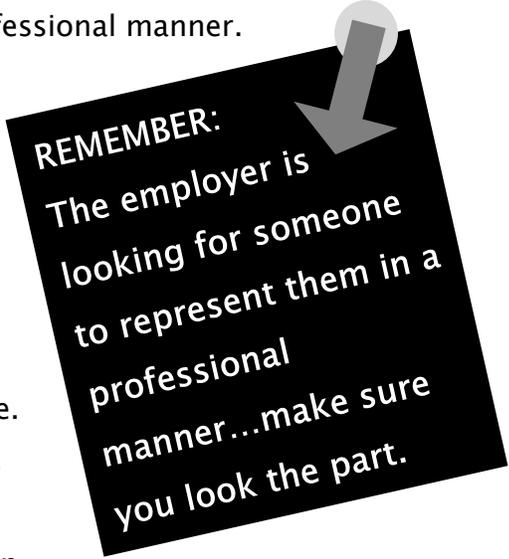


## DRESS FOR INTERVIEW SUCCESS

First impressions – whether good or bad – go a long way. Therefore, you want your first impression to be a great one! Always present yourself in a professional manner.

### 8 General Rules

1. Be clean and well groomed – hair, fingernails, facial hair, etc.
2. Have fresh breath, but don't chew gum.
3. If wearing perfume/cologne, do so sparingly.
4. Consider what piercings are visible and possibly covering tattoos as many employers prefer a traditional appearance.
5. Make sure clothes fit properly – not too tight or revealing. No strapless, or spaghetti strap shirts.
6. Wear something that you feel comfortable and confident in.
7. Items that can be handy to have: lint brush, mirror, fingernail clippers/file, comb/brush, breath mints, hairspray, and shoe polish.
8. Make sure clothes/shoes are in good shape – clean and wrinkle-free, and shoes polished.



**REMEMBER:**  
The employer is looking for someone to represent them in a professional manner...make sure you look the part.

### How do you know what is acceptable for dress?

- Consider the industry in which you are seeking employment – is it a corporate atmosphere, a private practice, large animal/food animal, wildlife/zoo? This information will give you a basis in which to start thinking about appropriate dress.
- Check out their website.
- If you've visited before, think about what the employees were wearing.
- If you don't know, you can always ASK – ask people who know the practice, others who work there, or even the person who scheduled your interview. This could be especially important to ask if it is a 'working interview'.
- If it is a 'working interview' – be sure to dress appropriately and have the appropriate items available (i.e. clean scrubs, lab coat, stethoscope, etc.).

## **Usually 'Business Casual' is acceptable for interviews, but what is business casual?**

Business Casual varies quite a bit in its definition. For small animal, it usually means one step down from formal business attire (i.e. a suit). For large animal, khakis and a polo shirt would usually be appropriate (and in some cases even more casual attire is acceptable).

\*The guidelines below outline acceptable attire for small animal medicine.

### **Women**

#### *DRESS*

- Dress pants or skirts/dresses just above or below the knee
- Blouse or sweater – conservative neckline
- Blazer or cardigan sweater
- Tights or nylons are acceptable, but so are bare legs
- Covered toe shoes – dressy flats or 1–2 inch heel (in good condition)
  - Make sure shoes are comfortable and easy to walk in
- A suit is usually optional

#### *MAKE UP AND NAILS*

- Conservative, natural look – less is more
- Polish should be neutral or no polish –remove cracked or peeling polish

#### *JEWELRY*

- Should be kept to a minimum and conservative

### **Men**

#### *DRESS*

- Nice dress slacks
- Button up dress shirt – tucked in
- Tie (may be appropriate)
- Jacket or suit is usually optional
- Dress socks that match attire – no athletic socks
- Dress shoes (in good condition)
- Belt

#### *JEWELRY*

- Watch, ring, tie clip, etc.

### **How do you know what is acceptable once you've received the job?**

- If you don't know, you can always ASK – ask people who know the practice, others who work there, or even the person who hired you or your supervisor.
- Observe others at the workplace.
- It's best to not follow the "lowest common denominator" group.