

Beginning a New Chapter

Independent Study Mentorship

Weekly Report 13: November 27- December 1, 2017

As we close the first chapter of ISM, the research, students have now begun the creation of an original work and the search for a long term mentor. This week I really had to evaluate what information I had gathered in my research and what information I will need for the future in order to create a successful product. Additionally, the search for a mentor has lead me to prioritize what I am looking for in a mentor; instead of a specific specialization in the veterinary field, I need someone who has experience with running a veterinary clinic as a business.

In the beginning of my journey through my research, I was looking for a potential product that would give me tangible results, something that I could build or say that I had used advanced animal science to achieve. After consulting with my fellow classmates and ISM teacher, I learned that my original work is not a competition to see how big of a medical accomplishment I could make but rather how I could impact my community in relation to my research. This lead me towards the decision to create a database of collective medical information, cost predictions, and behavioral analyses of a wide range of dog breeds. By having this collective information, it would allow for others to see what they are actually getting into when adopting a specific breed.

Aside from the creative battle that I encountered while coming up with an original work idea, I also had to begin a professional battle as I attempted to contact a professional to be my mentor. After deciding who I wanted to be as my mentor, Dr. Pruitt from Arbor Hills Veterinary Centre, it was a challenge to get a hold of the busy doctor. This initially worried me as I thought that her current busyness meant she would also be too busy to have me as her mentee. Although I still have not gotten a hold of her, I am going to begin experimenting with different times of the day that I should contact her to see her availability. If this fails, I will

return to the list of veterinarians that I have previously interviewed to see whether or not they would be a good fit for me as a mentor.

Overall, the challenge that I face moving forward after this week is the struggle of attaining a mentor with the availability for a highschool student mentee. With many veterinarians being busy with their own schedules, I need to find new ways to make the ISM experience not too time consuming for them.