

From Dr. Tingen

- 1) After practicing dentistry in Oregon, Arizona and California, it was time to come home to New Mexico. I am originally from Las Cruces, and I loved the small town feel of Placitas. An opportunity became available to take over for another female dentist, in a rural environment and I jumped at the chance.
- 2) I always knew that I wanted a small, patient-centered, private practice where I could put down roots. I also really wanted to practice in an area where I could be part of the community and have long term patients whom I got to know. Their story and their history, not just their teeth. Now a days, health care providers come & go very readily. New Mexico especially has a large turnover rate of doctors who only practice in the state for a couple of years and then leave. I always wanted to be that dentist where patients could say "I have been seeing Dr. Tingen forever". Longterm, consistent care is good for both the patient and dentist.
- 3) Not dentally related but my family has always had an assortment of animals. My dad loves animals and wanted to make sure we were exposed to all different types. So we had the typical cats and dogs, but also had horses, bunnies, cows, a donkey and even a wolf and an emu bird, the cousin of the ostrich. We lived in town in Las Cruces for a long time with the emu in the back yard and horses running around the front yard. Eventually we had to move out to the valley where there was more space for our makeshift farm.