

EQUINE ENTHUSIAST:

A LOOK INTO *THE LIFE OF* A VETERINARY INTERN

By: Malia Minckler

What do you want to be when you grow up? For Lyndsay Hagemeyer, a recent graduate of The [Ohio State University School of Veterinary Medicine](#), the answer has always involved taking care of horses.

Hagemeyer, an Ohio native, grew up on the Hagemeyer Family Farm, which breeds and raises Standardbred horses.

“I learned at a young age that you get what you put into it,” Lyndsay shared. “The time and effort and care that you give each animal will get them into a good racing career and endless opportunities.”



[Hagemeyer Farms](#), located in Clarksville, Ohio, produces an impressively high breeding rate annually. Lyndsay has worked to assist with the daily care of foals here since she was a young girl.

“The school bus would drop me off at the barn because I wanted to get there as fast as I could,” said Lyndsay.

Lyndsay shared that she spent a significant amount of time with her great-grandfather, Maynard, when she was younger.

“He nurtured the fact that I could pursue medicine,” she recalled.



Maynard Hagemeyer was also the first president of the **Harness Horse Youth Foundation** (HHYF). Lyndsay said the Youth Foundation helped make her college education a reality as she received a scholarship from HHYF.

“The scholarship from the Harness Horse Youth Foundation was a tremendous help because it is an eight-year journey to becoming a veterinarian, and is a huge financial burden,” she stated. “During my undergrad career (at the University of Cincinnati), I commuted so that I could stay active in mine and my family’s involvement with harness racing” Lyndsay added. “I remember many nights that I would be up all night delivering or caring for foals and then have to drive to Cincinnati to take exams the next day.”

Lyndsay already had an impressive background in working with the horses at Hagemeyer Farms before applying to veterinary school. Universities, however, wanted more.

To tackle this, Lyndsay spent time working on a dairy farm and working with small animals and exotic animals.

“I had to show that I am well-rounded and that I care about other species,” she explained.

So what was Lyndsay’s greatest help in reaching veterinary school? A combination of book smarts and hands-on experience.

“I maximized my schedule so that I prioritized my grades so that I could get into vet school, but still found a way to remain as involved as I could with horses,” she said.





Lyndsay graduated from veterinary school at The Ohio State University, a popular in-state option and also a nationally recognized program, in May of this year.

“Ohio State was my first choice. They have great surgeons, amazing doctors, and every specialty that you could ever want to learn about in equine,” she noted.

“Personally, we (her family farm) have sent many horses to Ohio State. Whether it was foals, neonates, colic surgeries, lameness, you name it,” she added. “I always admired those doctors and students when I was there as a client, and I wanted to be just like them.”

Lyndsay is currently participating in a one-year ambulatory internship with the Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital in Lexington, Ky. She works closely with a mentor who specializes in reproduction in neonatal foals. . Lyndsay’s mentor acts as a role model and a resource for clinical skills and career services.

“Foals are the highlight of my day,” she added.

After completing her internship with Rood & Riddle, Lyndsay plans to continue her veterinary work, focusing on equine-only practice.

“I want to venture into other realms of equine care,” she shared, expressing an interest in dentistry, neonatal and reproductive specialties, and foaling as well.

The recent grad certainly has high hopes for her future, with ample experience and family ties to back it all up.