

# New Graduate Member Profile

**Dr. Hanna Lamb  
Montgomery, AL**

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

I don't even remember a time before I wanted to be a veterinarian. As an only child, my lifelong "sister" was an American Eskimo dog named Nikki who was only a few months older than me. We did everything together up until my sophomore year of high school when she lost her battle with cancer.

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

I split my time between small animal general practice and emergency/critical care. I have been in a small animal setting since I was 15 years old when I started to volunteer at my first animal hospital. I love everything about general practice and emergency medicine!

## Where did you study?

Auburn University for undergraduate school and veterinary school. War eagle!

## What do you enjoy most about your job?

My favorite thing about my job is the many challenges presented by emergency medicine... you never



know what will come through the door next!

## How did you get involved with the ALVMA?

I learned about ALVMA through vet school and Dr. Brad Fields.

## What is the hardest part of your job?

The hardest part of my job is also the best part... the challenges brought about by emergency medicine don't always allow a lot of time to prepare for the variety of cases. Going to work occasionally can be compared to drinking out of a fire hose!

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

There are times in vet school when you feel like you are drowning... do your best to make time for hobbies that don't involve vet school. For me, those hobbies include exercise, Auburn football games, and hanging out with friends. These activities will help keep you sane whether you are coming off a long day at school or work.

## Why would you recommend that someone join ALVMA?

The networking through the ALVMA is great. It is nice to have a support system like the ALVMA especially as a new graduate.

## Where do you see yourself in five years?

In five years I see myself as an experienced practitioner in both general and emergency medicine. I would also like to buy into/take over an existing small animal practice in the next few years.

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

I have met numerous veterinarians residing all over Alabama and made many connections with professionals that I can call and discuss cases or ask questions. Being that I work in a large referral/emergency clinic in Central Alabama, we work with a lot of referring veterinarians that are involved in the ALVMA.

## Who is your role model/mentor?

I have had a couple of great role models in my life, especially those who influenced me early in my veterinary career. Drs. Sally Beaumont and Clint Sturdivant really helped me get to where I am today.

## What is the last movie you watched?

The last movie I watched was Maleficent... I must admit, my husband and I are Disney fanatics!

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

A lot of clients have a difficult time viewing me as a doctor. It doesn't help that I have always looked young, but especially as

a new graduate, I have to exude confidence (which is sometimes difficult) to let them know I do actually know what I'm doing.

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

Going to the National Championship game last year in Pasadena was something I've never experienced before. Although we did not get the "W," we had a fantastic time and would definitely do it again.

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

I would love to meet Elvis Presley and ask him what it was like to change the face of music so long ago. Being from Memphis, I have always had a love for everything Elvis.

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

Somewhere tropical... Fiji or Bora Bora sound good to me. I love to read and lay on a beach... I could do it all day.

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

A good book, a blanket, and a fishing pole!

### **What accomplishment are you most proud of?**

Getting into vet school at Auburn as an out of state resident is one thing I am most proud of. I was selected to fill one of ten spots out of over 900 applicants that year. That is still such a great moment for me.

### **What is your favorite quote?**

Some of my best friends never say a word to me." - Anonymous

### **What is your simplest pleasure?**

Lying on the couch with my two dogs while reading a good book or watching Law and Order SVU.

### **What makes you laugh out loud?**

Disney movies make me feel good and give me a good laugh when I need it.

### **What was the last song you sang?**

"Shake It Off" by Taylor Swift has recently become an anthem of mine.

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

I would like to change the perception that the public views veterinarians as "money hungry." I don't think everyone understands what it takes to run a vet clinic, especially one that is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

### **What book are you reading?**

I am currently on the fourth Game of Thrones book... A Feast

for Crows. When I'm not reading this series, I am usually reading Stephen King or James Patterson.

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

Either at an Auburn football game or trying to plan a trip to Disney World!

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

The veterinary mobility act allows the care of animals to improve on many levels including relieving pain and suffering outside the walls of the clinic. I am excited to see how it changes the face of veterinary medicine over the coming years!

### **What five adjectives best describe you?**

Dedicated, optimistic, compassionate, thorough, and creative

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

I technically didn't do it, but my dog (who was just hanging out at the clinic) donated 500 mls of whole blood to save another dog's life this week at the clinic. He earned an extra special can of dog food for his heroic act.

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

Do an echocardiogram. I think learning about the heart is awesome!

