

# New Graduate Member Profile

**Name:** Harmony Glenn, DVM

**Residence:** Haleyville, AL

## What inspired you to pursue a career in veterinary medicine?

I had always wanted to become a veterinarian. From a very early age on, I had a love and compassion for animals, which at times even my family could not understand! When I decided to go back to college after working as a registered nurse for nine years, I knew it was time to get off of my “do nothing” and do something. I had a love for medicine, and I still had a desire to care for animals. I wanted to be able to continue to help people by providing quality care to their pets.

## What advice can you offer someone entering veterinary school?

Pay attention to a budget. If you are like most veterinary students you are participating in student loans to fund your education. If you make a conscious effort to execute a budget in your daily life then a debt load will be easier to handle when your first payment is due.

## What type of veterinary medicine do you practice and why did you choose it?

I currently work in a predominately small animal practice, with a large animal base of approximately 15%. The practice is located in a



rural setting in Northwest Ala. I personally choose to come back because I was raised here. Most of all, I remember watching the vet when I was a kid do everything on all species he had brought to him. That was another attraction that drew me back. I wanted to be able to provide the best care possible in my rural hometown setting.

## Where did you study?

Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine.

## Who is your role model/mentor?

My current mentor is Dr. Ben Cashion. He is the practice owner, and has devoted his career to building the business. It was very important to me to choose a place of employment where I felt like questions were encouraged, and that someone had my back if I needed them. Dr. Cashion never had an associate, and he had not worked with a new graduate so the relationship was new to him as well. He has been very open to my questions as well as teaching me so many surgical techniques that I never had the confidence to try before. I have truly been blessed

to have been welcomed into his family the way I have, as well as getting to learn from his years of experience.

## What do you enjoy most about your job?

The variety. Never knowing what is going to come through the door.

## How did you get involved with the ALVMA?

During school I served as one of my class student representatives for our SCAVMA chapter. I realized how important it was to be a part of a collective voice. Upon graduation it was an easy decision to join the ALVMA; I had already seen what an organized group could accomplish.

## What five adjectives best describe you?

Tenacious, blunt, caring, devoted, concerned.

## What is the hardest part of your job?

The unknown. When you have that patient that your gut is telling you to dig deeper, but you are not sure why. You don't know exactly what the problem is, but you know there is one. During those times, I have to step back, take a deep breath and reassure myself that this is what I went to school to achieve. The ability to rationalize and reason through the symptoms. Even though I don't know the underlying condition at the time, I still have the education and medical knowledge to research and choose the right diagnostic and treatment path for my patient. In a way the unknown, to me, is the beauty of veterinary medicine even though it is the most challenging.

## Where do you see yourself in five years?

Still working in a rural practice, but as a partner, or the sole owner.

## Why would you recommend that someone join the ALVMA?

As I said before, being a member of a collective voice benefits not only you but your profession. Our profession is changing every day, and there are people and fanatical groups that would like to see our profession cease to exist. We should want our voices heard, and by being a member of the ALVMA you can take part in the process to determine that the right voice is heard.

## How has being involved with the ALVMA helped you professionally?

I have benefited from CEU opportunities that I would otherwise not have known about. It has also helped to introduce me to colleagues that I otherwise would have not had the opportunity to meet.

## What do you think has been the most significant change/advancement in veterinary medicine in the last five years?

The trend toward pursuing specialty degrees. There are so many options with a DVM degree. Private practice is not for everyone and students now have the opportunity to accomplish whatever goals they have post vet school.

## Where would you go if you could go anywhere? Why?

Alaska, I have heard that it is a beautiful state. Maybe someday...

## Professionally, if you could change something, what would it be?

I would reevaluate the veterinary shortage and establish firmly whether it stands true.



## What is your favorite quote?

"Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter, and those who matter don't mind." - Bernard M. Baruch

## What was the most memorable part of your college experience?

The friendships that I made. You form a bond with people in vet school that is unlike any in your undergraduate career. You really do become family.

## What do you feel is your biggest challenge just starting out?

Understanding that you are not going to get it right every time on the first try. Sometimes you have those cases that perplex you, and keep you guessing, but in the end you learn the most from them.

## What is the last movie you watched?

The Conjuring.

## If you were stranded on an island, what three things would you want to have?

A toothbrush, toothpaste and at least one set of clothes to wear.

## What accomplishment are you most proud of?

Convincing myself to go back to school and then acquiring my veterinary degree.

## What is your simplest pleasure?

I must admit, eating and sleeping... (Sorry that is two, but it is so hard to pick just one)

## What makes you laugh out loud?

Witty sarcasm.

## If you could meet anyone (dead or living) who would it be and what would you ask them?

Amelia Earhart, and I would ask her how it felt to make it as a pilot against all the odds? I would also ask if she would risk it all and do it again?

## What book are you reading?

"Killing Jesus" by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard.

## When was the last time you did something for someone else and what was it?

Last week I had a family member who had a horse that was down and I went and helped with him. I feel very blessed to be able to do what I do. I never want to see myself as being above anyone in need. We all have hard times, and being a good neighbor is high on my list of things for which I hold myself accountable.

## When I'm not working, you'll find me...

Spending time with my family and pets.

## I still want to learn how to...

There is not enough paper, but to name a few, learn how to do a FHO, apply an external fixation device, create conjunctival flaps, manage a practice, be a better communicator, and the list goes on and on, ha, ha.