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Atlantic Veterinary College, have been dedicated to providing students with life-changing opportunities; the chance to learn, grow, and be their best professionally and in their community.

Our university's mission is only possible because of you and other generous individuals, foundations, and corporations that support our AVC students. This report is a very small way for your 2023 recipient to say thank you for helping them and caring about their AVC experience.

Please know that everyone at the University is grateful for your support and confidence. The information below was provided specifically for you by your student recipient!

Award Received: The Canadian Kennel Club Award

Name and Contact Information: Michaela Ramsey,  
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What year of study at AVC are you enrolled in? 4th year (2024)

What professor or person has been your greatest inspiration and why?

- Dr. Sheri Ross is a wonderful mentor and supports students in enthusiasm for veterinary medicine and internal medicine specifically. Dr. Ross is one of the most passionate people that I have ever met, so much so that she is one of the founding members of the American College of Veterinary Nephrology and Urology. It's not often one gets to meet someone so excited about a field that she helps create a specialty college. If I can channel half that much passion into my career as a veterinarian, I will have become an excellent doctor.



Other than completing your degree, what are your goals while you are a student here?

- One goal that I am currently working toward outside of class is gaining my acupuncture certification. I am interested in pursuing small animal surgery, and I feel that acupuncture is a wonderful adjunct that can complement other treatments for my patients, particularly as they recover from surgery and the events that prompted the need for surgical intervention.

Do you volunteer and what extracurricular activities do you enjoy:

- I have volunteered for the colic team at AVC, have served on class executive, and currently am serving on the equity, diversity, and inclusion committee. I am also working to revive SAVS Broad Spectrum, an LGBTQ+ and allies affinity group which suffered during the COVID pandemic. I previously served as the class of 2024 representative for AVC BIPOC and allies, a group working to support and encourage diversity within AVC and veterinary medicine. Outside of things in school, I enjoy rock climbing, hiking, reading, and crocheting.

Here's a bit more about me:

- As my mother likes to put it, I have wanted to be a veterinarian since I could say the word. This isn't unique among my fellow veterinary students; and many of us have wanted to pursue this career since we were young. But I'd like to tell a story about my earliest exposure to the field. When I was around 6 years old, my older sibling and I had a kitten named Kakashi. Unfortunately, he was injured when our grandmother's dog picked him up by the neck and shook him. Kakashi was unable to move his hindlimbs, and our parents had told us that he may need to be euthanized if he didn't improve. I dedicated myself to taking care of Kakashi, and I remember the feeling when he urinated for the first time shortly after this incident. I was filled with hope that he could recover. Over the coming days I was all in; I did everything for him. I hand fed him, brought water to his bed, held him so he could use his litter box. The big celebration for me came about a week later, when Kakashi started to move his hind limbs. He improved steadily after that, and went on to walk, run, and play just like any other cat. At the time, I hadn't thought about a career; I just wanted to save my own beloved pet. But this moment cemented to me how animals can recover against all odds, and how we as people can help them on that journey. Now, as a fourth year, I have more stories of animals that I have been lucky to help on their road to recovery, but Kakashi holds a special place in my heart. His memory keeps me focused so that I can continue to help more like him.
- I am incredibly honored to receive the Canadian Kennel Club award; as a student in the thick of my clinical year, being chosen for this adds much needed encouragement as I work toward my lifelong dream of becoming a veterinarian. In the future, I am hoping to specialize in small animal surgery, and for me this award serves as a reminder that I am on the right track. I have a passion for surgery, and I love the ability to help animals that need these interventions. On top of this, any amount of financial support makes a huge difference for me as a student who does not receive financial support from my family. Thank you all so, so much for thinking of me with this award; I am so proud to have been selected.