

Q&A

## katie ann mangan

BY ERIC BUTTERMAN

**CARING FOR ANIMALS** has long been a passion for Dr. Katie Ann Mangan, who works as an associate veterinarian at Shoreline Central Animal Hospital in Shoreline, Washington. Mangan graduated with a bachelor's degree in biochemistry from The University of Alabama in 2015.

**Q:** What's the best part about what you do?

**A:** "Treating the pets. But also being in a profession that is in such a high demand. To fill that gap for people—they are very grateful to be seen when they've called six vets already—you help pets when you can and you do something about it. I'm working in a private practice right now, and I'm building my foundation and my basis in medicine."

**Q:** What were your best experiences at The University of Alabama?

**A:** "(Serving as a) College of Arts and Sciences ambassador taught me a lot. I was organizing events and I became more of a leader that way. You take that with you. Today, I lead on certain cases and have technicians and I am a leader for a care team for each pet. I've stepped into more of a management role, managing people on a daily basis."

**Q:** What are other parts of your job?

**A:** "It's a lot of decision-making. That was one of the things that surprised me the most. There are microdecisions constantly: what dose, how many days, do they need to be seen or seen again? You can juggle a lot of things at once—there may be three drop-offs coming in. It can be a triage deal with a pet that is unfortunately dying and other pets needing treatment. You build the skill of staying calm in a stressful situation where a lot is coming at you and figure out step by step those situations. It's also paperwork—a lot of charting, talking to people on the phone, going through test results and what the next steps might be."



**Q:** When you were a student at The University of Alabama, you volunteered as a veterinary assistant for Projects Abroad. What was that experience like?

**A:** "That was something that helped me get great veterinary experience. I went to South Africa. One of the weeks we did a spay/neuter clinic, and I was helping with some of the surgeries—shaving, sedating the pets. They ran a mobile clinic, and we would go to these specific areas, treat the dogs, give them vaccines and did de-worming to provide more of a community service. It was rewarding and also set me apart a little bit."

**Q:** You also were a part of the Christian Veterinary Mission?

**A:** "I did two trips with them—I went to Mexico and we did a big spay and neuter clinic, and I also went to Malawi. I had a few years of vet school under my belt, and it felt good to use my knowledge to help those communities."

*Eric Buttermann is a Texas-based freelance writer.*