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When I was ten years old, my family had a litter of puppies, and all twelve of them contracted parvovirus. Only one survived, and he is now my dog. Watching the eleven puppies that passed away struggle made me realize that I want to do everything I can to help animals when they cannot help themselves. I have always had a deep love for animals, and even before the puppies became sick, I had thought about going into the veterinary field. However, that experience confirmed my passion and pushed me more strongly toward this career path. From the research I have done on veterinary programs in Idaho, I have chosen to attend the University of Idaho to help me reach my goal. After completing my undergraduate degree, I have not yet decided where I will attend graduate school, but after speaking with Dr. Percifield at Eastern Oregon Animal Health, I hope to graduate early if possible.

My goal for my future is to become a veterinarian and, after gaining experience working for someone else, eventually open my own practice. Within my practice, I want to provide both in-clinic visits and house calls to help as many animals as possible, especially in remote areas where people may struggle to access veterinary care. I also hope to be successful enough to occasionally offer reduced pricing to those in need. When I imagine my future clinic, it has never been about money, but about making a meaningful difference. While I understand that I will not be able to save every animal, I am committed to trying my hardest to help each one.

I feel that I have already taken my first steps toward achieving my goal by job shadowing at Eastern Oregon Animal Health at least once a week. On school days, I am able to observe appointments alongside veterinary technicians, and during breaks, I stand in on surgeries. During Thanksgiving break, I observed a feline neuter and spay, as well as an emergency surgery on a corgi who had a gallbladder stone. I am also familiar with the canine labor process and caring for newborn puppies, as my family occasionally breeds Labrador retrievers and I am often responsible for caring for the puppies. Through this experience, I have learned how to administer parvo vaccinations and dewormers through hands-on practice.

After graduation, my next step will be attending the University of Idaho to study pre-veterinary medicine. I may be able to graduate early due to the college credits I have already earned. Following my undergraduate education, I plan to attend veterinary school, with Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine being a strong possibility. After completing my education, I hope to return to the Treasure Valley area to be close to my family. Professionally, my goal is to join Dr. Percifield and help grow her solo practice into a partnership.