

# Specialized Training

## in Nebraska benefits Nebraskans

Story by Patrice Scott

**A** Nebraska specialty hospital offers K-State veterinary students experiences that will last a lifetime.

Midwest Veterinary Specialty Hospital (MidWestVET), a satellite of the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital at K-State, is a referral-only specialty hospital in Omaha, Neb. In addition to providing specialty care for pets in Nebraska, Iowa and Kansas, MidWestVET offers unique academic opportunities for veterinary students. Two graduates from the Class of 2010 share their insights as both are from Nebraska and returned to their home state to practice.

Dr. Jonathan Winter, with Countryside Veterinary Clinic in Fairbury, and Dr. Cameron Duncan, with Red Willow Animal Clinic in McCook, detail the lasting effects of these training opportunities. Dr. Winter completed a two-week rotation in Omaha, which included a week at the Animal Emergency Clinic (AEC) located next door and a week at MidWestVET. Dr. Duncan completed one four-week rotation and one two-week rotation at MidWestVET and AEC along with rotations at the Henry Doorley Zoo and the Nebraska Humane Society.

Both appreciated the remarkable one-to-one student/teacher ratio with MidWestVET surgeon and Nebraska native, Dr. Mike Thoesen. "Dr. Thoesen is a really great teacher," Dr. Winter says. "He expects you to do the work and guides you through it. He does what is needed to make you become a better veterinarian. This experience definitely enhanced my ability to perform orthopedic exams."

Dr. Duncan explains that every day brought new patients, which translated into new teaching opportunities. "Students are expected to be well prepared for the cases, so I researched and studied at MidWestVET," Dr. Duncan says. "Dr. Thoesen allows students to be very involved in the cases. I learned from each one, and with such a low student to teacher ratio, my questions could be answered thoroughly."



Photo courtesy of Fairbury.com

Dr. Jonathan Winter and patient, Molly, at Countryside Veterinary Clinic in Fairbury.

There are also major differences between training opportunities at the teaching hospital versus MidWestVET. "The teaching hospital is large with students, staff and faculty with designated responsibilities," Dr. Winter says. "In a private specialty hospital, there are fewer people, which translates into heightened accountability. This turned out to be one of the best rotations I took."

Both doctors believe MidWestVET is an asset to Nebraska. Dr. Duncan believes proximity will encourage pet owners to seek advanced care. "In the past, people in this area have had to drive a long way to see a specialist, and that may have deterred some of them from being referred. The level of care and close affiliation with K-State makes Nebraska and Omaha lucky to have MidWestVET."

Dr. Winter was happy to join his parent's practice and have easy access to specialists. "It was nice to return to my hometown to do a job that I love," he says. "It's wonderful having a great referral clinic in our own state." Dr. Duncan is also committed to supporting MidWestVET through referrals and has vowed to do so "with any patient that needs a specialist." 🐾



Dr. Cameron Duncan with his horse, Cotton, at Red Willow Animal Clinic in McCook.

