

I graduated from Ontario Veterinary College in 1989. It was my love for animals and desire to help their plight which was the reason I went to school to be a vet. While I never considered being a large animal vet previously, in my time in the clinics in 4th and 5th year, I came to love cows, pigs and horses.

I never practiced veterinary medicine for many reasons, but, I have always been sensitive to the entire animal welfare issue. I knew that at some point in my life I would come back to doing something special in the animal world.

Recently an amazing man named Howard Diamond came back into my life. In my early 20's, I used to play racquetball with him and hadn't seen him for decades. We connected on Facebook and through this connection I learned of his huge heart - and of his primary mission to end animal suffering all across the world.

As a result of our reconnection and his presence in my life, I decided to go vegetarian on January 1, 2023. I feel that now I am at least making a step towards living my values.

I am not a militant. With that said, it sickens me to think of all the animals killed for meat and other human requirements - especially given that as a society we have developed viable alternatives in every area. I am especially hopeful that with companies like <u>Upside Foods</u>, we will be able to have animal proteins without the need to kill animals.

My mission with <u>NDG Project</u> is to develop a series of idealistic / 'best practices' for every area of human and animal life - and then to take the steps to implement these across our community. In order to accomplish this mission, from an animal health perspective, we will work to line up all veterinarians, animal food and product stores, groomers, animal adoption centres as well as all other businesses in the animal arena, and will seek to get each of these to take our message to the general public across NDG. It is by this we hope to develop a huge, local lobby in order to get our mandate accomplished across the community.

I am looking forward, with tremendous expectation, to working with a great deal of NDG residents, towards transforming our community into a much better place for all concerned.

All my best,