



SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2023.** Please include this submission form with the electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).


PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: County of Henrico
Program Title: Vet Students Assist Local Police Animal Shelter
Program Category: Criminal Justice & Public Safety

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Victoria Davis
Title: Public Relations Specialist
Department: Public Relations
Telephone: 804-501-4933 Website: www.henrico.us
Email: dav127@henrico.us

SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Brandon Hinton
Title: Deputy County Manager for Administration
Signature: 

Program Overview

Students in the veterinary science program at Henrico County Public Schools' Advanced Career Education Center at Hermitage High School began working with the Henrico Division of Police animal shelter one day a week to assist staff with the general care of animals. Students gained experience practicing grooming, bathing and general routine care of animals. Sometimes these animals have been neglected or abandoned by their owners. This endeavor provides extra care for animals waiting for adoption or abandoned animals and valuable hands-on experience for students.

Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality

Animals in the shelter deserve the same care and attention that other pets receive. While their basic needs are met at the shelter, students are able to spend quality time with many animals while practicing skills they have learned in the classroom. Currently, the ACE Center is being renovated and the temporary classroom is not set up to adequately perform many services on a regular basis.

How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria

The program costs nothing and provides a service to the residents of Henrico County and animals in its custody. Students gain valuable experience practicing what they are learning at school. This is the government working together, smarter.

How Program Was Carried Out

The program objectives were to:

- Provide services to animals in the custody of the Henrico Police Division.
- Provide the opportunity for students to practice skills learned in the classroom.
- Provide enrichment opportunities to the curriculum and increase student engagement that encourages students to think about their own future career plans.
- Provide opportunities for students to model the attributes and skills of the Henrico Learner Profile "global citizen" by serving as an active participant in a larger society. Students contribute to solutions that address the needs of a broader community by building global awareness and demonstrating empathy, compassion and respect for fellow community members.

In the summer of 2022, the ACE Center at Hermitage High School principal and teachers met with the Henrico Police Division's animal police protection officer at the Henrico Animal Shelter. The team took a tour of the facility and discussed ways students could assist to the shelter's mission. The two teams of students?? developed an implementation plan, paving the way forward. Two students attend one day per week for five hours and focus on competencies already taught in the classroom. Teachers provide support throughout the experience.

Financing and Staffing

There is no cost associated with the program. Students use the facilities and equipment provided at the shelter and program teachers provide support.

Program Results

Student feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. They appreciate being able to practice skills while providing a service to animals that might have been neglected or abused. Two students attend the shelter each week for approximately five hours, providing extra assistance to the staff to achieve a higher quality of care. The animals enjoy the extra attention provided by the increased interaction with people and benefit from health care services and companionship.

Brief Summary

Students in the veterinary science program at Henrico County Public Schools' Advanced Career Education Center at Hermitage High School began working with the Henrico Division of Police animal shelter one day a week to assist staff with the general care of animals. Students gained experience practicing grooming, bathing and general routine care of animals. Sometimes these animals have been neglected or abandoned by their owners. This endeavor provides extra care for animals waiting for adoption or abandoned animals and valuable hands-on experience for students.

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The program has addressed a community need and provided students with the opportunity to solve real-world problems as global citizens, part of HCPS' Henrico Learner Profile, the school division's blueprint for learning. Students serve as active participants in a larger society and

contribute to solutions that address the needs of a broader community by building global awareness and demonstrating empathy, compassion and respect for fellow community members. As creative thinkers they generate new ideas and build on existing ones. Students pursue imaginative approaches and solutions to challenges by asking questions, being flexible in their thinking and learning from experimentation.