

## **Interview Tips:**

1. Be confident about your answers and support them with logical arguments. Don't vacillate back and forth between two opinions.
2. Be honest--if you don't know something (like legislation regarding farmers protecting their herds from wolves by being able to legally shoot them--yes, I was asked about this!) then tell them you would need more information to make an informed decision or something of that nature. You may express an initial opinion, like I did when I was posed this "off the wall" question, but I was very brief and said I needed to be better informed.
3. Be prepared to explain, defend, or further elaborate on anything that you put in your letter of purpose. Be prepared to explain how your experiences (any work, school, extracurricular, research or other experiences you listed in your application) affected you, make you a good candidate, will make you a good vet, taught you something.
4. Know what issues are facing veterinarians today. Know your stance regarding controversial issues: declawing, ear cropping, tail docking etc.
5. What do you do if your technician makes a mistake? Ultimately, as the veterinarian on staff, you are responsible. Be honest with the owner.
6. They will probably ask question 24 below or something similar. Don't screw over your colleagues unless there is an issue that needs to be brought to the attention to the veterinary medical board.
7. Dress professionally (mid-length or long skirt or slacks and a jacket). I'm sure you are aware of this, but I've seen interviewees before (at other schools, mind you) come to interviews in casual clothes).
8. Send thank you emails within 2 days. If you can't remember the interviewers names or don't know their emails, ask the receptionist.

## **Interview Questions:**

Disclaimer: The interview questions are somewhat tailored to the applicant (i.e. a wildlife person might get a question regarding wildlife population control, but someone interested in small animal medicine would probably not see this question; someone who indicated a research interest might get a research oriented question), therefore not all of these questions will necessarily be applicable while some of them are more generic. However, you can be sure that they will ask questions regarding your letter of purpose so be prepared to defend anything that you included therein.

1. What got you into the veterinary profession? Why do you want to be a vet? What makes you sure you want to be a vet? How do you know?
2. What you would do (next year) if you did not get in? Will you reapply?
3. What do you think it will be like to be a vet?

4. What will you do when you get out of school? What are your career plans? Where do you see yourself in ten years? What would your ideal work situation be once you get out of school?
5. Burnout is a common problem in our profession. What will you do to avoid burnout?
6. What are your strengths and weaknesses? How will these affect your ability to be a vet? What will make you a good vet? What will you do to ensure that you are a good vet/ performing to the best of your abilities?
7. A client pulls up with a hit by car dog that will die without immediate medical attention. They only have \$50. The short term costs for caring for the animal will be much more than that, not to mention the long term costs. What do you do?
8. An owner brings in a young healthy dog and wants you to euthanize it because they will be moving out of the state. What do you do?
9. You mentioned that you have certain skills (in your letter of purpose). How will you bring this to your profession?
10. How will you use your veterinary medical degree in your field of interest?
11. It sounds like you have many varied interests (based on your letter of purpose). It will be difficult if not impossible to incorporate all of these interests into a single career. Is this a problem? How will you incorporate these interests in to your veterinary career?
12. How do you know that you have what it takes to make it through 4 years of rigorous study?
13. What will you do to further your profession?
14. Vets are often looked upon as important leaders of the community - what will you do (do you have any plans) to further this community role? What part will you play in the community?
15. Accidents happen in every profession. What if you kill an animal by accident (wrong drug, surgical mistake, overdose, etc)? What would you do?
16. Vets are often under enormous physical stress. How will you cope?
17. It is a common problem that vets have too many things to do and too little time. How do you manage your time?
18. How do you balance a hectic work schedule with the rest of your life?
19. What other extracurricular things do you do/ plan on doing?
20. By the end of vet school it is common to have loans of up to \$80 - \$90,000 but the average starting salary for vets in California is only \$50,000. How will you manage?
21. Why do you want to come to UCD vet school? What other schools did you apply to? What would be your first choice if you were accepted at several schools?
22. If you had to be one cell type (animal, vegetable, etc) - what would you be and why?

23. It sounds like most of your experience is \_\_\_\_\_, yet vet school curriculum is primarily focused on \_\_\_\_\_ related skills (small and large animal anatomy, physiology, and veterinary practices). How do you know that this is the right thing for you? Do you see this as a problem?
24. How do you react if you become aware that another vet has made a serious medical mistake or has practiced sloppy medicine on one of your clients? A client comes to you after having surgery performed by another vet. You notice that the surgery was sloppy to the point of being dangerous/ not all of a growth was removed/ the animal is sick as a result of the surgery, septic, etc/ or anything else that may or not have serious impact to the animal's health - what do you do?
25. How will you make sure that you stay up to date in your field once you have graduated?
26. There are many misconceptions about household pets and the veterinary profession. What will you do to further community / client education?
27. How do you feel about spay clinics? Vaccine clinics? Would you participate in them? What if you worked for a vet that demanded your participation?
28. How do you feel about free/low income clinics? Would you participate in them?
29. What would you do if you saw a patient that showed clear evidence of abuse?
30. How would you feel about advertising your clinic? In yellow pages, TV, newspaper? Coupons for services or products?
31. How will you deal with difficult clients?
32. What will you do if you are working for a vet that only allots 15 minutes for routine visits/physical exams?
33. With the busy schedule of a veterinarian, it is not always possible to provide a great deal of grief counseling or follow up help for clients who have lost a pet. Please comment.
34. Are you ready to give up (something that you listed as important to you in your letter of purpose/hobby) if need be because vet school is so time demanding?
35. Can you think of any reason why a small animal clinician would need to know about food animal medicine during their day to day practice? (ex: Food animal meat is in dog and cat food.)
36. A couple brought in an orange tabby cat to your clinic for weekend boarding and another couple brought in an orange tabby cat for euthanasia. Your staff euthanized the wrong animal. What will you do?
37. What would you do about the squirrel overpopulation problem on campus?
38. You are a very busy person. How did you find time to study?
39. How did your background or experiences prepare you for veterinary school?

