Penn Interview:

Although many people think that every interview that you go through is going to be hard and stressful, PennVet’s interview process is actually very relaxed. It is not one of the common “behavioral” interviews that many schools use. The whole interview session as a whole is very welcoming and fun. They do a good job of relaxing the interviewees before the interviews. The day starts off with an orientation and introduction to the admission officers. Then they have current vet students come in and give you tours of the school (very similar to Pathfinders). Personally this was really helpful because it let you get your mind off of the upcoming interview and you got to meet the type of students that go to the school and see that they are probably just like you. After the tours, you essential have lunch and hangout with the current students and get to know them, while you wait for your interview. All of the interviews are roughly 20-25 minutes long. Penn uses two interviewers, one that has seen and reviewed your file, and a second, called a blind interviewer, who has not seen or know anything about you. The blind interviewer asked very straight forward questions, such as “Tell me about your veterinary/research experience,” and “What types of college experiences outside of school were influential to you?” Then you essentially talk casually for about 5-10 minutes. During that time they asked me about why I choose Pitt over other schools for undergrad, about my GRE and SAT scores. And then honestly we chatted about the potential for the Eagles/Steelers potential Superbowl and the plane crash in the Hudson.

I think the biggest thing that they want to do during this interview is to make sure that you are relaxed because if you aren’t relaxed then they are not going to be able to get to know you as well. And the point of the interview is for them to get to know you and vice versa. Going through the interview process at Penn I felt very welcomed.