

Veterinary Hospitals  
Small Animal Hospital

PO Box 100136  
Gainesville, FL 32610-0136  
Tel: (352) 392-2235  
Fax: (352) 846-2445

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To whom it may concern:

Please accept this letter in support of Stella Pavlides' efforts to improve animal welfare by her support the open heart program here at the University of Florida. She works tirelessly to help human welfare through her efforts regarding vitiligo in children and I am sure she will as successful in her work through her no-profit (Two dogs on a mission Inc.).

She is well known here at the Small Animal Hospital as she brings rescued dogs that would otherwise be unadoptable and help them receive the medical or surgical care they need before finding homes for them.

Degenerative mitral valve disease is the most common heart disease seen in dogs and affects 5 – 7 million dogs in the USA. Currently, once dogs develop heart failure, their life expectancy is 9 months with medical therapy. In people, this is a surgical disease with mitral valve repair or replacement performed routinely. Until recently, the survival rates were poor for dogs with this surgery. However, Dr Uechi and his team in Japan have perfected this with a success rate of 96%. We want to bring the team to the University of Florida to perform this much needed technique and to teach us how to do the surgery so we can become a training center for the USA. We are currently applying for H1B visas for the team and your help would be appreciated as they go through the consular interviews. We currently have over 300 owners who are interested in their dogs having surgery here at UF.

Best wishes,



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Dr Simon Swift, MA, VetMB, CertSAC, DipECVIM-CA (Cardiology), MRCVS  
Clinical Associate Professor and Service Chief Cardiology  
Associate Editor JVIM