MEDIA RELEASE

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Small Business Series Features Admiral Veterinary Hospital

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs interviewed Dr. Stephanie Hickey, owner of Admiral Veterinary Hospital, as part of his latest video series highlighting small businesses.

During the series, the Mayor has conducted interviews with small business owners and operators, providing them the opportunity to talk about how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted their families and employees, and helping them share any plans they hold for the future. A new vignette runs each week on the county and Mayor's various social media platforms.

"Small business is the backbone of our economy," Mayor Jacobs said. "Many of them have borne the economic brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic. So please join me during these segments as we learn more about these businesses, which are owned by our friends and neighbors…and about their plans for the future."

During the recent interview, Dr. Hickey noted that her business – which employees 18 staff members and three doctors – takes care of dogs, cats, small mammals, exotics and some wildlife. When the pandemic hit, business trickled to nearly a standstill but then later picked up.

"People stayed away," she said. "The first two weeks, we had almost no business. We were very concerned. We applied for the (Paycheck Protection Program) – did receive it – and then this strange thing happened.

"Everybody decided: 'Hey, I'm home and this is a great time to train an animal.' So, they ran out and purchased a dog or cat or went to the shelter and adopted. Initially, there was a slowdown (but) the last three months have been the best business I've had in the history of the practice."

Hickey said the business only recently started letting clients back inside and that – although they can perform euthanasia procedures outside for pet owners – they are one of the few veterinarian hospitals in the area that allows clients inside during them.

"There's a lot of people who want to stay with their pets when they're here," she added.

To hear more of what was said, check out the video.

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