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Speice

Independent Study and Mentorship

26 October 2018

Connecting Rescue and Veterinary Work

Assessment 8 - Interview

Name of Professional: Erin Shults

Profession/Title: Veterinarian

Company: Mazie's Mission

Date of Interview: 10/24/18

Works Cited:

Scoville, Brooke, and Erin Shults. "Informational Interview." 24 Oct. 2018.

The interview with Dr. Erin Shults was an incredibly informative experience over the working relationship between rescue work and veterinary work. Learning about her profession and how she has created a job helping rescues through veterinary work. Interviewing Dr. Shults provided insights into how to sculpt a career around rescue and veterinary work.

Discussion over day to day activities at Mazie's Mission provided insight into where rescue and veterinary work intersect. This was a beneficial angle to explore in order to further develop ideas over original work and final product. Additionally, hearing stories about specific cases furthered interest in the topic and resolidified the desire to pursue this field of work. Dr. Shults' experience in both regular veterinary work and rescue veterinary work provided a great way to see a comparison between the two from someone who has experienced both firsthand.

This comparison provided knowledge over what is most important to master and perfect when becoming a veterinarian due to the commonality of certain issues within rescue, such as surgery. Knowing the differences and similarities between these professions will be very beneficial when deciding which profession to pursue or different ways of combining these professions to be most beneficial to society.

Discussing common issues in the veterinary industry with Dr. Shults was also very informative. Working in rescue provides a different perspective on many of the issues discussed. Dr. Shults was able to provide many useful examples of stories from her time as a veterinarian that provide a more personal and meaningful approach to a mostly academic topic. Dr. Shults was also able to provide examples of animals who developed harmful and sometimes fatal diseases due to a lack of proper veterinary care which will be helpful information to study further and add into reasoning for these procedures to be done. Additionally, discussing Dr. Shults' preferences in surgery and in routine check-ups provided valuable tips on how to be as precise and efficient as possible while still providing quality service.

During the interview, Dr. Shults also talked about the skills necessary to be a veterinarian. Many of these skills were based on things that had not been previously considered such as interpersonal skills, dealing with the public opinion of veterinarians, especially veterinarians in rescue, and noticing behavioral cues in animals. These topics are different from what has been previously looked into and researched when researching items pertaining to veterinary sciences. This newly acquired knowledge of additional skills necessary to be a veterinarian will open up many new avenues to research and explore.

Overall, the interview conducted with Dr. Erin Shults provided an inside look into the career that will most likely be pursued in the future. Discussing many different topics pertaining to the veterinary and rescue industries was incredibly beneficial and helpful to development of further research and an original work project. Hearing stories from her time as a regular veterinarian and as a rescue veterinarian put into perspective what a focus on rescue as a veterinarian really means. This was an eye-opening experience that will be very useful throughout the rest of the year.