40. What are your motivations?
41. Do you have any questions for us?
42. There is a wild boar problem in the Oakland hills destroying the property of residents. What do you do about as a wildlife vet. called to help?
43. What have you been doing since your application?
44. What makes you stand out, or why should we remember you?
45. How do you feel about teaching animals that spend their lives with their cage as their only home?
49. What happened to your grades here? (my personal favorite!)
50. You are at your 40 year vet school reunion, what do you hope to have accomplished?
51. Animals are often used in vet school in terminal surgeries and for other studies, how do you feel about that?
52. Why should we accept you over all of the other pre-vet students we are interviewing?
53. Why do you want to go into research? Why then do you want to pursue a DVM degree rather than a PhD degree?
54. Another situation: the large veterinary clinic across the street is stealing your clients that you refer them to. What do you do in this situation?
55. What activities have you been participating in since you applied?
56. What was the last book that you read?
57. What do you do like to do in your spare time?
58. Mrs. Blah Blah is old and can't take care of her healthy dog anymore and wants you to euthanize it and doesn't want anyone else to take care of it. What do you do?
59. You are requested to come help euthanize animals at the pound, but because they have no money, they use an inhumane method of killing. What would you do?
60. A breeder brings two puppies to your clinic. He will not be able to sell those puppies because they deviate somewhat from the breed requirements, but they are healthy. He asks you to euthanize them.
  - a. What would you do?
  - b. This breeder is one of your top clients, would you be willing to lose him over this?
  - c. The breeder tells you that he'll just go home and drown them, what would you do?
61. What do you think a vet's role is in the community?

62. Convince us that you won't drop out halfway through the program.
63. What would you do with the pitbull in the San Francisco dog mauling case?
64. What do you do to blow off steam?
65. How will you deal with people on the other side of the animal rights issue?
66. What 3 qualities that you have seen in other veterinarians would you most like to emulate?  
Why do you feel these qualities are important?
67. Is there a difference (to you) between animal rights and animal welfare? Explain how they are different.
68. How do you feel about terminal surgery?
69. What do you think is the hot topic in veterinary medicine today?
70. What was a source of great conflict and how did you resolve it?
71. I see that you've been doing research in \_\_\_\_ why do you feel it is important for veterinarians to be familiar with it?
72. Describe what kind of person you are and what that represents to your peers.
73. What was your best and worst experience at Clinic x?
74. When performing a painful procedure on a lab animal, at what point do you terminate the procedure due to the animal's pain? What behavioral signs do you look for?
75. What is your feeling about drugs?
76. Do you know the routine vaccinations for dogs?
77. What would you do if a client came in for a recheck and you think the original doctor (a coworker) misdiagnosed the condition? What if after running diagnostics you still think the diagnosis was wrong? What if the other doctor doesn't think that their diagnosis was wrong? What would you tell the client? What if the client is a registered nurse and knows the two conditions should not have been confused (liver deficiency and diabetes)? What if she is not happy?
78. What would you do if a client's animal dies in the cage after surgery and the surgeon tells you to call the client and tell them it died on the table? What if the surgeon won't call? What if they are the owner of the clinic?
79. What if a client comes in to euthanize a perfectly healthy animal? What if you know one of your techs loves this dog and would take it in a heartbeat? What if they still want to euthanize the dog?
80. Are you a vegetarian? You are going to be attending class with a lot of vegetarians who may not look positively on your background, how will you handle this?

81. Your grades are a little low, how do we know you will be able to handle the rigors of veterinary school? What if you still find yourself behind? What if you are still having problems?
82. Ethical question concerned an older couple who were moving to an extended care facility and could not take their 10 yr. old, healthy, small dog with them. As their vet, they know me and trust me and want to euthanize their pet. What would I do?
83. If I could also pursue my area of interest via another route, why did I want to pursue it by becoming a veterinarian? (ie: if interested in research, why not a PhD?)
84. Do you know about any current legislative initiatives that may impact veterinarians? And how do you feel about such legislation? How do these affect a veterinarian's right to make medical recommendations that may be the best for a client? Such as banning cat-declawing, ear cropping, legalization of ferrets etc...
85. What was the best part of your experience working at \_\_\_\_\_ (vet clinic, research lab, etc.)? The worst?