



College Address
116-A University Village Drive
Box 206
Central, SC 29630
Cell (864) 873-8299

Home Address
427 Windmill Rd
Chesterfield, SC 29709
Hm. (843) 623-7150

The Honorable Governor Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

My name is Rebecca Lynn Watson and I am a senior at Clemson University. I am studying Pre-Vet Science and plan to enter into veterinary school next fall if accepted. You may not be aware our state does not have a veterinary school and contracts with three out of state universities for very limited seating. Seating for all other non-contracted universities is extremely limited of non-residents of their states.

My roots are planted in Chesterfield, South Carolina where I grew up. My family has served the community for many years. My grandfather, Jakie Watson, Jr. spent his career in the Chesterfield County School District as teacher, principle, County Superintendent for five years and Associate Superintendent for twenty-four years until his retirement. My father, Jakie Watson, III has been employed with Conbraco Industries for over thirty-three years as a machinist, tool and die maker, while my mother, Betty Lynn Watson has been the Municipal Clerk and Treasurer for the Town of Chesterfield for over twenty-seven years. So you can see I come from a line of dedicated individuals. I have spent my teenage years and young adulthood focusing on academics, community service, sports, rodeo, my faith and dual enrollment (college classes) while in high school to jump start my college requirements. This has allowed me to be on target to graduate from Clemson University in only three years.

I would greatly appreciate if you would contact any or all of the universities on the attached list of on my behalf to help me secure a seat for the Fall 2016 veterinary school program. Please include my VMCAS #7977897159. Universities are now reviewing admission candidates. I have attached my resume', a copy of my personal statement required for the Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS), personal statement required for some of the universities and a list of the universities with potential contact information.

While my preference would be to attend Lincoln Memorial University because it is one of the closes in proximity to my home in Chesterfield, I would be delighted to be given the opportunity to study at any of the mention universities.

Please do not hesitate to contact me by phone, email or mail should you have any questions. Again, thank you for your help in making my lifelong dream come true.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca Lynn Watson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Rebecca Lynn Watson

Rebecca Lynn Watson

rlwatso@clermson.edu

864-873-8299

College Address

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427 Windmill Rd
Chesterfield, SC 29709

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Animal and Veterinary Sciences

Clemson University

Pre-veterinary and Science Concentration

Present-May 2016

Clemson, SC

GPA: 3.17

EXPERIENCE

Creekside Veterinary Clinic

Volunteer

Goose Creek, South Carolina

August 3-7, 2015

- Observed procedures, surgeries and treatment plans
- Handled animals, examinations, lab work, injections
- Helped prepare for surgeries

Girl Scouts of Eastern South Carolina (Sandy Ridge Camp)

Assistant Camp Director, Camp Counselor, Cook & Volunteer

Bennettsville, SC

Summer 2014-current

- Prepared camp for campers-cleaning, organizing and planning activities
- Camp Counselor-camper activities, check-in and departure.
- Cook-prepared meals for the campers and camp counselors
- Assistant Camp Director for Summer Camp 2015 and Lifeguard certified

Anderson Animal Hospital

Volunteer and Employee

Hartsville, South Carolina

December 2013-Current

- Observed procedures and surgeries
- Handled animals, examinations, lab work, injections
- Helped prepare for surgeries
- Exercised boarded animals
- Provided customer service at the front desk and
- Maintained cleanliness of building

Sandhills Animal Hospital

Volunteer

Cheraw, South Carolina

Summer 2013-Current

- Observed procedures and surgeries
- Handled animals, examinations, lab work, injections
- Helped prepare for surgeries
- Exercised boarded animals
- Provided customer service at the front desk
- Maintained cleanliness of building

Paws and Claws Animal Shelter

Chesterfield, South Carolina

Volunteer

Summer 2013

- Cared for animals daily and exercised dogs once a day
- Fed animals twice a day and administered medications as needed
- Cleaned cages daily

