

JENNY NARVAEZ

Loja

How many siblings do you have?

I have 5 siblings (4 brothers and 1 sister).

Do you have any pets?}

I have two cats in Loja, two dogs, and two cats in Quito.

What are your favorite pastimes or hobbies?

Reading, listening to music, dancing, and watching series or dramas.



Are you working? What type of work are you doing?

Yes, I'm working in a veterinary clinic as a medical internist.

Studies

Academic program: Veterinary Medicine and Zootechnics.

School: The National University of Loja.

Graduation: September, 2020.

What work will you pursue with your program?

With this profession, I wish to continue with my studies doing a master's degree related to Veterinary Clinical Laboratory to specialize in this area. Subsequently, work in a Veterinary Research Center or develop my own veterinary diagnostic laboratory.

The Foundation

I met Mike and Margarita many years ago; the truth is I don't remember the exact year, but first I met Margarita, she was my health teacher when I was in middle school in the CMT in Quito. Her classes were very fun, she always had a dynamic activity for us, in which we sang, we did theater with puppets, we danced, and we mimed. She was an excellent teacher, and no one wanted to miss any class.

Later I met Mike, he was my math teacher, a subject that I liked very much. It was amazing the way Mike solved math problems, and even his way of teaching was even much better than native math teachers from Ecuador. Sometime later he was my tutor with subjects like physics and math since I had some problems understanding my high school and university teachers. Mike and Margarita were also my tutors in evening meetings to learn English, together with volunteers from the CMT.

Sometime later they invited me to join DEOF. They supported me so that I could continue my studies at the university, which was very difficult for me because I did not have the economic resources to continue studying.

DEOF supported me emotionally and financially. With the funds I have received from DEOF, I have been able to pay basic expenses such as rent, food, transportation, internet, buy materials for my classes, as well as medical expenses since I have had some health problems. Currently, I'm receiving physical therapy for back problems. I have also been able to enroll in scientific updating courses related to my profession. Recently they helped me with the payment to receive English classes. Also, several DEOF collaborators have been very interested in helping me with some requirements to apply for international scholarships for a master's degree.

There are many memorable moments, but among those memories are when Mike and Margarita were returning to Ecuador, and I traveled to Quito to meet with them. Being able to meet with them after a long time was a precious gift. Our plan for the day was to meet at the volunteer house, talk for a long time, and then go to a restaurant to have a delicious meal. After going to a bookstore and picking out some books with Mike and Margarita, we finally had an ice cream or snack. Spending time with them was very rewarding because I could only see them once a year. DEOF means family, unconditional love. From the moment I met Mike and Margarita, they have been present in my life, during my personal and professional development. They have been supporting me unconditionally. They are like my second parents; they are my guardians on earth. Also, Mike and Margarita, together with the directors of DEOF, have been a support network to help me fulfill my goals. All this has helped me not to give up and to understand that dreams can become reality. It's just a matter of believing in myself since they have taught me to value myself more.

COVID Disruption

My experience when the pandemic started was not good at all. I had serious health problems with my back, affecting my emotional and physical state. I had to face being locked up for several months, stressed, depressed, and completely alone, away from my family.

It was a hard time for me, but thank God, with the help of DEOF, and that of my family, I recovered and continued with my normal activities. Currently, I work in a veterinary clinic, but every day we follow safety protocols, we take the measures to protect our patients and ourselves.