



president's COLUMN



A tribute to veterinary graduates of the Class of 2023

*"My wish for you
Is that this life becomes all that you want it to
Your dreams stay big, your worries stay small
You never need to carry more than you can hold
And while you're out there gettin' where you're gettin'
Hope you know somebody loves you
And wants the same things too
Yeah, this is my wish"*

"My Wish"

Performed by Rascal Flatts

Written by Jeffrey Steele/Stephen Paul Robson
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Congratulations to the Class of 2023! I am so excited to welcome you to the profession as veterinarians! I love this profession, and I hope as you progress through your career, you continue to love it too. That doesn't mean there won't be hard or frustrating days, difficult clients, patients that don't make it despite your best efforts, and nights where you stay wide awake "what-iffing" yourself constantly while tossing and turning. There will also be days where clients are incredibly grateful and bring you homemade cookies, puppies kiss you, kittens purr when you pet them, horses nuzzle you, and cows? Well, cows are just cows, and who doesn't love cows?!

One of the most important things new graduates consistently say they want when they start

their first job is good mentorship. While official mentorship wasn't a thing when I graduated from veterinary school, I was very fortunate to work for some amazing people who mentored and supported me through complex cases and challenging client conversations. They also understood what "work-life" balance meant before that was even a thing.

The AVMA fully recognizes that not everyone begins their career in a similar position, and so the AVMA, with additional support from educational funders Merck Animal Health and Royal Canin, is partnering with MentorVet to provide you, our new graduate members, with the opportunity to participate in MentorVet Connect.

Through this program, you will have the opportunity to be paired with a mentor veterinarian. The MentorVet Connect program is available across all practice types, whether you're in an urban shelter or a rural mixed-animal practice. You can find more information at avma.org/Mentor.

Congratulations again! My wish for you is that veterinary medicine is all you want it to be and more, so go forth and conquer the veterinary world!

Lori Teller, DVM, DABVP (canine/feline), CVJ

I want to hear from you. Please reach out to me with your comments, questions and concerns at presidentscolumn@avma.org.

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