



## Kristin Coutts '05

By Brianna (Martin) Patterson '03, M'07

**Kristin Coutts was one step closer to achieving her dream when she entered The Ohio State University (OSU) College of Veterinary Medicine in fall 2005.**

"I'll never forget the day that I was accepted to OSU," she said. "At that moment, all of the hard work leading up to that point was well worth it."

It was at The University of Findlay where she could see her dream becoming a reality. "Dr. Kerns always had the most unbelievable stories about his veterinary journey," she said. "It made my goal of becoming a veterinarian one day come to life for me. I remember thinking how great it would be to share stories of my own some day."

Coutts already is working on creating those stories. She's gotten involved with her classes, activities and other experiences at OSU, all of which, she says, have been rewarding and educational. She expected to work and study hard while in veterinary school, but she wasn't expecting the many positive rewards and sense of accomplishment she'd experience, as well.

Thus far, Coutts' focus has been primarily in small animal medicine, but in the

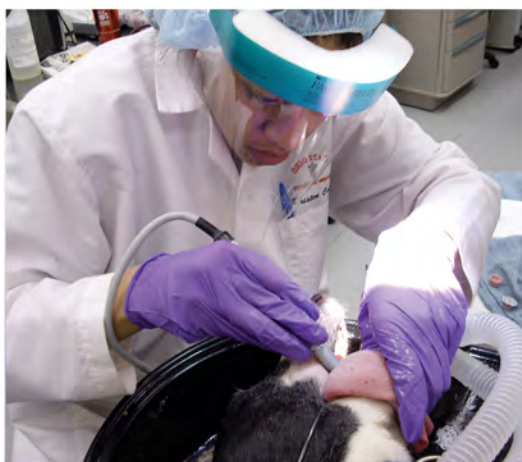
fall, she will complete a large animal clinical rotation.

Coutts says her studies at UF, as well as her four years on the varsity volleyball team, helped prepare her for the tough curriculum at OSU. Coutts attributes much of her mental strength, determination and hard-working attitude to her experience as a student-athlete. "Time management and working together as a team also were additional skills that helped take my overall performance to the next level," she said.

As for in-class experience, she mentioned the hands-on experience with animals that UF pre-veterinary medicine students receive early on as one of the best parts of the program.

Of her academic adviser, Linda Peck, D.V.M., Coutts said "I have had nothing but the utmost admiration and respect for Dr. Peck. She was definitely an excellent role model who played a very important part in my veterinary career path."

Coutts plans to graduate from OSU in June 2009.



Coutts cleans a canine's teeth in the OSU Veterinary Clinic.

# Preparing to Care