Phoenix Rising Egyptian Stud Farm

Cheraw, SC

Volunteer and Employee

Summer 2010-2012

- Cleaned and managed stalls daily and cared for horses daily

HONORS & ACTIVITIES

SC Life Scholarship & SC Life Enhancement Scholarship	Fall 2013-present
Grace Grady Girl Scout Scholarship	May 2013
Chesterfield High School Alumni Scholarship	May 2013
Dizzy Gillisepie Scholarship	May 2013
SC High School Rodeo Scholarship	May 2013
CTEA (Career & Technology Education Administrator's Scholarship)	May 2013
Charles L. Morgan Scholarship	2014/15
Little North American Livestock Show Sportsmanship Award	April 2014
Pre-vet Club	Fall 2013
WAVS (Women in Animal & Veterinary Science)	2013/14
WAVS Big Sister	2014/15
Poultry Science Club	Fall 2013-present
Sigma Alpha Sorority (Tau Chapter)	2015
(Is a professional sorority for women in agriculture that promotes scholarship, leadership, service and fellowship.)	
Women's Bible Study Group (Clemson Campus)	Fall 2013-present
St. Paul United Methodist Church member	1995-present
Ashland Arena Horse Shows	2007- present
Will McPhenson Memorial Sportsmanship Award	2008
High Point Champion	2009, 12 & 2014
Chesterfield High School Alumni Association	2013-present

Pre-College Activities

SC Commissioner's School for Agriculture	Summer 2012
4-H	
Sandy Spurs Horse Club	2003-2013
PeeDee 4-H Short Course	2008
Fire Safety Poster Contest, blue ribbon winner	2010
Wether Goat Project	2007-2012
Blue Ribbon Winner and 1 st on carcass, 1 st & 2nd sportsmanship	
F.A.C.E. Project winner	2007, 2009, 2011
	Second place 2012
State Record Book Blue Ribbon Winner	2010
State Congress 4-H Winner	2011
Attended National 4-H Congress	2011

Girl Scouts	Girl Scout and Girl Scout Community Service	2003-2013
	Bronze Award (Connie Maxwell's Children's Home)	2006
	Silver Award	2008
	(physically built a 10x40 picnic shelter and storage building-raised \$14,000 in materials and additional labor for the project for the Connie Maxwell Children's Home)	
Salkehatchie Summer Service		Summers 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013
South Carolina High School Rodeo		2009-2013
	Placed overall in the top 15 in state.	2009/10
	Placed overall in the top 10 in state.	2010-2013
	Miss Congeniality for SC High School Rodeo Queen	2012
	Wes Ramsey Memorial Belt Buckle for outstanding sportsmanship	2013
High School	Future Farmers of America	2009-2012
	High School Yearbook Editor	2012/13
	Prom Chairman	2011/12
Chesterfield High School Cross Country Team		Fall 2009-12
	Most Improved Athlete	2009/10
	4th Place in School Region III-A	2009 & 10
	1st Place in School Region III-A	2011
	School Region III-A runner of the year	2011
Chesterfield High School Track and Field Team		Spring 2008-12
	2nd Place in School Region III-A	2011
	4 x 8 relay team	2011/12
	School Region III-A runner of the year	2012
Jr. Olympics for Cross Country-Cheraw Striders		
	Member of the 1 st place team for South Carolina	2010
	6 th place in South Carolina for girl's individuals	2010
	Team competed at Nationals in Maryland	2010

Rebecca Lynn Watson Personal Statement

Its 12:30 AM and the squeals of twelve little girls drown out the sound of the crickets in the nearby woods. Welcome to my life as a Girl Scout Assistant Camper Director. I have wrangled thousand plus pound horses through knee deep mud and hail while riding the high school rodeo circuit, had my roping horse flip over on top of me when the cow stopped under her, yup, I thought I could handle just about anything but apparently wrangling twelve little girls who are shrieking because they think spiders are in their cots is like herding cats.

Starting my first year at Clemson University I thought I was prepared, after all, this was the second mile in my 5k of living my dream since age 3 of becoming a veterinarian. I had lived through some tough times that made me a strong person like these four life-changing events: getting mauled in the face by a dog and having plastic surgery to repair the damage, living through a fire that burned down our community center while I was inside, having taken some spills on my rodeo horses that others came away with serious injuries and a few did not survive from, and helping my mom care for my grandfather who nearly died of a blood clot eight years ago. So I thought college was no problem, a "walk in the park". What I did not count on was a serious case of nerves that almost sent me "running for the hills" and staying home. It caught me quite by surprise because I was always someone to meet a crisis head on and no challenge ever seemed too big. I had always used our high school Cross Country motto, "Don't chase your dreams, run them down!" and here I was stopping in the middle of the race. I guess the cliché is true, I was a big fish in a little pond in high school and a little fish in a big pond in college and that thought terrified me. But like in any race when you feel like you cannot take another step, I put my foot forward and looked ahead.

