

Comments from Dental Elective Students in Class of 2020

1. This past spring semester, I had the pleasure of participating in the Dental elective taught by Dr. Noriko. I must attest, that it was one the most beneficial electives that Tuskegee offers. I gained an immense amount of knowledge about small animal dentistry. As a result, I now feel more prepared to take on dentistry cases and perform dental procedures. Dr. Noriko was an amazing professor and I really valued her hands-on approach. This course is very valuable to students because it allows us to gain highly sought after skills that employers are seeking. The teaching style and hand on approach of the dental elective is one that also sets us apart from other veterinary schools. I thoroughly enjoyed participating in the elective and even wished that it was offered earlier in the curriculum and for a longer period of time. Brandon M. Butler, Dental Student Spring 2020
2. "My name is Lorena Sandoval and I am a 2020 Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine graduate. First and foremost I want to say thank you to the Foundation of Veterinary Dentistry, their outreach committee, and Dr. Michael Overend for your donation and dedication to our school and to this profession. Having access to dental equipment in my 3rd year of veterinary school allowed me learn and practice hands-on dental extractions during our dental lab. Up until that moment, I had zero experience with dental equipment. This experience pushed me to take on the dentistry elective in my 4th year of veterinary school because I wanted to gain as many skills as I could before going out into the real world. Throughout my time in this elective, I witnessed my confidence grow: at first it wasn't easy, and it felt like I spent hours trying to extract one tooth, but after weeks of practice, I became confident in my technique and comfortable using the different tools. Today I am proud to be a new member of this amazing profession, I am thankful for the confidence and skills I gained, and I hope to one day pay it forward."
3. I would like to express my gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the senior dental elective! This elective was something that I thoroughly enjoyed and am very thankful to the Foundation of Veterinary Dentistry, their outreach committee and Dr. Michael Overend for choosing Tuskegee University CVM to pilot the dental education center. I have met many clinicians in the field today that did not have something like this available to them during their time in veterinary school and were responsible for learning dentistry techniques on their own. This experience has been immensely beneficial. So much so, that on a recent preceptorship with a corporate hospital, I was able to show the staff and clinicians how to use their newly installed dental radiograph machine. I was also encouraged to share with them techniques used to take dental radiographs. They were so impressed with my confidence in veterinary dentistry, I was allowed to assist on a maxillary canine extraction, perform and close the gingival flap. I am eager to continue to apply these skills and hope that this program is as beneficial to future students as it was to me.

4. Hello my name is Drew Agnew I would like to show my appreciation towards all the dental equipment donors. A special thank you to the Foundation of Veterinary Dentistry, the Outreach Committee within FVD and Dr. Michael Overend. This program has allowed me to have hands on experience with dental procedures, anesthesia monitoring, patient management plans, dental extractions, performing dental radiographs, and awake oral exams on feline and canine patients to just name a few. I greatly appreciate Dr. Noriko for making time for us and blessing us with her knowledge of veterinary dentistry. I feel more confident on internships and interviews when they ask me if I have any experience with veterinary dentistry. Again, thank you all.

5. My name it is Geishly Cruz Matos (class of 2020), I just graduated for Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine and I am going to start a small animal rotating internship in a private hospital. I want to thank Dr. Michael Overend for initiating the pilot dental program at our school with his hard work. Also, I am so thankful that Foundation of Veterinary Dentistry (FVD) provide the funds to get the equipment for our dental program. I not only learned tissue handling and correct methods of tooth extraction, but I also learned to be patient. These skills, I know, will help me during my internship to be more confident with dental procedures. Lastly, I thank Dr. Noriko for being our mentor and for sharing her knowledge with us. Thank you.