# Grant Proposal for Communal Animal Program in On Campus Housing

The cohesive role in which traditional familial mascots provide is naturally lacking when college freshmen join the ranks of their peers in college dormitories throughout the nation. The family dog in particular has traditionally been seen as a member of the family that can help humans rally around and have a common thread of communication even under extreme duress. Along with the proven therapeutic benefits experienced by military veterans, geriatric patients, and those with general psychiatric and or physical disturbances are seen to benefit from even minimal intervals of interaction. This begs the question as to whether or not many of the emotional irregularities induced by such a transition could be mitigated by the introduction of these animals. Primarily the shock and stress of moving away from ones familiar home, integration into a new community and the social norms that follow, and perhaps most distressing of all is the negative effects these have on the primary goal of higher education. If by allowing a limited number of animals into targeted collegiate communities with relatively homogenous interests, and or degree paths; we can track the emotional well-being of non-pet integrated communities as well as comparative grade point averages during time of participation.