

Dr. Nell began her journey into veterinary medicine at a very young age, growing up on a farm in rural Central Illinois where she was constantly surrounded by farm animals, barn cats and wildlife. These creatures often find themselves in distress, and since veterinary care was not always available or elected, Nell would make her own attempts at improving their quality of life or curing their ailments. From that time on, she always knew that she would become a veterinarian so that she could have a better chance to improve the lives of animals. Dr. Nell graduated from the University of Illinois in 2004 and moved to Southern California to begin practice as a small animal and exotic companion animal veterinarian. During veterinary school she completed externships at the University of Tennessee Exotics Department, Knoxville Zoo and Brookfield Zoo. These externships prepared her for the specialized care and treatments that are required when working with most exotic pet species.

In 2007, Dr. Nell and her husband decided to make a big life change by purchasing a small animal practice (Lombard Animal Hospital) in Portland, Oregon. It was during the first few years of owning a practice that Dr. Nell became frustrated with the limitations of Western Medicine, especially when treating senior pets, painful pets, pets with chronic disease and exotic species. So, in 2010, she began another adventure and signed up for the IVAS Course in Veterinary Acupuncture. This turned out to be one of the best risks she has taken in life so far and Dr. Nell has been a certified veterinary acupuncturist since 2012. She developed the Integrative Program at her hospital where she treats dogs, cats, rabbits, and other small exotic pets using the best of both worlds -Western and Eastern. In addition to treating patients, the program hosts other veterinarians who are training in veterinary acupuncture and other certified veterinary acupuncturists wishing to gain more experience.

Dr. Nell has been a Teaching Associate for the IVAS course since 2013, Teaching Associate and Small Animal Coordinator since 2016, and is honored to begin her first year as an Instructor in 2017. Her future goals include continuing to develop her Integrative practice by earning FAAVA certification, deepening her role with IVAS and the IVAS course, and guiding others as they strive to integrate acupuncture into practice. Her outside passions include almost anything that can be literally done "outside," traveling as much as possible and exploring the Pacific Northwest with her husband, reading and spending time with her pets. Dr. Nell's ultimate dream is to dedicate a portion of her time to sea turtle conservation and to become a respected acupuncturist for these amazing, peaceful creatures!