

# Pushing Forward Through the Trenches



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*Dr Rachel Cezar  
AVMA Convention 2014*



# My Personal Journey



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Born in Chicago, IL – city life  
Moved to Mendon, MI -  
country life  
Thrown on a horse at age 6  
Embraced: Bailing hay,  
driving a tractor and 4-H





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Undergraduate studies – 1994 to 1997

Veterinary School – 1997 to 2002

- Hardest part was staying in
- First generation college student
- No financial support
- Peer pressure



# I GRADUATED!!



- Unfortunately exit interview was negative
- “You will only be a backyard horse vet”
- Continued to work at Michigan Department of Agriculture



# Not Giving Up!



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- **2003 - Fellowship** at Hagyard Davidson McGee Equine Hospital in Lexington, KY
- **2004 - Internship** at Dubai Equine Hospital in Dubai, United Arab Emirates



# Beginning My Public Service Journey



- **2005 – 2007: USDA Veterinary Medical Officer** in East Lansing, Michigan
- **2006 – 2012: Public Health Officer (Rank – Captain to Major)** in Air National Guard at Fort Wayne, IN and Andrews AFB in Washington DC:

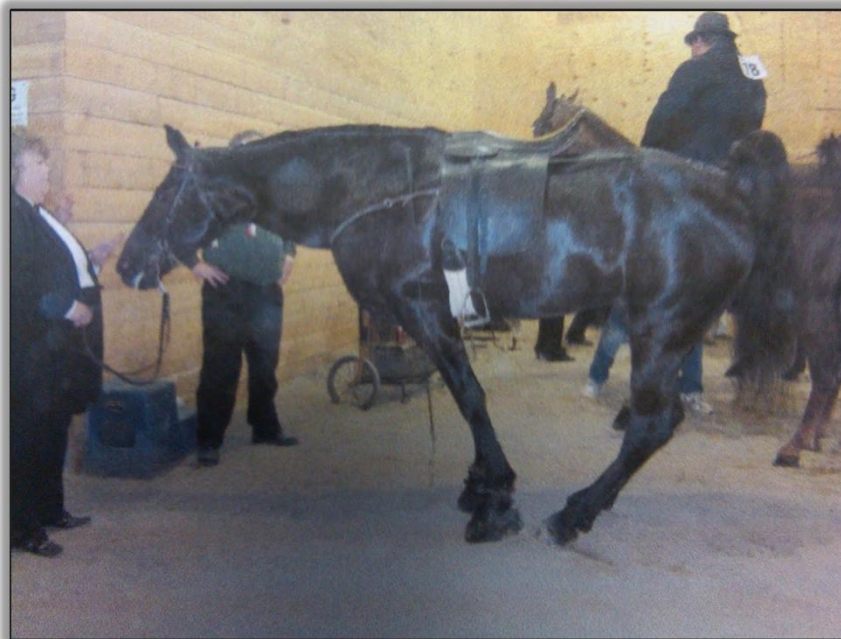


**“She will only last two years”**



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- **2007-Present: USDA Supervisory Veterinary Medical Officer – National Horse Protection Coordinator in Washington DC area**





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*"You can have it all  
Just not all at once."*

*Oprah Winfrey*







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Tenacity!

Persistence – Perseverance - Stubborn determination

**Don't give up!**

**Dog eat dog world**

Trust selectively – Always go with your gut feeling

**ALWAYS LOOK  
CONFIDENT**





Choose a job you love, you'll never work  
a day in your life" ~ Confucius



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# THANK YOU!



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