



When you first meet Dr. Walter Haines you'll be struck by his slow and intentional speaking; within a few minutes you will find his dry wit. When asked if veterinarians have a hard time saying no because they are too big-hearted he responded "Nah, that's part of it, but it's partly because we are all narcissists".

Dr. Haines is leading a full life within and outside of veterinary medicine. Growing up he worked on the family Angus farm and on the neighbor's dairy farm. The youngest of three children and with a mixed animal practitioner as a father, he was naturally drawn to veterinary medicine. Walter's dad was a big influence and he knew he wanted to follow in his footsteps. After graduating from Western KY University in 1979, he joined the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine's Class of 1983. Originally planning to study large animal medicine in school, Walter found himself more drawn to small animal medicine as his education progressed.

Dr. Haines enjoyed vet school and all the educational advancements that came with it. Upon graduation he opened his own practice in Glasgow, KY. Haines Animal Hospital opened its' doors on August 8th 1983. Dr. Haines had one client walk through the door that day, and although he doesn't remember the specifics of the case, he does recall it was a chocolate lab. This would become the start of a 20 year career as the Owner and Medical Director of Haines Animal Hospital.

In 2003 Dr. Haines and his wife decided it was time for a change; he sold his practice and moved to New Orleans. From 2003-11 he worked for VCA Airline Animal Hospital as an Associate Veterinarian and Medical Director. The Haines' moved again in 2011 ... to Albuquerque, New Mexico where Dr. Haines worked for Manzano Animal Clinic. Finally in 2013 it was time to move back home to Kentucky and become a bigger part of the children and grandchildren's lives. Walter recalls that this was the first time he had ever quit a job without having another one to go to. Dr. Haines has settled in Bowling Green and works full time at the Animal Hospital of Bowling Green. He says he "doesn't know what else he would do" outside of practice; "I gotta make a living".

Dr. Haines enjoys reading anything about economics and has been known to binge watch The Blacklist on Netflix. Reading and relaxing is as daring as Dr. Haines gets: No bungee jumping he says; "Nothing that risks life or limb!". He has 5 grandchildren ages 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8 that keep him busy, and in his own words "the best golden retriever in the world." When asked if he would choose this profession again he pondered for a bit and answered "probably". Walter feels this career has been both financially and educationally rewarding. Advancements in veterinary medicine have been astounding the past 30 years, "There is something new to learn everyday, and that's always been important to me." Currently, Dr. Haines is learning more everyday about our profession during his term on the executive board of the KVMA; he volunteers his time for this important role and is currently serving as the President of the KVMA. You can learn more about the Animal Hospital of Bowling Green [HERE](#).

Presented by the KVMA Public Relations Committee