

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.