek help. They are there to make your life better.

VSRC (Veterinary Student Resource Center)

This is a resource run by upperclassmen for underclassmen. Basically, a student that did exceptionally well in a certain class is recruited by the VSRC as a tutor. Their primary responsibility is to make review lectures before exams to help students with the material. They also can give private or group tutor sessions if they want and there is a demand. Histology seems to be the most popular in terms of attendance at reviews and tutoring, but all the VSRC course reviews are good. Take advantage of the opportunity for extra help if you need it!

Big Siblings

The one saving grace is that no one else has the time to do what they're supposed to, either.

-JN

Perhaps you think that having a **Big Sib** is a strange thing...but Purdue Veterinary students have provided this ‘service’ for many years. Why? Because it works. Your Big Sib remembers enough of first year to help you through. Call or email him / her over the summer if possible to get acquainted and get advice about books and supplies. Your Big Sib may be able to lend you or sell you some of the books you need. Ask them about housing, costs, courses, professors, whatever... if they can’t help you or point you to someone who can, call Dr. Weisman or Student Services at 765-494-7893 and they will help.

One of the best things you get from your Big Sib is the official Test File. This is a collection exams from past years. Your test file may include some questions that get asked year after year, but mainly it’s a security blanket - it gives you an idea of the level of the exams and most importantly the professors' style. You will add your exams to the file, and pass it on to the next generation next year. **Please remember that some professors do not return their tests, and that test files are not allowed for every course!! Be prepared for the exam; do not only study old exams!!! As a class, please be united in your efforts to survive and prosper during your first year in vet school, as every person in your class is here for the same reason. Keeping that in mind, share great resources you were given that maybe everyone didn't. Our class has their own googledocs, email, and facebook page that we share stuff across (including helpful links, study guides/notes we've made, etc.). You are no longer competing against each other for grades, but are brothers and sisters trying to make it through four years of intense schooling without losing ANYBODY! Learn to like your classmates!**

Parting Words of Advice From 18 Years of 1st Years Students

- ◆ "Realize that everyone is in the same boat that you are."
- ◆ "Don't kill yourself over grades. You may want to accept a B or a C instead of an A to maintain your sanity. You will enjoy vet school MUCH more."
- ◆ "The first and last person in line at graduation is still called Doctor."
- ◆ "Don't work, I couldn't possibly have worked this year. At least get in the groove of school before you get a job, and only get one if you have to."
- ◆ "It's hard and frustrating and fun. You won't believe finals (what are they thinking?) but if you work together it is doable and rewarding."
- ◆ "Save your pennies, kids. I've never been so poor in my whole life!"
- ◆ "Suck it up and don't be a whiner! We all know school is a bitch. Deal with it."
- ◆ "**Don't be a know-it-all.** Everyone comes from different knowledge backgrounds. If you know something, share, but don't talk it up like you are an expert. All that will get you is a lot of funny stares and no friends. And, no matter how much you know, you will find out quickly that you really don't know anything."
- ◆ "Keep things in perspective. Turn on CNN once in a while and note the turmoil the rest of the world is in. It will make your own personal turmoil seem microscopic in comparison."
- ◆ "I've got 2 legs and 2 arms, and nobody is trying to kill me, so what is there to worry about?"
- ◆ "You might think that there is no way that you could possibly retain ANY of what you are learning at the rate they throw it at you, but when the semester is over and the dust settles, you will be shocked at the amount of stuff you've actually learned. It's a great feeling."
- ◆ "Relax! Have lots of fun and just do your best."
- ◆ "You're not dumb; vet school is HARD! It's OK to be mediocre amongst geniuses.... Will 50% on a quiz matter in 5 years?"
- ◆ "Try to be as organized as possible."
- ◆ "Get enough sleep every night."
- ◆ "Everyone has strengths and weaknesses. Be willing to help a classmate in need; sooner or later you will need their help too. Remember at this level you're not competing against one another, you are all just trying to pass."
- ◆ "It helps to go and see the animals in the clinics to remind you of why you are putting yourself through all of this."
- ◆ "Just remember if you fail out of vet school you can always become a human doctor."
- ◆ "Vet school is hard; don't sweat an exam/grade. It will average out in the end."
- ◆ "Remember folks be an epididymis...always on the ball!"
- ◆ "Guys beware! There is estrogen in the water!"
- ◆ "You will get out of vet school what you put in...and I mean that well beyond studying. You will learn a lot and make it through but make great friends and keep them, get to know clinicians and professors, they will all make great colleagues and lifelines now and in the future."
- ◆ "Keep and open mind! It's an opportunity and time to explore and find out what you are! Join different clubs to get exposed to different industry, career fields, animals, etc!! The more open you are with your mind, the more opportunities you will get, and find out more about yourself!"

Welcome Class of 2017 and good luck!
May your odyssey begin!