



Dr. Doug Peterson is an intelligent, thoughtful and engaging person. He will quickly draw you into conversation and is happy to tell you all about the interesting life he has led. His life has been anything but dull! Having traveled with missionaries on 8 different occasions to Central America he has experienced all walks of life. Veterinary Medicine is certainly different in Central America, where Dr. Peterson worked mostly on cows, pigs, horses and dogs; but no cats, as they aren't considered pets. Fun fact is that Dr. Peterson is extremely allergic to cats. When asked how he deals with that everyday he explained he builds up a resistance to them and only has problems when he has been away from them for any length of time. Spoken like a true veterinarian!

Dr. Peterson grew up in south central Kentucky alongside his four brothers and one sister. Growing up he had no idea that his life would lead to veterinary medicine. Despite working at a veterinary clinic all through high school it wasn't until his senior year that he thought to himself "Ya know, this is kinda fun!" He hasn't looked back since then. Doug graduated from the University of Kentucky with a degree in Animal Science and from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine with his DVM. Doug just celebrated his 30 year class reunion and claims "it's been a good career." "Some days are better than others, but you get up everyday and do it all again."

While reflecting on his career, Dr. Peterson recalled a particularly difficult case that has stayed with him over the years. The patient was a dog with a kidney mass that took nearly 2 and ½ hours to remove. During the procedure there were times when Doug felt in over his head, but he pressed on. When one side seemed never ending he would move to the other side of the table and do some more work. Ultimately the mass was removed and the patient recovered perfectly. Doug has reflected on that case many times in the past 30 years, reminding himself to take it slow, and that if he can be successful with that surgery he can be successful with others.

Dr. Peterson and his family are avid hot air ballooners (balloonists), having gotten into ballooning quite by accident in 1998. He remarks "It's something the whole family could do together" and "Without a crew you are basically just a pedestrian." Family and faith are very important to Doug and he hopes that he is able to convey that everyday at the clinic.

When asked if he would chose this profession again he said absolutely, however he did caution new vet students to be mindful of the cost of a veterinary career. "With the way things are going they could end up owing more than they could ever pay back." Dr. Peterson, as well as others, have expressed a concern for the future of Veterinary Medicine. The advancements have been staggering and the ability to offer advanced patient care has drastically improved. On the flip side, the cost of Veterinary School and the number of students graduating and moving into

strictly small animal medicine is concerning. Doug is unsure what the future holds for Veterinary Medicine, but is hopeful that the profession that he loves will continue to be profitable and prosperous. Dr. Doug Peterson lives in Frankfort Kentucky and works full time at [Frankfort Animal Clinic](#). He is the current President Elect of the KVMA and looks forward to continuing to serve the Veterinarians of Kentucky.

Presented by the KVMA Public Relations Committee