



ARV Visiting Vet Program TALKING POINTS

Experience has shown us that the most powerful presentations are the ones that tell is as it is—so tell the audience your story—and answer questions to the best of your ability. Feel free to use the talking points below to help you plan your presentation.

Overall Points

- Rural veterinary practice gives you the opportunity to truly make a difference in peoples' lives + you help address a critical need in our country.
- Rural veterinary client relationships are truly special relationships because you have an impact on their livelihood.
- You did not have to grow up on a farm or ranch to have the pre-requisites for rural practice.
- The job does not require brute strength. It does require stamina.
- Many fallacies out there about rural practice: low wages, nothing to do in a small town, etc. These are simply not true.
- A career in rural veterinary medicine can be a very rewarding experience!

Telling Students Your Story – Putting the “Personal Touch” on Rural Practice

- Introduce yourself, your alma mater and graduation year, describe your type of practice, how long you've been practicing, etc.
If you have pictures of your facility—feel free to share them!
- Tell them how you got to where you are.
- Why did you choose rural veterinary medicine?
- Talk about the challenges/rewards you initially encountered—compare them with your situation today.
- Describe your clientele.
- Talk about the type of procedures/medicine you use in your practice, i.e. advanced orthopedics, consulting work, etc.
- How much would you pay a new grad? How much could an experienced vet earn in your practice/area?
- What are you looking for in a new grad?
- Talk about where you live, describe the community you serve.
- Cost of living in area?
- Lifestyle: Time for family? Outside interests/hobbies? Vacation?
- What words of advice did a mentor give you at the beginning of your rural career?

The Academy of Rural Veterinarians

- Encourage students to join ARV; there is no cost and membership will allow them to join into a important and useful network
- Direct them to the website for details: www.ruralvets.org