

Cassidy: vets care for animals as if they were their own



of Veterinary Medicine Degree.

I grew up on the family farm raising cattle while also growing corn and soybeans. I started showing cattle when I was 3 and loved the bond I was able to create with the animal. I always knew since I was little that I wanted to be a veterinarian when I grew up.

My decision to pursue veterinary school was further solidified when I was able to start working with Dr. Rudy Corman and Dr. Emily Conrad-Gibb at Roseville Veterinary Services in the spring of 2016. They allowed me to get more hands-on experience than I had ever imagined. They have been my biggest mentors throughout my entire veterinary journey so far and I am so thankful for the opportunities to work with and learn from them.

I attend church at Wesley United Methodist Church in Canton when I am able with my family. My hobbies include riding and training my horse in my free time, hunting, and being outdoors when I can. I enjoy kayaking and roller blading also.

I feel so passionately about the ag industry because I grew up in it. Between being both a 4-H and FFA member, it has given me countless opportunities and experiences that not many people get in life.

Both organizations have helped me professionally and educationally achieve my goals of becoming a veterinarian. I would

encourage a young person considering a Vet Med career to start shadowing a vet as soon as they can. The hands-on experiences that you learn from them will help to prepare you for what veterinary school is about.

Also, don't be afraid to ask more than one to let you shadow. Each one of us has our ways of doing things and typically it's not a "one size fits all" approach.

I want those who don't fully understand modern day agriculture and farming to not be afraid to ask questions. Our professions are constantly under attack from critics who know nothing about our way of life. For example, veterinarians are under scrutiny for "only wanting the money" and "not caring" when in reality, we are one of the professions with the highest suicide rates. While I

could get on a tangent about this topic, I will say that general practicing veterinarians are expected to be a surgeon, dentist, cardiologist, and many more because we have to recognize the problems. So to compare, you would have to schedule an appointment with your general practitioner, then a radiologist, then other specialists, etc., depending on the procedures you need done.

Veterinarians do all of this themselves and more. I just ask that people be more courteous and empathetic when it comes to veterinary professionals and realize that we are just like your doctors, just for your pets.

We care about your animals just as if they were our own, it's why we decided to go through all of the schooling to become a veterinarian.

SMITH

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country in the United States Army.

In addition to the tradition corn and soybeans, Ken also grew wheat, rye, lima beans, seed corn, sweet corn, green beans and seed beans.

He also raised Chester White hogs and Polled Hereford cattle.

Working alongside him were his wife and son Jeff, and having his son work with him was one of his proudest moments.

His contributions to his community included ten years as a leader of the Easton Ramblers, serving on the Easton School Board, terms in all offices of his Methodist Church, and he helped with building the Mason County Fair Grounds. Ken was also President of the Menard Electric Co-op Board for eight years.

His advice to young people entering the farming profession includes, "Be good to

your land and you'll have good returns."

He added that if he could give himself advice on his first day of farming it would be, "Think further ahead – don't be afraid to gamble."

Ken said the toughest time he had as a farmer was losing his mentor, his father.

Today the biggest challenges in farming are the electronics, as well as operating, and understanding the new machinery, as well as managing marketing.

In his lifetime global marketing, the Korean War and other like conflicts were the world events that had the most impact on his farming.

But they did not impact the favorite memories of going to the State Fair, raising fantastic crops even when the prices were low, and "always the thrill to harvest a beautiful crop."



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