

Sophia Chiang

Board Member since January, 2008

A native Texan, Dr. Chiang obtained her undergraduate degree in Biology from the University of Chicago in 1997. She then taught high school science in an under-resourced community through the Teach for America service program before pursuing her veterinary degree at the North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

While teaching in rural North Carolina, Dr. Chiang was awarded the prestigious Sallie Mae First Class teaching award, given annually by the county to an outstanding first-year teacher. She also founded and sustained several after-school programs and summer programs for both struggling and gifted students, taking several groups of students to their first successful science competitions. In addition, she was honored to be nominated for the Disney Teacher Award by her students.

In veterinary school, Dr. Chiang headed numerous student organizations, bringing educational opportunities to the student population through speakers and community activities. She was involved in feral cat spay and neuter operations, as well as the NCSU mobile surgical veterinary unit, an innovative program designed to provide low-cost surgical and medical veterinary support to local communities. Dr. Chiang was also fortunate to travel to Thailand and Nicaragua to experience various facets of veterinary medicine, including exotic species medicine and sustainable livestock production. After receiving her veterinary degree in 2005, Dr. Chiang completed a rigorous internship in small animal medicine and surgery at the Regional Veterinary Referral Center in Springfield, VA.

Dr. Chiang has received numerous scientific and academic awards, including the PEW undergraduate research award, the Merck Merial Veterinary Research Award and the Association for Women Veterinarians Award. She has performed scientific research on various levels, at the University of Chicago, the NCSU-CVM and Glaxo-Smith Kline.

Dr. Chiang is currently a practicing veterinarian at the Alexandria Animal Hospital in Alexandria, VA. She has been a member of the board of directors of the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria since early 2008 and is involved in the medical care of shelter animals brought to the Alexandria Animal Hospital. She is a proud mother to a new baby girl, Sela. She and her husband Jeff also have 4 four-legged children, all rescues - a calico named Suvi, an AWLA rescue kitty named Summer, a sweet old Pomeranian mix named Indy and a uromastyx lizard named Stan.