Vet Voices: A Conversation with Dr. Brian Taylor

A VPP Community Spotlight

Dr. Taylor is a co-owner of Watson's Friends Animal Hospital in Palmetto, FL. He joined VPP in 2021.

Q: What motivated you to pursue practice ownership? How did VPP help?

A: Thanks to my family's ownership of veterinary clinics, I grew up surrounded by the daily operations of veterinary practices. This early exposure not only sparked my passion for veterinary medicine but also the business side of running a clinic. Owning my own practice felt like a natural progression—an opportunity to blend my love for animals with the skills and knowledge I had acquired over the years.

VPP played a crucial role in making this dream a reality by providing comprehensive support. The responsibilities of practice ownership can be overwhelming, from managing accounting and taxes to handling payroll and marketing. VPP helped ease this burden by offering expert guidance and resources, allowing me to focus more on what I love—caring for my patients. Additionally, their network and ability to secure the best deals for my clients ensure that my practice remains competitive and thriving.

Q: What advice would you give to veterinarians seeking pathways to practice ownership?

A: Owning a practice brings a unique sense of fulfillment and accomplishment that goes beyond what you can experience as an employee. There's a deep satisfaction that comes from building something that is truly your own—from the ground up. However, it's important to recognize that the path to ownership is demanding. The level of commitment required is substantial, and the challenges can be daunting. But, as with most things in life, the rewards are directly proportional to the effort you invest. If you're considering this path, my advice is to embrace the challenges with a clear vision of the career satisfaction and personal meaning that ownership can bring.

Q: What does the future hold for your practice? What excites you most about the future of your veterinary career?

A: Looking ahead, I'm excited about expanding my team with young, passionate associates who share my commitment to exceptional care. I'm particularly interested in mentoring these individuals, helping them grow not only as veterinarians but also as potential future practice owners. My hope is to foster in them the same drive and determination that led me to where I am today. Ideally, they'll take the experience and values they gain here at Watson's Friends and eventually branch out to create their own practices, perhaps even leading to a second Watson's Friends location. The idea of nurturing the next generation of veterinary leaders and seeing them carry forward the culture and vision we've established here is incredibly exciting.