PROJECT DETAILS

Project Title:

University Wellness Dogs: Understanding Impact Across the Higher Education Ecosystem

Project Summary:

This project investigates how wellness dogs influence wellbeing across university communities through innovative mixed methods approaches. It aims to measure both immediate psychological responses and longitudinal impacts of human-animal interactions in higher education settings. The research will develop evidence-based frameworks for implementing effective wellness dog programs, while exploring their role in creating inclusive campus environments. Expected outcomes include comprehensive understanding of wellness dog impacts across diverse stakeholder groups, contributing to university mental health strategies and informing best practices for animal-assisted interventions in educational contexts.

Preferred Applicant Skillset:

We seek a motivated PhD candidate with excellent research and interpersonal skills to investigate wellness dog programs in higher education across all stakeholders including students, staff, and visitors to campus.

The ideal applicant will have:

- Experience in mixed-methods qualitative research and quantitative analysis. Strong capabilities in qualitative research methods are essential, as is experience working with human participants.
- Knowledge of animal-assisted interventions, psychology, or education would be advantageous.
- The candidate should demonstrate project management capabilities, ethical research practices, and the ability to engage sensitively with diverse stakeholders. Experience with animals, particularly therapy/service dogs, would be beneficial.

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