

**CHERYL ILIENKO, DVM**  
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## SKILLS & INTERESTS

- Small Animal Surgery (soft tissue and orthopedic)
- Wound Care
- Dentistry
- Emergency and Critical
- Medicine
- Preventive Care
- Cytology/Pathology
- Client Consultations
- Team Leadership
- Practice Management
- Community Outreach
- Small Ruminants

## ASSOCIATE AND LOCUM VETERINARIAN

Experienced veterinary professional with a comprehensive background in the field of veterinary medicine spanning over 13 years. While I have been practicing as a licensed veterinarian for 2 years, my journey in veterinary medicine began over a decade ago in various roles and capacities. During this time, I have gained valuable experience and knowledge, working alongside veterinarians and contributing to the success of veterinary clinics and customer-focused organizations. Now, as a dedicated Associate and Locum Veterinarian, I bring a unique perspective and a wealth of practical expertise to deliver exceptional care to small animal patients. With a strong foundation built on my years of experience in the field, I am passionate about providing comprehensive veterinary services and ensuring the well-being of animals in my care. Continuously seeking opportunities for growth and professional development, I am committed to delivering the highest standards of veterinary medicine and fostering strong relationships with clients and their beloved pets.

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS & VETERINARY CREDENTIALS

- Earned a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in 2021, equipped with the latest veterinary knowledge and skills.
- Successfully passed the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE) in 2020, demonstrating comprehensive understanding of veterinary principles and practices.
- Licensed in Alberta, meeting the professional requirements and standards for practicing veterinary medicine in the region.
- Pursued advanced certifications in RECOVER CPR Advanced Life Support (ALS) and RECOVER CPR Basic Life Support (BLS), further enhancing my expertise in life-saving techniques (awaiting dates for in-person course to update this certification).
- Made a successful career transition from financial oversight and veterinary assistant roles to direct veterinary care, driven by a passion for animal health and welfare.
- Proactively modernized and streamlined the operations of a long-standing veterinary clinic by digitizing payroll processes, implementing cutting-edge software programs, and updating accounting procedures.
- Delivered exceptional customer service to clients, fostering transparent communication about veterinary costs and invoice history, leading to increased client satisfaction.
- Completed highly sought-after fourth-year elective rotations, including small animal elective surgery, dentistry, emergency and critical care, and small ruminant medicine, broadening my clinical experience and skills.

## PROFESSIONAL & VETERINARY EXPERIENCE

## **Locum Veterinarian**

**General Practice, Various Locations**

**February 2023- Present**

- Provide temporary veterinary services to small animal patients in a general practice setting, fostering positive relationships with both new and existing veterinary team members to promote a cohesive and supportive work environment.
- Collaborate effectively with fellow veterinarians and support staff, actively participating in team meetings and contributing to the overall success of the practice, despite the short duration of my presence.
- Demonstrate strong interpersonal skills to establish rapport and build trust with clients, ensuring open lines of communication and addressing their concerns with empathy and professionalism.
- Adapt quickly to new practice protocols and procedures, working seamlessly with the existing team to maintain a smooth workflow and deliver consistent high-quality veterinary care.
- Promote a positive and collaborative work environment by fostering camaraderie and actively supporting the veterinary team, resulting in boosted morale and heightened client satisfaction throughout my temporary assignments.

## **Associate Small Animal Veterinarian**

**Fen Vet: Airdrie, AB**

**May 2022- Present**

- Perform various small animal surgeries, including soft tissue (ex. spays, neuters, cystotomies, GDV, Exploratory laparotomies, incisional and excisional biopsies, aural hematoma repair, nares revision, wedge resections) and orthopedic procedures (ex. cat FHO's, dog and cat hind limb amputations).
- Conduct comprehensive examinations and skillfully interpreted diagnostic tests, including clin path, radiographs, ultrasound (POCUS training, TFAST and AFAST), and others, to accurately diagnose and treat small animal patients.
- Effectively communicate intricate medical information to pet owners with clarity and empathy, empowering them to make informed decisions for their beloved pets and delivering exceptional client service.
- Demonstrate expertise in managing and stabilizing small animal emergencies, making swift critical decisions, and administering life-saving interventions to ensure the best possible outcomes for patients in crisis.
- Continuously create and execute comprehensive preventive care plans, encompassing vaccination protocols, parasite control strategies, and regular wellness examinations, promoting the long-term health and well-being of small animal patients.

