

Heather Kihara, DVM

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EDUCATION

Professional Veterinary Medicine

Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO; May 2013

- Veterinary coursework includes: Exotic Animal Anatomy and Husbandry, Alternative and Complementary Therapeutics, Principles of Shelter Veterinary Medicine
- Business Certificate coursework: Fundamentals of Marketing; Fundamentals of Management; Agricultural/Resource Economics; Legal Environment Business; Principles of Economics; Introduction to Financial Accounting; Fundamentals of Entrepreneurship

Bachelor of Science in Animal Sciences with a Minor in Microbiology

Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO; June 2007; *Cum Laude*

RESEARCH

Primary Investigator

Surlaner Efficacy on Cats with Hookworms Compared to Revolution; Waipahu, HI

July 2015 - June 2017

- Enrolled naturally infected cats in a Zoetis study
- Data collection: Recorded physical exams, blood, urine, and feces collections at designated time intervals using Medrio electronic data capture system

Student Investigator

Effects of Feliway™ on the Incidence of Upper Respiratory Tract Disease (URTD) in Shelter Cats; Fort Collins, CO

July 2011 - January 2012

- Recorded the incidence and severity of URTD in shelter cats in the presence of a stress reducing pheromone and control
- Presented the study at the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Science's research day

CLINICAL AND WORK EXPERIENCE

Relief Veterinarian

Wahiawa Pet Hospital, Ke Ola Pet Hospital, Mililani Mauka Veterinary Clinic; Wahiawa & Mililani, HI

March 2017 - Present

Full service veterinary clinics without overnight hospitalization

Relief Veterinarian

Hawaii Animal Quarantine Station; Halawa, HI

June 2021 - Present

- Examine cats and dogs entering and exiting the quarantine station for signs of rabies
- Make recommendations for the care of pets currently subjected to quarantine
- Process paperwork to determine eligibility for animals to by-pass the quarantine period

Veterinary Telehealth Specialist

whiskerDocs 24/7 Pet Help Line; Remote work

June 2019 - March 2021

- Triage urgency of pet's situation over the phone or chat. Provided at home care advice to owners (based on symptoms without diagnosing or prescribing medication). Advised owners on behavioral problems, possible toxin situations, and other basic care questions

Veterinarian

Waipahu Waikele Pet Hospital; Waipahu, HI

July 2014 - May 2018

- 24 hour emergency hospital
 - Primary management of feline/canine cases presented at exams
 - Responsible for most surgeries unless referred to specialist (pyometras, C-sections, enucleations, dog fight repairs, limb amputations)
 - 1 - 2 dental cleaning with extractions a week
 - Management of parvovirus, urinary obstruction cases, congestive heart failure, chronic kidney disease, diabetic ketoacidosis
 - 1 - 2 ovarian hysterectomy/neuter a week
 - Hawaii quarantine case management, health certificate issuance
 - Mentored vet student interns and pre-vet students
 - Primary speaker representing WWPH for career fairs
 - Hawaii Health Occupation Students of America state conference (high school), district schools of all grade level

Student Representative

Bayer Animal Health, LLC; Fort Collins, CO

July 2010 – May 2012

- Promoted good will among CSU's veterinary program toward Bayer Animal Health
- Gained a new perspective and experienced how corporate pharmaceutical industry is operated
- Organized CSU's annual heartworm testing night for the veterinary student body's pets

Veterinary Technician/Assistant

Big Thompson Animal Hospital; Loveland, CO

Oct. 2003–April 2006; Oct 2009–Mar 2012

VCA University Animal Hospital; Honolulu, HI

Sept. 2006 – July 2009

- On the job trained veterinary assistant/technician (Hawaii did not have a program at the time)
 - Exposed and processed radiographs
 - Monitored anesthetized patients
 - Intubated patients, intravenous catheterized patients, and performed dental cleaning
 - Lab skills- scanned fecal floats for internal parasites, performed blood smears, urinalysis, and ear cytologies

- Restrained patients using safe techniques
- Monitored hospitalized patients and cared for boarding patients

Teacher

Leilehua High School; Wahiawa, HI

Fall 2007 - Spring 2009 (P/T)

- Assisted full-time teacher with 10th grade Algebra and Geometry classes
 - Gave students one-on-one attention and tutored those who needed extra help

SURGICAL EXPERIENCE

Limb/digit amputation, cesarean section, wound repair and management, laceration repair, gastrotomy, enterotomy, splenectomy, enucleation, cystotomy, ovariohysterectomy (including pyometra), esophageal feeding tube placement, castration, cryptorchid castration, mass removal, dental extraction, oronasal fistula

