



For Immediate Release

Animal Medical Center's Staff Veterinary Social Worker, Judith Harbour, LCSW, VSW-CP, Achieves Postgraduate Veterinary Social Work Certification from the University of Tennessee

(New York, N.Y. – October 7, 2020) The Animal Medical Center (AMC) today announced that Judith Harbour, LCSW, VSW-CP, Staff Veterinary Social Worker, received certification from the University of Tennessee's Postgraduate Veterinary Social Work Program. Ms. Harbour, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with broad experience in the veterinary field as a clinician and support professional, is among an elite group of Veterinary Social Workers to achieve this advanced training and certification.

The University of Tennessee's Postgraduate Veterinary Social Work program is one of only a few in the U.S. to provide education for mental health professionals on the four areas of veterinary social work: compassion fatigue and conflict management, animal-related grief and bereavement, animal-assisted interventions, and the link between human and animal violence. The program includes a combination of self-paced online work, collaborative online classes, an in-person, 10-day-intensive course on campus, and the completion of a keystone project that requires at least 250 hours of service learning.

"I am so proud of Judith's academic achievement and of her many contributions that benefit the culture at AMC," said Kathryn Coyne, President and Chief Executive Officer of AMC. "Judith created AMC's Quality of Life initiative, a program to combat compassion fatigue and promote employee wellness, and provides our veterinary staff with comprehensive wellness programs including critical tools and coping strategies to enhance patient care. She is already an invaluable resource to our patients, staff, and clients, and I am certain that this additional training will advance our goal of being a supportive work environment, a leader in what a veterinary workplace can be, and a compassionate veterinary treatment provider."

"With this new certification, I can apply evidence-based practices and resources in any animal-related setting, and I can communicate with a broader network of professional clinical colleagues to exchange ideas and collaborate to create best practices," said Ms. Harbour.

As AMC's Staff Veterinary Social Worker, Ms. Harbor works closely with veterinary staff and provides support and counseling to clients, facilitates AMC's Pet Loss support group (currently held online), assists with the AMC Community Funds, which provide subsidized veterinary care to people unable to afford care, and supports all Usdan Institute activities that focus on animal health education for clients and pet families.

About Animal Medical Center

The Animal Medical Center (AMC) is the world's largest non-profit animal hospital with 100+ veterinarians providing the highest quality medical care across more than 20 specialties and services, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our mission to provide the best in care, research, and education has been the foundation of our work for over a century. As we mark our 110th anniversary, we are launching the Gift of Love campaign to ensure we are here for our pets for the next century, and beyond. Learn more at www.amcny.org/giftoflove.

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Caspary Research Institute | The Cancer Institute
Emilia Saint-Amand Krimendahl Institute for Trauma Care | Ann and Charles Johnson One Health Institute
Usdan Institute for Animal Health Education