

My name is Dr. Anna Hickert and I am a 2020 graduate of Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine. For the past 18 months, I have proudly served as a mixed practice veterinarian in a rural community. I have had the opportunity and pleasure of offering my medical knowledge, my sympathies, my celebrations, and my occasional groan-worthy dad joke to the people of the Solomon Valley. But as much as I've given, I have received more. These people have supported me by offering their time, skills, encouragement, wisdom, and acceptance into this incredibly special corner of the world. And although it's not been without challenge, I cannot imagine planting roots in more fertile ground. To think this life I live hinged on my acceptance into the Veterinary Training Program of Rural Kansas makes me cherish the fondness I have for my new home even more. The life-long frugality of my personality and dream of becoming a veterinarian set aside, the financial investment of my education was an alpine hike on a four-year mountain, and I was woefully unequipped with the capital to sustain the hike. I promised myself I would invest in one semester; I would allow myself the opportunity to be admitted in the program that would grant me the ability to pursue my dream of settling down and giving back to the people that had given so much to get me to the doors of Trotter Hall. In my humble opinion, this program is germane to the recruitment and establishment of hard-working and caring veterinarians who are invested in the folks of rural Kansas to their core. These are their neighbors, their friends, and the folks they interact with daily. The drive and calling is present in these young doctors and the program supplements the financial burden of an industry-wide debt to income ratio mismatch. As I continue into my career and work to build my business skills with my medical knowledge, I can confidently state that this program has an incredible ROI. I've often been told that the Good Lord doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called; I thank him daily for the people who instituted this program and who continue to invest in and equip young veterinarians like myself.