MEDICAL EXPERIENCE

Diabetic ketoacidosis management, canine parvovirus, urethral obstruction, chronic kidney disease/failure management, immune mediated hemolytic anemia (blood transfusions), congestive heart failure, CPR/RECOVER protocol, pneumonia, hypothyroidism, hyperthyroidism, chocolate/bufo toad/NSAID toxicosis, kennel cough and upper respiratory infection in a large population, heat stroke/brachiocephalic airway syndrome, hyperadrenocorticism

EXTRA TRAINING

- FRANK Communications Workshop (June 2013)
 - 2 day C.E. on client communications with scenarios and live actors
- Northeast Montana/Fort Peck Tribal M.A.S.H. Unit Spay and Neuter clinic (June 2013)
 - Performed 20 surgeries, primarily spays; 90% of them w/o assistance
- Orthopedic Field Surgery with Dr. Erick Egger (March 2013)
 - One-on-one mentorship by top orthopedic surgeon performing 10 TPLOs, 3 MPLs, 1 ex-cap repair
- PetAid Colorado (February 2013)
 - Primary care of 30+ cases at a low-income, donor sponsored animal hospital
- Texas Veterinary Behavior Services (Summer 2010)
 - Assisted Dr. Lore Haug with 40+ behavior consults in home and clinical environments
 - Applied behavior modification techniques with dogs and horses

ADDITIONAL ANIMAL EXPERIENCE

Intern

Longmont Humane Society, Longmont, CO

Spring 2014

- Surgical and medical case management of shelter animals
 - Intake/entrance physical exams, surgeries (HQSN to amputations)

- Helped with biosecurity disease management in a large animal shelter

Volunteer

Avalanche Dairy Company; Peonia, CO

Spring break 2009, 2010

- Assisted parturitions during dystocia and bottle fed all kids that were born
- Practiced biosecurity protocols including those related to zoonotic disease

Intern

L & W Farms/Hawaii Livestock Coop; Waianae/Kapolei, HI

Jan - May 2007

- Learned from a producer about pig farm operations from breeding to sale
- Shadowed USDA vet and slaughter house manager to learn HACCP and food safety protocols

Volunteer

Oahu Equine Veterinary Clinic; Kailua, HI

June 2008 - July 2009

- Developed horse handling skills and gained an understanding of equine veterinary medicine on O'ahu
 - Monitored anesthesia and assisted Dr. Himenes in field surgeries
 - Helped position radiographs of horses, a dolphin, and an endangered monk seal
 - Assisted the doctor with lameness exams, joint injections, teeth floating, and vaccines

Team Member

Colorado State University's Equestrian Team; Fort Collins, CO

Spring 2003 -Spring 2005

- Collaborated with team members to host three to six horse shows per year
- Practice multiple hours a week and competed in 10-12 IHSA horse shows per year

LEADERSHIP

President

Honolulu Veterinary Society; Honolulu, HI

Spring 2015 - Spring 2017

- Lead monthly officer meetings & instituted virtual meetings to accommodate scheduling
- Coordinated continuing education meetings sponsored by HVS and corporate sponsors
- Coordinated peer bonding events such as movie days, zoo visits, breakout room activities, and an annual banquet

President and Special Activities Coordinator

Student Chapter of American Society of Animal Behavior; Fort Collins, CO

Fall 2010 - Spring 2012

- Coordinated group planning for open house, behavior symposium, fundraisers, fieldtrips, dinner lectures, and wet labs
- Organized two public education seminars on animal behavior, hosting 300 people each

President

Hawaii State FFA (Future Farmers of America); Oahu, HI

April 2001 - April 2002

- Planned leadership camps and the state convention and attended two national conferences
- Competed in Prepared Public Speaking and Parliamentary Procedure

HONORS

- Inducted into Pi Zeta Theta Honor Society 2012
- Novartis/Ethicon Surgical Award 2013
- AVMF/Zoetis Scholarship 2011, 2012
- Awarded Hawaii's Western Interstate Commission for High Education position (WICHE awardees given in-state tuition in select Professional Veterinary Medicine programs)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Veterinary Medical Association
- Honolulu Veterinary Society

PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL INTEREST

- Animal behavior modification
- Nose work/scent work for conservation purposes (training dogs to detect invasive or endangered species)
- Hula, Polynesian, & Latin dancing; gardening; horseback riding