

# New Graduate Member Profile

**Dr. Bradley Venable**  
Fort Walton, FL

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

Lifelong exposure to animals in various settings along with a family with a strong human medical background led me to fall in love with veterinary medicine at a young age. The profession has provided me many diverse memories from a litter of kittens being born in my bed at age 10 to being “attacked” by a zebra at age 20. My mother has plenty of funny stories to share, believe me.

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

Currently I work at a small animal private practice. My experience isn't limited to small animal practice, but it is heavily concentrated there. I felt most comfortable out of school going into what I was most well versed in.

## Who is your role model/mentor?

Our profession is filled with such a large number of amazing individuals, it is hard to pick just one. Mickey Golden has to be mentioned. His success as an owner and manager while practicing quality medicine and exhibiting moral character is tough



to beat. Another person I look up to is Brad Fields. He is an amazing veterinarian solely based on his diversity within the field. He has been a tremendous asset to my career because his endeavors make me think outside of the box in the realm of the profession.

## What is the hardest part of your job?

Managing the staff's emotions has to be the most difficult thing to deal with as a new graduate. You are the new guy on the totem pole and you have to patiently integrate yourself into the flow of things, all while trying to practice your brand of medicine. It is a very difficult feat and they just can't teach that kind of thing in school.

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

Again, managing your staff's emotions is very difficult because you are no longer the staff, you are the doctor. Battling with your level of confidence definitely plays a role in that.

## What do you enjoy most about your job?

I get the most out of my job when I feel like I am making a difference in someone's life. When people bring in their sick or dying animals

and I am able to help them in any capacity, I am fulfilled.

## Where did you study?

The good ole' Cow College. Proud Auburn Alum and fan. War Eagle!

## How did you get involved with the ALVMA?

Serving as SCAVMA president at Auburn during my time in veterinary school helped me realize the importance of organized medicine at all levels in our profession. I worked closely with some of the leaders in ALVMA during that time and have continued to try and stay active so that my voice is heard.

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

Do your research! There are so many challenges facing the profession right now: increasing number of accredited institutions, increasing class sizes, increasing debt and decreasing starting salary. There is a lot of doom and gloom information out there and they should be familiar with it. If they really want to pursue a LIFE in veterinary medicine, it will not matter.

## Where do you see yourself in five years?

That is the toughest question of all. I hope to be a practice owner in some capacity, settling down to start a family, and as active in organized medicine as possible. I want my life to be more than my job though.

## Why would you recommend that someone join ALVMA?

Organized medicine is more important now than ever. As with any career, the veterinary profession is constantly evolving and I think the next 10-20 years might be the most important

ever for us. Being a member and actively involved in local and national associations allows you the opportunity to have your voice heard so that it isn't just the same old worn-out opinions making decisions.

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

Either in my kayak enjoying the water with some Bob Marley in the background or running with my dog Tanner.

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

Connections! You meet so many people when you are active in groups like ALVMA and AVMA.

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

"Take Me To Church" by Hozier.

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

An iPod, a margarita maker and a snorkel.

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

Australia is next on my list because of the exotic wildlife. I have been fortunate enough to travel to Kenya and South Africa for similar reasons.

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

Graduating veterinary school. I have accomplished a lot, but making a lifelong dream come true can't be beat.

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

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." – Maya Angelou



### **What is the last movie you watched?**

"The Hunger Games – Mockingjay Part 1." The books are much better, but the movie holds its own.

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

I love watching "Tosh.0". It is terribly inappropriate and I love it.

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

My four years in Auburn, while stressful, were four of the best years of my life. I have a very strong passion for the loveliest village on the plains that stretches far beyond football. However, my most memorable moment has to be the last few weeks of the regular season last year. I went to the UGA game (Miracle in Jordan Hare), Bama game (Kick Bama Kick), and the SEC Championship game. I actually took my boards two days after the SEC Championship. It was totally worth it.

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

Vince Lombardi. I would pick his brain about football and use it to become the next big thing in Auburn.

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

"Gone Girl" by Gillian Flynn

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

Fun, sassy, energetic, impatient, and likeable

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

The fast shift from veterinary position shortages to a flooded market. How we respond to increasing class sizes, more accredited institutions, and the disparity in income to debt ratio will shape our profession for years to come.

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

I would like to see a pharmacology residency created along with a requirement that a boarded veterinary pharmacologist be on staff in order to dispense to veterinary patients. If that isn't possible, required CE in veterinary medicine for practicing pharmacists and required coursework in veterinary medicine for pharmacy students.

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

I bought my staff Starbucks last week because it was cold and we weren't real busy.

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

I want to learn how to do a lot of things like play the guitar, speak a different language, sail a boat, among other things. As far as vet med goes, I just want to learn to keep my head above the water.