Ariel Ferri Fleischman (SSDS '06)

From the time Ariel was a kindergarten student at Schechter, she dreamt of becoming a veterinarian. With a lot of hard work and support from her teachers and family, her dream has come true. Today, she is completing a veterinary internship at the prestigious Angell Animal Medical Center in Boston, MA, where she works with local shelters to provide veterinary services to community members that are unable to afford care for their pets.

After graduating from Rochelle Zell Jewish High School, Ariel attended University of Minnesota, where she earned a BS in animal science and held a job in a preclinical heart valve testing laboratory that sparked her interest in their cardiovascular system. After college, she spent three years working as a Vet Tech at Green Bay Animal Hospital in Wilmette, and also created a thriving side business as a pet sitter. In 2018, she entered Veterinary School at St. George's University in Grenada.

As a proud member of her Jewish community, Ariel said she feels confident and comfortable educating others about Judaism, and she attributes that confidence and strong sense of Jewish identity to her Schechter education. Additionally, Ariel credits Schechter with her tireless work ethic, which made it possible to get through the hard classes in veterinary school amidst the overwhelming workload.

When asked how Schechter impacts her life today, Ariel said, "There is nothing like our Schechter community. I still have very good, close friends who I've known since kindergarten and that is an amazing, rare thing! Over the years, alumni have reached out to me for various reasons and it is always so nice to reconnect with my roots." Ariel is proud of her brother, Joshua Ferri (SSDS '08), who started a business as a woodworker and craftsman.