



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Five Vermont Veterinary Students Awarded Scholarships From the Vermont Veterinary Medical Association Foundation

Graduating veterinary students face a significant financial challenge as they begin their professional careers. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, the average Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) debt for 2025 graduates who carried student loans was over \$200,000. This substantial financial burden can affect young veterinarians for many years as they establish themselves in the profession.

The Vermont Veterinary Medical Association Foundation (VVMAF) is committed to helping address this challenge by providing scholarships to Vermonters pursuing veterinary degrees. The Foundation's goal is to help reduce the debt burden facing veterinary students and make it easier for them to begin their careers and, ideally, return to Vermont to practice.

Scholarship recipients are selected based on several factors, including their overall financial need and student debt, academic accomplishments, commitment to practicing veterinary medicine in Vermont, and the challenges they have overcome on their path to becoming veterinarians. The Foundation's scholarships are made possible through generous contributions from Vermont veterinarians as well as proceeds from the New England Veterinary Medical Association Conference. These donations allow the VVMAF to continue investing in the future of veterinary medicine in Vermont.

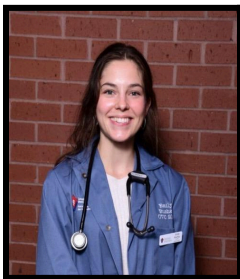
Established in 2012, the Vermont Veterinary Medical Association Foundation has provided scholarship support each year to Vermonters attending veterinary school. The Foundation is proud to continue this tradition of supporting talented veterinary students and helping them pursue their education while preparing for careers that will serve Vermont communities and animals.

The number of scholarship applicants in 2026 exceeded the number of awards given, and it was a difficult task to make the decision this year among extraordinary candidates.

The VVMAF is pleased to announce the recipients of their 2026 scholarships:



Molly Loucy is a student from Milton, VT at The University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine, class of 2027. She returns to Vermont each summer to work with local veterinarians and plans to complete clinical externships in Vermont. Passionate about veterinary neurology, Molly aims to pursue a rotating internship and Neurology residency inspired by her current research on canine gliomas through the Georgia Veterinary Scholars Program. She plans to return to Vermont to build a career in neurology, making specialized care accessible in rural communities.



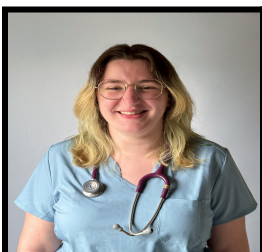
Emily Bushey is entering her fourth year at the Ontario Veterinary College. A lifelong Vermonter, her passion for veterinary medicine began on her uncle's dairy farm and through early experiences with 4-H and job shadowing. After graduation, Emily plans to pursue an equine rotating internship followed by a residency in large animal medicine. Emily's long term goal is to return to Vermont after completing this specialty training to provide advanced equine care.



Caroline Kirby is a second year veterinary student at the Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph, and a graduate of Cornell University. She grew up in East Montpelier, Vermont, where her involvement in dairy 4-H sparked her interest in veterinary medicine and agriculture. She plans to return to Vermont after graduation to practice large animal medicine, with a particular interest in dairy and food animal medicine.



Wendzae Wendling is a second year veterinary student at Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine. She grew up in Wolcott, VT where her family owns a small farm. Looking ahead, Wendzae aspires to potentially work as a shelter veterinarian, although she remains open to multiple possibilities, including potentially working with farm animals as well as small animals.



Rachel Kendrick-Schwartz is a third year veterinary student at The University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine. She has deep Vermont roots, tracing her family history in the state back to the 1840s. Originally from Waterbury, she left Vermont to gain experience in specialty veterinary medicine, with interests in oncology, internal medicine, and surgery.

After graduation, Rachel hopes to bring that knowledge and experience home to Vermont. Her goal is to help expand access to affordable, high-quality veterinary care for Vermonters while maintaining her commitment to specialized medicine.

Congratulations to these Vermont students!