My Job Shadow

On October 26, 2017 I job shadowed Dr. David Imbach. Dr. Imbach is a Veterinarian at the All Creatures Pet Care Center in Porterville, California. I arrived at the Pet Care Center at 7:55am, and that is around the time I met Dr. Imbach. First I was given a tour around the facilities until I was brought into the operation room. There I was introduced to all of the Veterinary Technicians, and they explained what everything was and how it worked in this clinic. Before they did any surgeries or procedures Dr. Imbach allowed me to help him diagnose a patient, a cat who had kept dislocating his hind leg.

After that they got into the heavier procedures. There was a cat that had to be neutered, and another cat that had to be spade. While the first cat was being neutered I realized that seeing these procedures make me nauseous. Seeing the second cat’s operation I realized that it wasn’t just a one-time thing, I couldn’t handle seeing surgeries occur. I stood outside of the operation room and watched the surgery happen through the window, because even though it made me nauseous this was my job shadow and I had to experience it for all that it was.

Unfortunately while I was at the center a dog had to be euthanized, it had been attacked by other dogs and the family didn’t have the money to pay for the extensive surgery that the dog needed. It was then that I realized that being a veterinarian wasn’t what I wanted to do. Yes, I love animals, and I want to work with animals, but not as a vet. We closed out the day with some less major procedures, like draining out an abscess on another dog. All in all it was an interesting day. I don’t regret job shadowing Dr. Imbach because it kept me from making a mistake in choosing what job profession I wanted to go into.

This experience just solidified my thoughts about working with animals; it just showed me that maybe being a vet isn’t for me. It allowed me to look into other jobs in the same field, maybe I could be a vet technician like the nice ladies I met at the center. The All Creatures Pet Care Center is also just a generally fun place to be, while maintaining a serious environment when needed; they still make time to not lose their sense of excitement.

They hold competitions, and dress up days, they joke around and talk about their days like anyone at this high school would. They have fun, but they don’t neglect their job, and that’s amazing to me. I had the experience of a lifetime, full with laughs, learning, and partial sickness. If I could go back and change who I shadowed I wouldn’t do it, because while I don’t want to be a vet I wouldn’t have known that if it wasn’t for the kind people at All Creatures Pet Care Center.