

# ASACR 6

Office of the President  
April 25, 2025

Members, Board of Trustees:

## UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE: MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of an undergraduate certificate in Companion Animal Studies in the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

Background: The proposed certificate in Companion Animal Studies will explore the roles and significance of companion and working animals in society. It is distinctive in its interdisciplinary appeal, attracting students from various majors. Participants will critically evaluate multiple perspectives and apply their knowledge to real-world scenarios.

The certificate will address specific needs at the University of Kentucky and across the state by equipping students with valuable skills and knowledge related to the care, management and societal roles of companion and working animals. In Kentucky, where agriculture and animal industries are significant economic drivers, there is a growing demand for professionals who understand the complexities of human-animal relationships, including animal welfare, behavior and the human-animal bond. Students will benefit tangibly through enhanced career opportunities in veterinary medicine, animal-assisted therapy, animal welfare, research and agriculture. Intangibly, the program fosters critical thinking, ethical reasoning and cultural awareness, preparing students to engage thoughtfully with societal challenges involving animals.

The proposed undergraduate certificate has been recommended to the Provost by the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment faculty given their expertise within their respective disciplines. The Provost of the University supports the program faculty's recommendation.

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Action taken:    ☒ Approved    ☐ Disapproved    ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_