



DOG DOCTORS

PR/FAQ

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UGA's Dog Doctors Outreach Program Spreads Nationwide

Athens, Ga, May 10, 2024 – UGA's Dog Doctor Outreach Program is expanding nationwide as success rates soar. The K-12 educational initiative, previously confined to Georgia, announces plans to extend to other states.

The program, launched in 2005 with three Bernese Mountain dogs, UGA students and College of Veterinary Medicine professor Paige Carmichael, made monthly visits to local elementary and middle schools. During these visits, Carmichael imparted animal safety skills and insights into veterinary medicine careers. Over 35 years, the once-local program has evolved into a technologically advanced educational initiative.

In 2024, University of Georgia New Media Certificate students developed a digital curriculum, available online, engaging students and inspiring them to pursue veterinary medicine careers. Reports from practicing veterinary doctors reveal that many were inspired by the Dog Doctors Outreach Program.

“There has never been such an influx of applications to the College of Veterinary Medicine before,” said Paige Carmichael, DVM, and professor of pathology. “With this momentum, we decided to expand the program nationwide.”

To access the online Dog Doctors curriculum, visit their website at

<https://vet.uga.edu/education/k-12-programs/elementary-and-middle-school-programs/>

About Dog Doctors

The University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine's Dog Doctors, founded in 2005, offers both in-person and online curriculums, reaching students nationwide to educate them about veterinary medicine. For more information, please visit

<https://vet.uga.edu/education/k-12-programs/elementary-and-middle-school-programs/>

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FAQ

Q: What is the overall mission and goal of the Dog Doctors program at UGA?

A: To create an online curriculum aimed to engage students in underrepresented areas and inspire them to pursue a career in veterinary medicine.

Q: What age group does the program target?

A: Our audience is geared towards elementary and middle school students. We are aiming to instill an interest in veterinary medicine from a young age.

Q: What topics are covered in the Dog Doctors curriculum?

A: Dr. Carmichael will discuss her research and the contributions of the Dog Doctors in developing tests for identifying genetic diseases in Dogs. She will address student questions regarding the dogs, her research, and veterinary career opportunities. Students will also have the opportunity to learn about x-rays, the bone structures of animals, and how the heart works as well.

Q: What are the long-term goals of the Dog Doctors Program?

A: The ultimate goal of the Dog Doctors Program is to create enthusiasm within the next generation of students and foster an appreciation for veterinary medicine.

FAQ

Q: How does the program utilize technology to engage students?

A: The Dog Doctors program makes use of technology by providing an interactive online curriculum that includes videos, interactive lessons, and educational materials. Students can work at their own pace with the help of this flexible online curriculum. Virtual webinars, Q&A's, and other fun video content will further enhance the immersive and easily accessible learning environment by introducing students to veterinary experts and sparking their interest in the field of veterinary medicine.

Q: How does the Dog Doctors program inspire students to consider a career in veterinary medicine?

A: The program will include interactive, engaging resources to maintain a high level of interest, such as short-form videos and activity books.

Q: How does the program adapt to changing educational trends and technologies to remain relevant?

A: We will conduct market research on media format consumption trends among the youth demographic of interest.