

A day in the life of Courtney Ziegler

Hi. My name is Courtney Ziegler. I'm a Registered Veterinary Technologist, Certified Equine Rehabilitation Practitioner and FEI [Fédération Équestre Internationale] permitted Equine Therapist in Alberta, Canada. I also just recently started my Master's degree in advanced practice in veterinary nursing.

My vet tech career started in 2012 when I started in equine clinical practice with a focus on equine sports medicine. I stayed in that field practicing in Canada and the United States as well as just under a year in the Middle East. The Middle East position had me go to Qatar to help set up the equine sports medicine department in a brand new equine referral hospital where I also rotated through the different departments of that hospital while I was there.

My position as a consultant started when I came back home from Qatar and was approached by a company who I had dealt with while I was in clinical practice through using their equipment. So they had some new technology that they wanted my opinion and help with and from that I developed this consulting position.

So my day to day varies significantly, depending on what's going on. Sometimes I will do some locum work for neighbouring clinics though it's a little less often than my consulting position. So my consulting is really anything from management to medical and then I also do a little bit of research assistance as well. So management consulting looks at things such as training protocols and documentation, standard operating procedures, work flow development and software implementation. And then the medical side is anything from contributing to and reviewing marketing materials, medical animations, R&D, educational articles, you know, really anything that kind of requires some of that medical knowledge. And then I have also helped with clinical research and clinical research design, welfare protocols, data entry and determining different areas for expanded research and future research.

So I feel very fortunate to have been able to develop a position where I do get to do a number of things that I enjoy doing while continuing to advance my knowledge and experience. I also appreciate the fact that I do have time to give back to my provincial association so I enjoy volunteering with them on different committees as I can. And really, for anyone watching this, I think that vet tech is a really dynamic career and has an opportunity to really take you in a bunch of different directions if you let it. So if you're interested in medicine or interested in vet tech but don't see yourself in that box of clinical practice, I think it's definitely still worth consideration because there's a lot of different places that this career can take you if you let it.