



## An Open Letter to All Clients from the Desk of Dr. Chris Dristas About my Background and Philosophy

Clients often inquire about my background and the influences that have led to the formation of my practice ethics. My goal here will be to more intimately introduce myself to each of you and possibly provide some further understanding of the ideology that defines my commitment to this profession and your families. In other words, "Who is Dr. Chris Dristas?" After all, Churchman Animal Hospital is rooted in my principles. In what follows please find my best account of how I have come to approach the responsibility of being a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.

I hail from northwest Indiana. For those unfamiliar, "the Region" is a vastly industrial, urban neighbor to Chicago. Steel is the industry. The success of families in the area depends largely on the success of steel. My father was a steelworker. I too was a steelworker while in college for eight years. Folks there are just as "hoosier" as those here, but they make their way in an environment far less diversified than ours in Indianapolis. They are by necessity a fiercely loyal, blue-collar community. I was twenty-two with a Bachelors Degree in Biological Science when I left home for veterinary school in 1987.

Veterinary medicine as a career came to me as a simple desire to help the innately helpless. I wanted to do this with independence while maintaining a stature in a professional order of respected people that accepts few while excluding many. At Purdue's School of Veterinary Medicine I was trained by legendary educators in the field. To this day, I strive to avoid disappointing them.

Those professors taught me complex theories as well as simple principles. It is the reverence for several of these principles that distinguishes my practice. I was taught to always "be a doctor." I should refuse to "sell out" the patients I care for or the profession that graciously let me in. I should not peddle the profession to the disrespectful seeking lower fees or quick fixes to their problems. I should carefully tend to individual patients with a focus on their individual needs. I should examine my patients for uniqueness in their ailments--not simply sell them medication and symptomatic treatments. I should aspire to be the only veterinarian my clients will allow to care for their pets. In return, what can result is a true family practice boasting a loyal clientele who not only accept but share my professional beliefs. The relationships created there will be between parties who feel lucky to have one another. The work there will never be done.

Since 1991 I have practiced exclusively for this community. In 1996, I made a lifetime commitment to Churchman Animal Hospital by securing its ownership for myself and my wife Beth. We now have two daughters, Raegan and Maeci. We are in this for the long haul. Indianapolis is now our home.

My commitment going forward will be to continually educate myself and my clients as to the wonderful advancements in animal medicine and surgery. The practice will change with the times to access my patients all that veterinary medicine has to offer. Remaining unchanged throughout those times will be my respect for the duties of a doctor. That concept quite simply defines who I am.

Thank you for your trust.

Dr. Chris

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T T 7 am – 6 pm  
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