Through all my life experiences with animals from growing up on a farm, providing daily care, the many hours spent being mentored and working for several veterinarians I learned basic skills such as physical assessment, blood drawing, in-house blood and specimen testing, reading x-rays, restraint during physical exams for all animals, giving injections and even suturing my own horse when she cut a gaping hole in her muscle under the instruction of my veterinarian has matured me and given me the discipline to reach my goal of becoming a veterinarian. As a long time animal owner, I bring compassion for both animals and their owners because I know the heartbreak of losing beloved pets. However, I have also witnessed the gratification in the eyes of a child when their pet survives, and the relief on the farmer's face when his livelihood has been restored by the quality care and management of his livestock from his trusted veterinarian. You will find that I am natural leader with the capacity to be a good team player without appearing presumptuous, not only diligent and lively, but I can multi-task with ease, am a dedicated student, have sharp business and finance skills, have good customer service and communication skills, quick decision-making, time management skills and can even wrangle twelve squealing little girls.

In pursuing this career, my objective is to provide a rural area practice with affordable veterinarian care and to open a 24/7 emergency clinic. This arises from there not being any emergency clinics or

veterinary offices that provide round the clock care. My county has a high kill shelter, a policy which they are slowly trying to change. I would like to focus on educating the community as to the importance of the spaying and neutering of pets while striving to make it affordable to all.

With a degree in veterinary medicine I can use my passion for giving back to my community to affect not only animals, but also people through education of quality animal care and the lifetime commitment of owning an animal. Growing and maturing through all the life experiences that I have had, I now feel prepared for the dedication of veterinary school and for a career in veterinary medicine. It takes a calm level head, determination, and sometimes the nerves of steel to become and be a veterinarian. By choice I am not "running for the hills", I am lacing up my favorite trainers for the final mile, with each stride I take in life I am one step closer to the finish line of running down my dream, as Dr. Rebecca Lynn Watson, DVM.

Rebecca Watson

My definition of resiliency is to continue your passion against all odds no matter how much the world tells you that you cannot do it.

As a child my pony and grandmother passed away. Even at age six I was determined to remember both of them and her desire for me to ride. So as a little girl I would sit in the stands and watch the pretty girls with fast horses run by me at the SC High School Rodeo and I had stars in my eyes. When I rolled up in my little trailer and \$500 horse, here came your average middle class income family but the group I was competing with had horses over \$75,000, trainers and stable hands, some of them changed horses like I change clothes. I was in over my league financially, but not in southern girl grit. So for four seasons, I put that grit and resiliency to being competitive and every year placed in the top ten to fifteen in my categories of Pole Bending, Barrel Racing, Goat Tying and Breakaway Roping in the state. When I wanted to compete in the Queens contest for rodeo, that required a trained horse in reigning pattern. So, I trained my horse to do it as well. The other contestants has a horse for each division. I learned that in life someone will always have more funds or opportunities than you but what you do with what you have been given determines how well you will perform in life. I could have said well I do not have the best of everything so I will not compete but I said no me and my horse have just as much heart and determination as the others.

When I was trapped in our burning community center, that killed one firefighter, I took it all in stride. I was never afraid or when I was mauled in the face by a dog and had to have extensive plastic surgery I didn't run and hide. I continued my dream of being the veterinarian just like I always had before the attack. When competing in rodeo/horse shows I took some serious spills and hobble away with minor injuries, some of my competitors where not that lucky, some with serious injuries and one death. My huge roping horse flipped over on me when a calf stopped under her and the only thing that saved me was my head ended up on under the saddle. The crowd jumped to their feet as I laid there lifeless but came too and got up and tended my horse. Then there were other incidents, one of which when I was performing and my horse lost her footing and rolled over my leg and ankle. It was intense pain but I vet wrapped the foot and ankle and rode without a stirrup to finish all the events for the evening and keep my high point status for the season. During my Cross Country and Track and Field career I endured many knee injuries and even a sliding growth plate in my hip but was determined to carry my team to the state finals because I was one of our top runners.

