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### What Drives Me

I have wanted to be a veterinarian for as long as I can remember. As a kid it was my love of animals that sparked my interest in this field. When I was in kindergarten my parents surprised my sister and I with a black German Shepard who we named Axel. We took Axel on camping trips, hikes, swimming at the lake and even to Montana to visit my grandparents. Well, not quite to Montana. At a rest stop in Winnemucca my dad was throwing a stick for Axel when he came back limping and bleeding profusely from his paw. A quick inspection showed a deep cut that we immediately bandaged up. We turned the truck around and drove straight to Klaich Animal Hospital where they treated his wound. Over the years, Axel made many trips to the vets at Klaich Animal Hospital. He swallowed tennis balls, hunting game bags, and as he got older developed pannus, an ocular disorder leading to blindness in dogs. Veterinarians do more than treat animals, they support families during stressful and emotional moments.

I plan to major in Veterinary Science at the University of Nevada, Reno and complete the prerequisite coursework required for veterinary school. Last year, I was fortunate to be able to set up an interview at Klaich Animal Hospital. I worked over the summer as a veterinary assistant, communicating with clients initially and then relaying information to the doctor so they can treat the animal to the best of their ability. Working at an animal hospital I have

learned a variety of new skills, like sterilization of instruments and equipment, safe animal restraint, handling for examinations and procedures, using veterinary practice software, and much more. My experience has deepened my desire to specialize in animal care and exposed me to a professional work setting.

With a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, I intend to provide high quality medical care to animals in need. I have been able to observe numerous skilled veterinarians at Klaiich Animal Hospital who have demonstrated a combination of medical excellence with kindness and clear communication. I would like to emulate those qualities in my own career by ensuring that pet owners feel heard, respected, and informed. I have witnessed the teamwork and support that is necessary to promote a healthy encouraging work environment. In a field that faces emotional demands and difficult decisions, I intend to foster collaboration by being a dependable colleague and communicating openly.

Ten years from now, I envision myself as a practicing veterinarian who is confident, compassionate, and continuously learning. I hope to have developed strong relationships with my clients and colleagues. I also envision mentoring aspiring veterinarians like me, who will be the future of veterinary practice. This scholarship would assist me in pursuing my goal of becoming a veterinarian and returning to Reno so that I can help promote the welfare of my community and its animals.