

Coated With Fur: A Vet's Life Discussion Questions

- 1) The American Association of Human-Animal Bond Veterinarians defines the human-animal bond as a mutually beneficial and dynamic relationship between humans and other animals that is influenced by behaviors that are essential to the health and well-being of both. Which animal/person combination shared the closest bond? What behaviors made you feel this way?
- 2) Women are known for their intuition. What made Paula Anderson seek medical attention for Sadie even though she was told to wait? Did any other woman seek help from Dr. Nelson for problems they couldn't resolve with current treatments?
- 3) Steve felt Genny was his little girl and wanted to hold her when she woke up from anesthesia. Why did Kris let him do this even though she and Allie felt it was dangerous? Do you think he will learn from the experience or will he try it again?
- 4) Why do you think the pediatrician reacted so strongly? Was he embarrassed or frustrated about his own performance or was it the fact that the suggestion came from a veterinarian? Do you think he would have reacted the same if another physician had made the same recommendation?
- 5) Dr. Nelson explains that most veterinary professionals expect the best until the worst is proven. How does this mindset help in dealing with critical patients? Would this belief hinder or help the animals or their owners? How so?
- 6) For Dr. Nelson, euthanasia is the worst part of being a veterinarian. After performing end of life care on Chewy, she found comfort from Genny. Knowing Genny's attitude, did her actions surprise you? If Genny had been a dog instead of a cat, would that make a difference? Do you think Genny would have reacted in the same way if she had not been raised by Kris and Steve?
- 7) Dr. Nelson repeatedly warns Dan that Butch is showing signs of becoming an alpha dog and recommends obedience training to get him under control before he becomes too large. When the pup shows signs of aggression, Dan seems to enjoy it. Why do you think Dan feels this way? How does his relationship with his wife and child influence your opinion? How do you think this story will end with this dog?
- 8) What did you find most surprising about veterinary medicine from reading this book?
- 9) If she was sitting here and you could ask Dr. Nelson one question, what would that be?
- 10) Had you been in the waiting room when the snake got loose, would you have helped or stayed safely outside the building?