At Salkehatchie Summer Service, I seemed to take on the impossible houses. One particular house was very bad. We had worked most of the week with little progress and the adult site leader wanted to quit. Even though I was only sixteen I said no, I am staying to finish. We rallied the whole camper of sixty to come work late into the night to finish the home. The next year we found out the house had a leaking roof so one other girl and myself raised the \$2,000, organized volunteers and returned to give her a brand new roof. At Girl Scouts, my troop of seven girls including myself raised over \$14,000 of materials and labor to build a storage shed and picnic shelter for the Connie Maxwell Children's home. We actually built of it ourselves, except for the concrete pad and shingles where labor was donated.

So as you can see no is not in my vocabulary or life. To me it is important to be resilient because that carries you through the hard times and when people tell you that you cannot accomplish your goals. I believe my resilient nature will carry me through veterinary school and beyond because in life you can never give up, even when others believe it is impossible.

1) Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine

Coordinator of Admissions

Kaye G. Storey

Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine

Phone: 334/844-3696

E-mail: storyka@auburn.edu

Mailing Address:

Office of Academic Affairs

College of Veterinary Medicine

Veterinary Education Center

Suite 217

Auburn, AL 36849-5536

Phone:334/844-2685

2) Lincoln Memorial University-College of Veterinary Medicine

Genell Patterson, MA, EdS

Student Services and Admissions Coordinator

Lincoln Memorial University-College of Veterinary Medicine

6965 Cumberland Gap Parkway,

Harrogate, TN 37752

Phone: 423-869-6078 Fax: 423-869-6393

E-mail: Genell.Patterson@lmunet.edu

3) University of Florida Veterinary School

Associate Dean for Students and Instruction

Dr. Pamela Ginn

Nicole Hudson

Admissions Officer

PO Box 100125 HSC

Gainesville, FL 32610-0125

Phone: (352) 294-4244

E-mail: HUDSONR@ufl.edu

4) The University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine

Office for Academic Affairs

College of Veterinary Medicine

The University of Georgia

Athens, GA 30602-7372

Parker Moore

Associate Director of Admissions

College of Veterinary Medicine

University of Georgia

Email: pcmoore@uga.edu

Admissions Counselor

Phone: 706.542.5727

Email: dvmadmit@uga.edu

5) The Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine's DVM Admissions Office

Jared Granier, M.B.A.

Director of Admissions/Enrollment

Office of Veterinary Education & Student Affairs

LSU School of Veterinary Medicine

Skip Bertman Dr.

Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Phone: 225-578-9537

Fax: 225-578-9546

E-mail: svmadmissions@lsu.edu

Website: www.lsu.edu/vetmed

6) Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine

College of Veterinary Medicine

Office of Student Admissions

Mississippi State University

PO Box 6100

240 Wise Center Drive (UPS or Fedex)

Mississippi State, MS 39762

Dr. Richard Meiring

Assistant Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs

E-mail: richard.meiring@msstate.edu

662-325-2749

Missy Hadaway

Admissions & Student Affairs Coordinator

E-mail: hadaway@cvm.msstate.edu

662-325-2749

7) NC State University Veterinary Medicine

Jeff Huckel, Director

NC State University - CVM

Student Services Office

1060 William Moore Drive, Box 8401

Raleigh, NC 27607

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Megan Jacobs

NC State University Veterinary Medicine
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8) The University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine

Taylor Sorrow
College of Veterinary Medicine
The University of Tennessee
Student Services Assistant II
Phone: 865-974-7495
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9) Tuskegee University Office of Veterinary Admissions

Ebony Turk
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E-mail: eturk@mytu.tuskegee.edu

Office of Veterinary Admissions
Tuskegee University
School of Veterinary Medicine
Tuskegee University
Tuskegee, AL 36088
Phone: 1-800-622-6531

10) Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine

ID number is: 906004620

Joyce D. Massie
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