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Dancer launches fund-raising appeal to pursue vet ambition

Holly Kernot
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⌚ 5 mins

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A professional dancer who wants to retrain as a vet has embarked on a fund-raising mission to help realise her ambition.



The Diggle's Charitable Trust is helping dancer Jessica Hill to obtain her secondary degree in veterinary medicine.

Jessica Hill was delighted when she was accepted on to a veterinary medicine degree course at the University of Bristol. However, she found herself unable to apply for a student loan, having been awarded a scholarship to complete her dance degree studies.

Now the ambitious 28-year-old has deferred her place until 2016 in the hope of raising the funds required for the degree.

Jessica said: "I feel very passionately about veterinary medicine and it is something I wish to continue to strive for as a mature student.

"I believe the experiences gained in my early 20s have really shaped this desire and will be extremely beneficial."

Swapping sequins for wellies

To make sure veterinary medicine was the right decision for her, Jessica continued working as a performer and aerial silks teacher and completed work experience in her own time.

She said: "This meant some evenings I was dressed extremely glamorously in sequins and feathers and the next morning I was in my wellies milking cows at a dairy farm.

"I have found my career as a professional dancer has prepared me vastly to follow my ambition to become a veterinary practitioner. While volunteering at a local small animal practice, discussions with the vet determined my previous experiences in dance had given me a profound knowledge of posture, lameness and gait, which is directly transferable to animals."

Donations needed

The Diggler's Charitable Trust, which provides bursary schemes for those wishing to obtain a secondary degree in veterinary medicine, is helping Jessica. Donations towards her studies are to be sent to the trust and will then be passed on to the University of Bristol.

"Any donation, large or small, would make a huge difference to me and enable me to start my studies," said Jessica.

"I truly believe I will make a difference to the veterinary world as I am passionate, ambitious and a diligent worker and will always strive to work to the best of my abilities and beyond.

"Of course, I will never ask for something for nothing, I would be more than willing to help out in any way any sponsors would deem possible."

- If you would like to donate to Jessica's appeal, send a cheque, including your name on the back, to The Diggler's Charitable Trust, 149 Hyde Road, Denton, Manchester M34 3DW.

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