Cats Consulting Class Activity

Your boss, the CEO of CanConsult.com has asked you to do a favor for them. Their daughter’s friend, a vet student, needs some help with their data analysis. During the next class period you will meet with the prospective vet to get more info about the project and what is needed.

By way of background, the CEO tells you that the student has some data that she collected for her final project in vet school and needs to analyze it. She is in a rush because if she doesn’t get this done, she won’t graduate. All we know at this point is that the data was collected at several veterinary hospitals and relates to cats suffering from urinary tract disease. Specifically, they’ve had some kind of obstruction for which they were hospitalized and the vet student wants to determine why some cats return for more care while others do not. The student had some experience with statistics but that was a long time ago and she only took the class because it’s required to get into vet school. They have never done data analysis before and had another friend help with data entry.

Even though this is not a paying client, you want to impress the boss. Prepare to meet the client by thinking about what questions you might ask and what details you’ll need to know to begin the analysis. What follow-up questions might arise? She is very busy so you won’t have much time and you may not have to opportunity to speak with her again. Be thorough and use your time judicially.