



PREPARE FOR THE INTERVIEW

Interview Topics

Be prepared to answer interview questions based on experiences gained in part-time jobs, volunteer opportunities, undergraduate internships, externships, academics and clubs that align with interview topics and the job description.

- Leadership
- Teamwork
- Communication
- Cultural Diversity
- Client Service
- Work Ethic
- A Difficult Co-Worker/Client
- Problem Solving
- Failed Task
- Tough Decision

Common Interview Questions

1. Why did you decide to become a veterinarian?
2. What does excellent client service mean to you?
3. What motivates you?
4. How do you handle stress?
5. How do you feel about euthanasia?
6. How would you handle a situation where the client couldn't pay for the services needed?
7. What are your short and long-term goals?
8. If you can't figure out a diagnosis, what would you do?
9. What special skills would you bring to our practice?
10. What is your greatest strength and weakness?
11. If I were to ask one of your professors or a boss to describe you, what would they say?
12. How do you feel about working overtime?
13. What are your salary expectations?
14. What do you do in your free time?
15. Why do you want to work for us?
16. Why should we hire you?

“Tell me about yourself” is a very common interview question that you should be ready to answer. Think about these items when formulating your “spiel”:

- Introduce yourself.
- Talk about your current student status, what species you are interested in, and your passion for veterinary medicine.
- Briefly describe your work experience.
- Touch on your extracurricular activities (club leadership roles) and/or something you've accomplished or excel at that directly relates to the position.
- Mention why you are interested in the practice/position.

Remember to keep your answer short and concise.

Questions to ask an employer

- What do you like the best about your job/the practice?
- What does a typical day look like? Number of appointments, length, type, etc.?
- What does mentorship mean to you and how is it approached?
- What is the most important expectation for this position?
- What is the practice's mission or core values?
- How do you approach clients who can't afford essential medical care?
- Are there opportunities for professional growth or continuing education?
- What challenges is the practice currently facing?
- Where would you like to see the practice grow and improve?
- What are the next steps in the hiring process?
- Will there be a working interview?

ACE THE INTERVIEW

An interview is your opportunity to showcase your abilities and experience. It is the time to prove to the employer that you capable, dependable, and the right person for the job. Sell yourself!

Before the Interview

- Find out if it is a regular or “working interview” and wear the appropriate clothing.
- Research the job you are applying for and the practice/organization/company.
- Practice answering general interview and behavioral-based questions. (See handout entitled “Behavioral-Based Interviews”. These are a common style of questions asked in interviews and they require a very specific style of response.)
- Prepare a list of your experiences that fit into different interview question topics.
- Bring a portfolio with pen and paper to take notes when appropriate during the interview.
- Take copies of your resume, references, and letters of recommendation (if you have them)
- Prepare questions to ask the interviewer.
- Arrive 10 minutes early.

During the Interview

- Make a good first impression – firm handshake, pleasant smile.
- Listen attentively, maintain eye contact, and avoid nervous mannerisms.
- Speak clearly and openly.
- Be positive, enthusiastic, and honest.
- Act polite and professional at all times.
- Take notes if and when appropriate.
- Ask 2-4 thoughtful questions at the end of the interview.

After the Interview

- Ask the interviewer for a business card.
- Thank them and show your enthusiasm for the position.
- Shake their hand.
- Send a thank you card or email within 24-48 hours.
- Follow up within a week unless a different timeframe was established.

Phone Interview Tips

- Do the interview somewhere free of distractions (at a desk, in a conference room, etc.).
- If you will be using a cell phone, do a test call to make sure you have good reception.
- Have a copy of your resume and paper for notes, as well as questions to ask at the end.
- Make sure you sound interested and enthusiastic – all they have to go by is your voice.
- Avoid filler words – they stand out more in phone interviews.
- Don’t get uncomfortable if there is a pause on the interviewer’s end of the phone – they may be writing down notes from your answers. Just wait for the next question.