



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Steve Gloates and I believe with all my heart that it is no accident I am here - God had a plan. Dr. Julie and I met in the fall of 1993 when we were placed in close proximity in the freshmen class at Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine. For the next three years we worked together closely as we belonged to adjacent lab groups. After veterinary school we lost touch. Now, almost eleven years later, Julie is passing the torch of Vetcetera on to me. I am humbled and honored.



Allow me to share a story with you. This story explains what sparked my interest in veterinary medicine and why I am passionate about what I do.

When I was nine years old a very special cat came into my life. My mom and I were driving down a country road in Connecticut one fall and we passed a small black and white cat on the side of the road. I was too small to see what mom saw so I was a bit perplexed by the rapid deceleration and screeching tires. We went back to the cat that, on closer inspection, had blood down the front staining her white fur. We gradually helped her overcome her apprehension and coaxed her over to us. I can't remember what our original destination was but we were now headed to the veterinary office. The little black cat sat on the seat between us purring through clotted blood in her nose. There was an instant connection between me and that little cat. I ached when we had to leave her at the veterinary hospital. A few days later we received the phone call that she was ready to go home. A life changing moment occurred for me when the veterinarian handed her back to me. She was now a healthy, healing cat I would call my own. My definition of heroism had been redefined. The typical nine-year old heroes like Spider Man, The Hulk and Captain America disappeared. There was a new hero in town, my local veterinarian.

From the age of nine I never deviated in my career path. Baby, the cat in my story, lived with me for nineteen joy filled years. She saw me through elementary school, intermediate school, high school, college and even veterinary school. Our paths parted when she developed liver cancer six months after I graduated veterinary school. She is gone, but the passion lives on. Her picture now hangs in the waiting room as a reminder of the reason I do what I do. I understand what it is to love an animal, need the



help of a caring veterinarian and to say goodbye to an animal. Sharing your life with an animal is a heartwarming journey of ups and downs. I am excited and honored to be sharing that journey with you.

Dr. Julie speaks so highly of you, her clients, her patients and coworkers. What I know of Dr. Julie tells me I have VERY big shoes to fill. I am excited to be stepping into a practice where the previous owner and I share the same core beliefs and values and there is mutual high regard. This makes the transition easier for everyone.

I intend to offer you the same quality service you have come to expect from Vetcetera. To that end, I want to assure you that I will become as familiar as possible with you and your pets. I will be reading the medical history for each pet in detail prior to your appointments, and Dr. Julie has graciously made herself available for any questions or concerns should the need arise. I will also lean heavily on my teammates, the Vetcetera staff. A thorough network of information and communication has been put in place to allow for the best continuity of care. I look forward to meeting you soon!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Kloates". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Steve

P.S. I also want to invite you to the First Annual Adopt-a-thon hosted by Vetcetera on May 10<sup>th</sup> from 9am to noon. My lovely wife Debra (also a veterinarian but presently a full-time mom) and I look forward to meeting many of you at this event. I also want to extend to you an invitation to contact me personally at [drsteve@vetcetera.com](mailto:drsteve@vetcetera.com) if you would like to do so.

