3. What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?

Things to consider: If there’s a talent or skill that you’re proud of, this is the time to share it. You don’t necessarily have to be recognized or have received awards for your talent (although if you did and you want to talk about it, feel free to do so). Why is this talent or skill meaningful to you?

Does the talent come naturally or have you worked hard to develop this skill or talent? Does your talent or skill allow you opportunities in or outside the classroom? If so, what are they and how do they fit into your schedule?

From a young age, I was very good at handling animals, both domestic and wild. My childhood was spent looking for feral animals in the parks around my neighborhood. I didn’t realize that handling animals was a talent that not everybody had until I saw my cousin attempt to pet a stray cat which immediately fled upon seeing her. It was strange because the cat had always been friendly to me. I had always thought that it's easy to tame a feral one. I realized that this talent comes naturally to me and it’s not something that everyone can do.

It has everything to do with my fearless and steady attitude when I’m approaching and handling the animal. Animals tend to react to the emotions we give out. Negative emotions can cause the animal to be more skitter. A jittery animal makes the person more nervous and it might, in turn, affect the animal even more.

My cool-headedness proved to be becoming an extremely important trait when I was learning how to handle wild animals in Acres Center in Singapore. Handling wild animals was a step forward from my comfort zone. I was being taught how to handle snakes, which was different than trying to handle mammals. In snakes, their body language is way more different.

I had been a part of the rescue and release program that the interns had to do. The reason why my first python snake bite didn’t end up in stitches was because when the snake latched onto me, I didn’t panic and attempt to throw it off. I stood there with the snake dangling from my arms, waiting for my supervisor to assist me. We had a good laugh about it afterwards.

This experience made me even more fond of snakes. It made my passion for animal welfare grow exponentially. I know that many people have a very negative schema whenever they meet snakes, in fact, most snakes are killed upon. My feelings to protect them grew strong, which is why I want to pursue a career in herpetology.