Emily Rognrud, a sophomore at UW-Madison, is a recent recipient of a University League scholarship. Emily grew up in Minneapolis, and went to St. Anthony Village High School just outside the city. Emily has a younger brother who is a junior in High School. She is a passionate lover of animals: She has a cat, two degus (rodents that look like a mixture of a gerbil and a squirrel), and a rabbit. Whenever possible, Emily volunteers at animal shelters. She considers herself an introvert: She loves spending time with friends, but she needs quiet nights at home and long walks by herself. Her extracurricular activities include Undergraduate Zoological Society and Pre-Veterinary Club, and for the latter she is the Webmaster. Emily works in a lab that studies retinal development during the school year, and at a coffee shop over the summer. Overall, she considers herself a driven, inquisitive, and upbeat person.

Emily came to UW-Madison because she wanted to go to a school that was just the right distance from home, academically challenging, and had a great program for pre-veterinary students. This school fit the bill perfectly! Her major is Zoology, and she is a pre-veterinary medicine student.

Emily’s favorite part about the Zoology program is the wide variety of fascinating classes available and the amazing resources at UW-Madison. Her absolute favorite class that she has taken is Zoology 335, the Biological and Philosophical Issues of Human-Animal Relationships. Emily also loves how interconnected her classes are: what she didn’t learn about metabolism in Microbiology is supplemented by what she learned in Biochemistry.

Her role model is Dr. Patricia McConnell, who is the professor for Zoology 335, a prolific writer, and who Emily describes as a wonderful human being. She is very inspired by her intelligence, compassion, and zeal for life. Emily admits that she would take her class every semester if she could!

This program is the perfect fit for Emily. Her whole life she has aspired to becoming a veterinarian. It is the perfect career with a mix of her love of animals, passion for science, and compassion for others. Emily hopes to work with typical small animals, like cats and dogs, but she would also like to care for small exotics like snakes, ferrets, and birds. In her spare time, Emily likes to take pictures, knit, cook, and participate in Zumba and yoga classes. Emily’s favorite place on campus is Allen Centennial Gardens. It is the perfect place to escape from stress and surround herself with nature.
This scholarship has been enormously helpful to Emily. She has not been able to work as many hours per week with her course load, so the extra money has allowed her to cover her tuition and rent without worrying about getting another job or taking out private loans.

Emily wants to thank the donors for their generosity and their belief in her abilities.