## **Associate Veterinarian**

**North of 55 Veterinary Clinic: Thompson, MB**

**May 2021- April 2022**

***Veterinary professional skilled in surgical expertise, diagnostic precision, compassionate communication, emergency management, and preventive care for small animals.***

- Performed various small animal surgeries, and procedures (ex. spays and neuters, mass removal, bone biopsies, etc)
- Conducting thorough examinations, interpreting clin path, radiographs, ultrasound (TFAST and AFAST), and other diagnostic tests, and formulating accurate diagnoses for small animal patients.
- Communicated complex medical information to pet owners in a clear and compassionate manner, facilitating informed decision-making and providing exceptional client service.
- Managed and stabilized small animal emergencies, making critical decisions quickly, and providing life-saving interventions.
- Developed and implemented preventive care plans, including vaccination protocols, parasite control, and wellness examinations, to promote the long-term health and well-being of small animal patients.

### **Veterinary Student**

**Veterinary Medical Centre, Western College of Veterinary Medicine: Saskatchewan, SK**

**Summer of 2020**

***Assisted with procedures and treatments for large animals (horses, foals, cows, calves, goats and sheep), developing an entry-level understanding of large animal medicine in an academic setting.***

- Observed and assisted with cow hoof trimming, regional limb perfusion, lameness exams, uterine lavage, colic workups on horses, and goat hoof trimming.
- Performed daily physicals on inpatients, ran large animal blood work, and delivered results to clinicians.
- Assisted clinicians with various procedures, treatments, and feedings: bronchoalveolar lavage, nasogastric tubation, abdominocentesis of horses, endoscopic examinations of mares with urinary incontinence.
- Dissected horse limbs, observed necropsy of a horse, and identified a pituitary tumor to understand anatomy and diagnostics in a more clinical light.
- Strictly adhered to biosecurity safety measures in light of potential zoonotic and contagious agents while maintaining a clean and safe work environment.
- Performed local analgesia and suture repair of an eyelid on a sheep under the supervision of a clinician.

### **Veterinary Student**

**Thompson Veterinary Clinic: Thompson, MB**

**2016-2018**

***Executed veterinary procedures while supporting day-to-day operations at a small animal clinic and cultivating comprehensive knowledge of daily operations, expectations, and workload in the clinic setting.***

- Evaluated incoming patients to determine treatment needs and urgency of care and conducted preliminary patient workups, documenting patient histories, current symptoms, and presenting condition.
- Monitored up to four animals in the post-operative care unit for anesthesia recovery, vital signs, and activity levels, administering treatments as needed.
- Assisted veterinary associates with performing surgeries, essential exams, blood draws, IV catheter placement, and otoscopic and dermatological exams of cats and dogs.

- Observed dermatological samples, impression smears, blood smears, otologic samples, urine, and abdominal fluid samples, using the microscope at every available opportunity.
- Performed feline neuters, dog and cat vaccinations, and general health exams on cats and dogs while under the supervision of a veterinarian
- Continuously evaluated a running problem list, differential diagnoses, and diagnostic/treatment options in collaboration with clinical associates, utilizing problem-solving skills to identify solutions.
- Prepared educational information sessions for the eight-person staff during evening rounds and developed team communications for morning and evening meetings.
- Offered pet owners exemplary customer service while answering animal health questions and educating them on positive animal care practices.

### **Practice Manager**

**Thompson Veterinary Clinic: Thompson, MB**

**2011-2016**

#### ***Streamlined financial practices and improved customer communication at a small animal veterinary practice.***

- Served as the HR and practice manager, trained all new employees and established organizational policies and procedures.
- Revitalized the customer experience and the clinic's reputation by implementing the Petly communication program, allowing clients to see prescriptions, vaccination histories and invoices.
- Transformed the practice's financial procedures, moving from paper books to QuickBooks, paper cheques to direct deposit and bill payment to an online system that lowered interest charges.
- Increased charge accuracy by implementing Cornerstone software.
- Reduced delinquent accounts through effective follow-up with clients.
- Performed all monthly financial reporting, tax remittance, payroll and accounts payable and receivable.

### **Assistant Controller**

**Thompson Ford Sales: Thompson, MB**

**2003- 2011**

#### ***Managed accounting and financial practices in a customer-focused sales environment.***

- Oversaw monthly financial reporting, including payroll, tax remittance, expenses and year-end reconciliations.
- Facilitated new hire and ongoing training for staff throughout the company.
- Led health and safety committee meetings and obtained warranty administration certifications.
- Guided teambuilding by coordinating holiday meals and gatherings.

## **EDUCATION**

**Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Western College of Veterinary Medicine, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada (2021)**

**Awards/Honors: TD Award in Veterinary Medicine (2020), C.A.R.E. Award (2018)**

**Coursework – General Studies & Pre-Veterinary Medicine  
University**