Access to Care is Access to Education

Presented by Dr. Serena Nayee, Founder and Executive Director
What is CHAPTER VIII?

Welcome to a new chapter in veterinary medicine!

- Nonprofit organization incorporated in Indiana
- Founded in 2020 by Dr. Serena Nayee
- Aims to foster a representative and inclusive environment in the veterinary profession through advocacy, art, accountability, and accessibility
- Seek to create access to care and access to education opportunities at the intersection of marginalized pet parent and veterinary communities.

https://www.chapterviii.org
@chapter_viii
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How Did We Get Here?

- A majority of people who face barriers to sick/urgent care for their pets state that the barrier occurs due to financial reasons, regardless of low or middle-income status. [Access to Veterinary Care: Barriers, Current Practices, and Public Policy, 2018].
  - This supports that sick and urgent small animal clinical care is not accessible.

- Younger populations are more likely to face a barrier of not knowing where to seek sick/urgent care. Furthermore, half of the population with pets who experience urgent/emergent needs do not seek care [Access to Veterinary Care: Barriers, Current Practices, and Public Policy, 2018].
  - This supports that education on urgent and emergent clinical care is not accessible.
How Will Change This?

**Veterinary Inclusion and Intersectionality Initiative**

- Incremental and inclusive mobile urgent care clinic accessible to underrepresented communities in ATL, GA
  - Externship and internship opportunities to provide inclusive education on communication, leadership, and incremental care
  - Early medical leadership and practice management/partnership opportunities to increase long-term representation and financial accessibility
  - Goal to expand infrastructure to accessible urgent, emergent, and specialty care

- Collaborations
Access to Incremental Care and Education

- **Patient-centered, experience-based medicine** focused on a **problem-solving approach** to achieve the best possible outcomes for the **family and human-animal bond** in the context of **limited resources**. [Brown CR et al. Spectrum of care: more than treatment options. JAVMA 2021 (Oct 1);259:712-717]

  ○ Incremental care provides an **alternative to absent clinical care** or **cost-driven euthanasia**.

- **Access to Education** ↔ **Access to Care**

  ○ It is our **duty** to **educate the public and professional communities about incremental care** to **relieve animal suffering** in this way, and protect humans and animals from preventable infectious disease on a representative basis [Veterinarian’s Oath, AVMA].

- Our **first mobile incremental urgent care clinic** will be in **ATL, GA**, with the intent to start providing services in Fall 2023.

  ○ **Every client-patient relationship will involve education on incremental care**
CHAPTER VIII  Successes So Far

- Established mentorship and collaborative relationships
- Spreading awareness via social media, podcasts, merchandise
- Internship/externship program objectives/timeline
- Team to initiate first incremental urgent care clinic
- Existing incorporated organization with board of directors and advisory board
What Challenges/Barriers Does Face?

- Financial barriers
  - Clinical infrastructure
  - Educational initiatives
  - Veterinary professionals
- Time commitment barriers
  - Grant writing
  - Outreach
- Collaborating with for-profit organizations

CHAPTER VIII  Veterinary Inclusion and Intersectionality Initiative
More Resources Will Allow To:

- For veterinary professionals, establish:
  - Inclusive education opportunities
  - Representative leadership and mentorship opportunities
  - Diverse entrepreneurship opportunities

- For pet parents/families, establish:
  - Inclusive education on spectrum of care
  - Accessible and representative care
  - Higher retention of pets in homes
Thank you from the team!