



# DR. MICHAEL BLACKWELL TOGETHER FOR PETS AWARD

Congratulations to this groundbreaking veterinarian who founded the Program for Pet Health Equity. He has received a \$10,000 grant from Blue Buffalo.

## WHERE DO YOU WORK?

*I'm the director for the Program for Pet Health Equity at the University of Tennessee. My goal is to improve access to veterinary care, especially families with limited means.*

## WHY DID YOU BECOME A VETERINARIAN?

*You could say I was born into it. My dad was a mixed animal practitioner, so I grew up around the profession.*

## WHAT'S YOUR PASSION?

*Outside of animals, it's music, 100%. So I guess that makes me an audiophile. The sound you get from some of the vintage equipment can elevate your spirit in such profound ways.*

## HOW DO YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

*Animals should never suffer unnecessarily because someone can't afford to pay for the proper care. My job is to reduce that moral dilemma for the sake of everyone involved.*

## WHAT EXCITES YOU ABOUT THE FUTURE?

*It's exciting to see how pets are truly considered part of the family. And as veterinarians, we should see ourselves as providers of family healthcare. We're not just treating animals, we're treating family members.*



Blue Buffalo salutes the veterinarians who go above and beyond to advance the profession and improve the lives of our pets.