Five Networking Tips For Students On The Path to Vet Path

Networking can seem daunting, but is the key to unlocking an array of experiences

1. Start Early

- Experience leads to experience
- Each contact comes with a wealth of knowledge and a network of their own
- Give yourself time to take advantage of as many opportunities as you can
- Don’t be afraid to ask, the worst someone can say is no!

2. Home-Ground Advantage

- You have easy access to the specialists at your school
- Each vet school’s faculty has a vested interest in their own students’ careers
- Ability to easily arrange informal meetings to discuss options and access career advice
- Home University Conferences
  - BSc at RVC
  - My re-sit year was hugely positive and changed my entire career goal!

3. Never Miss an Opportunity

   **Conferences**
   - Occur worldwide
   - I have attended conferences in England, Scotland, Poland and Borneo
   - Most are online at the moment, so you don’t have to leave your living room!
   - This means no accommodation or transport costs
   - Don’t be scared to go on your own!
   - Your friends won’t always have the same interests; conferences are the perfect place to meet people who do!
   - For cheaper options, conferences are often discounted at your home institution. And don’t be scared to go on your own!
   - Most are online at the moment, so you don’t have to leave your living room!
   - This means no accommodation or transport costs

- Social media holds a plethora of potential contacts with similar interests.
  - Explore opportunities beyond personal interest; the catalyst for a future career may be unexpected
  - Contact: amynicole@btinternet.com

4. Go Virtual

- I found Dr Nicola M. Parry on the Facebook page ‘Vets: Stay, Go, Diversify’
- We set up a Zoom call to discuss educational/career options in America
- A day later she emailed me with a proposal: to submit an abstract to an international pathology conference
- Zoom call with Dr Nicola Parry BSc (Hons), MSc, BVSc (Hons), DACVP, FRCVS
- It is okay to not know what you want to do at this stage!

5. Be Open-Minded

- I never thought I’d be face-painting with specialists in Bornean Primate Medicine!
- I booked a competitive placement with IZVG for 2023 through Dr Daniela Denk, who I met at the Glasgow Northern Zoological Symposium 2020

- Prior to University, I hadn’t considered pathology or research as an option.
- But now I am excited at the prospect of being in such a dynamic field
- It is okay to change your mind at any point!

**Advisors**
- Steve Unwin, BSc, BVSc, MRCVS, EBVS, ECZM Zoo Health Management, Primate Microbiology State Of The Apes Wildlife Impact OVAG
- Dr Nigel Hicks BVSc, MRCVS and Sara Hicks BA (Hons) Co-founders of OVAD (Orangutan Veterinary Advisory Aid)
- Dr Susan M. Cheyne, BSc (Hons), PhD, Czioł, MBlSc, FRCVS, FLS

**Conferences**
- 2017: Northern Zoological Symposium hosted at the University of Bristol
- Here I met Dr Nigel Hicks
- In 2018 Nigel invited me to join him and Sara in Borneo for one of the most incredible opportunities of my life!
- OVG (Orangutan Veterinary Advisory Group) Workshop 2018
- Here I met Dr Susan Cheyne, who invited me to carry out a field research project in Borneo
- Dr Susan M. Cheyne BSc (Hons), PhD, Czioł, MBlSc, FRCVS, FLS

**Home University Conferences**
- At a One Health Conference, Emanuele Ricci lectured on Veterinary Forensic Pathology
- After this, I requested him as my third year research project supervisor
- It has been my favourite part of my course so far!

**Research Placements**
- I booked a competitive placement with IZVG for 2023 through Dr Daniela Denk, who I met at the Glasgow Northern Zoological Symposium 2020
- Meetings:
  - Set up meetings to discuss your options:
    - Future career
    - Best routes to achieve your goals
    - Pros and cons of educational options (PhD, Residency, Interruption, etc)
  - Meetings can be formal or informal: both are beneficial

**Clinical Experiences**
- Practical learning environment
- Trust leads to more hands on experiences: let the practice get to know you
- Variety looks good on your CV

**Research Placements**
- Options available worldwide
- Can be tailored to your interests
- Great additions to your CV

**Supervisor:** Emanuele Ricci
- Post Mortal Gross Pathology and Histopathology of Lymphoid Organs (Bone Marrow and Spleen) in Decomposing Cats: A Forensic Perspective

**Institute of Veterinary Science**
- Professor: Emanuele Ricci
- My re-sit year was hugely positive and changed my entire career goal!

**Figure:** Daniel Lewis, MBlSc (Zoology)