

AVERY TAYLOR

SMALL ANIMAL INTERN

In the quiet town of Barnwell, Alberta, something remarkable is happening at a family-run business nestled among the fields. At Hidden Spring Pet Resort, what started as a simple internship through CAREERS: The Next Generation has turned into a life-changing opportunity for one student and a game-changing hiring experience for the business.

When Tony Fiedler, owner of Hidden Spring Pet Resort, reached out to CAREERS, he had a very specific idea of who he needed to join his team. He wasn't just looking for someone to fill a position, he needed the right person. And while it took a bit of time, CAREERS delivered.



"What's impressed me the most with CAREERS," says Tony, "is I told Alicia that I needed somebody in particular, and it took her a while to find me the one—but she did come through. She found me the exact fit for our operation. And it's turned out fantastic for us so far."

That "exact fit" came in the form of Avery Taylor, a high school student who wasn't entirely sure what path she'd take after graduation, until she stepped foot on the job site.

Avery's journey started like many CAREERS students, with a spark of interest and a willingness to try something new. "My first day on the job, basically, I had my interview, and then Tony was like, 'Okay, come in on Sunday,'" she recalls. "So, I came in on Sunday and just kind of followed him around, and he showed me what to do."



What began as a part-time internship quickly grew into something more. "Ever since that Sunday," Avery says, "I've actually worked every single Sunday since."

It didn't take long for her to fall in love with the work and the environment. "I really like working here," she says. "I was going to go right into college in September, and then I decided I was going to wait a year because I did the dual credit program. I just love it so much. I'm like, I might as well not change it if I'm loving what I'm doing."

That passion, and the opportunity to explore it hands-on, became a defining moment in Avery's career path. She chose to stay, and she's now a full-time employee at Hidden Spring Pet Resort.

It's clear that what makes Hidden Spring Pet Resort special isn't just the animals, it's the people. For Avery, it's about more than just cleaning kennels or caring for pets. Her advice to other students who might be considering taking a leap into the trades or an unfamiliar job? "Just do it. It's a little nerve-wracking to start something new, but just do it."