

Kristen graduated from Gwinnett Technical College in Lawrenceville, Georgia in 2011 with an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Veterinary Technology. Shortly after graduation, she passed the VTNE and obtained a Georgia state license as a Registered Veterinary Technician. Kristen obtained a position within the emergency and intensive care unit at Georgia Veterinary Specialists (now BluePearl) in Atlanta, GA in September of 2011. Over the next 3 years, she worked her way up through emergency and critical care to become a technician within the small animal internal medicine department where she remained for almost 4 years.

Looking to make more of an impact and continue her growth as a small animal internal medicine technician, she obtained a position at the University of Georgia Veterinary Teaching Hospital in 2018. There she was able to further cultivate her passion for teaching and supporting other veterinary technicians, veterinary technician students, and veterinary students. She led round table discussions and provided local general practice training sessions on the importance of sample handling, proper techniques on how to obtain blood pressures on multiple species, as well as training fellow technicians on aseptic placement of central lines and arterial lines. Kristen also enjoys interacting with and supporting clients to help create personalized solutions for their pet's needs. By working closely with faculty internists, she was able to help create and implement a glucose monitoring protocol and training sessions with clients. Teaching the diabetic pet owner how to use an interstitial blood glucose monitor and how to track their pet's glucose values at home, was one of her favorite appointments while at UGA. However, arguably, a very close second favorite would be sneaking out to the large animal barn, during down time, to provide some extra TLC to the equine and porcine patients.

In 2019, she obtained her VTS in Small Animal Internal Medicine which has allowed her to further expand her career as a veterinary technician. She currently works for Zoetis, working within a territory of 300+ clinics providing support to the local veterinarian and veterinary technician. She provides diagnostic point of care technical support, continuing education sessions on proper sample handling techniques and its effects, and training on diagnostic result interpretation. These training sessions allow an opportunity for technicians to stay in stride with their veterinarian on a potential patient diagnosis. In turn, creating a closer technician-veterinarian bond while expanding on their individual knowledge base and increasing their confidence as a veterinary technician.

Being a role model and support system for her fellow coworkers drives her every day to be a better person and technician. In her spare time, she enjoys practicing yoga and working out, outdoor activities with her dog, Brody, and the occasional daydream of relaxing on a beach in Hawaii.