

# MIA VARGAS

✉ millena.amv@gmail.com

☎ 407-789-5782

📍 Jacksonville, FL 32224

🌐 www.linkedin.com/in/miavargas

## EDUCATION

### Canisius University

Buffalo, NY • Expected in 05/2026

#### *Master Of Science:* Anthrozoology

- 4.0 GPA

### University of Central Florida

Orlando, FL • 05/2024

#### *Bachelor of Science:* Clinical Psychology

- cum laude graduate
- Dean's List 2022
- National Society of Leadership and Success Member

## CERTIFICATIONS

- **Professional Canine Obedience And Behavior Modification**, Tarheel K9 Training
- **Certified Behavior Consultant Canine - Knowledge Assessed (CBCC-KA)**, Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers
- **Fear Free (FF)**, Fear Free Shelters
- **Feline Communication**, The Association for Animal Welfare Advancement

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Psychology Association (2024 - present)
- International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants (2025 - present)

## SKILLS

- Human-Animal Interaction Analysis
- Animal Behavior Assessment and Modification
- Conservation Data Analysis and Research
- Wildlife Rehabilitation and Care

## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Passionate anthrozoologist, certified dog trainer, and animal welfare advocate with a strong background in veterinary medicine, animal rescue, and psychology. Skilled in scientific research, data analysis, and hands-on animal behavior assessment, with a focus on bridging the gap between academia and real-world animal welfare. Committed to advancing evidence-based practices to enhance companion animal care, shelter welfare, and human-animal relationships. Experienced in translating complex research into accessible insights, driving education, advocacy, and practical solutions for pet owners, trainers, and animal professionals.

## PUBLICATIONS

Vargas, M., Mathkari, C. (2025). *Shaping Canine Minds: The Role of Owner Experience in Developing Cognitive Potential in Young Canine Working Breeds*. Manuscript in preparation.

## WORK HISTORY

### Golden Standard Decoded - Founder & Writer

02/2025 - Current

- Translate scientific research on canine cognition, behavior, and welfare into engaging, accessible content for dog owners, trainers, and professionals.
- Create SEO-optimized blog posts that bridge the gap between academia and real-world dog training.
- Build an online community, fostering discussion and audience engagement through research-backed insights.
- Develop and manage content strategy, ensuring brand consistency and growing readership across platforms.

### Golden Standard Pet Services - Founder and Owner

Jacksonville, FL • 08/2023 - Current

- Manage all aspects of the business, including operations, marketing, and client relations.
- Develop and implement a science-based training model with customized programs tailored to each dog's needs.
- Conduct in-depth behavior assessments and personalized coaching sessions.
- Lead workshops and community events to share evidence-based training techniques and promote responsible pet ownership.
- Create educational resources that equip clients with practical training tools.
- Foster strong client relationships through ongoing support and clear communication.

### Mahouts Elephant Foundation - Field Research Intern

Mae Sot, Thailand • 06/2024 - 07/2024

- Conducted behavioral observations of rewilded Asian elephants to assess welfare and ecological impact.
- Assisted in data collection and research design, including ethogram development and environmental monitoring.
- Engaged with local communities and indigenous mahouts, learning about traditional elephant care practices.
- Studied the role of elephants in ecosystem management and conservation efforts.
- Participated in discussions on ethical conservation models, human-elephant coexistence, and sustainable ecotourism.

### Wildlife Rescue Coalition of NE Florida - Wildlife Rehabilitator

Jacksonville, FL • 08/2023 - Current

- Provided care and rehabilitation for injured and orphaned wildlife, including squirrels, raccoons, opossums, bats, and armadillos.
- Developed and implemented species-specific treatment and care plans to ensure optimal

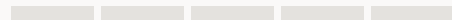
- Veterinary Care and Procedures
- Community Outreach and Education
- Creative Problem-Solving
- Team Leadership and Collaboration

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Awarded the most requested associate at Banfield Pet Hospital Orlando (2021).

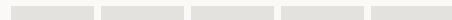
## LANGUAGES

English



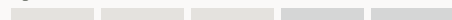
Native or Bilingual

Portuguese



Native or Bilingual

Spanish



Professional Working

- recovery.
- Monitored health, behavior, and progress to prepare animals for successful release back into their natural habitats.
- Educated the public on local wildlife conservation, the importance of coexistence, and safe handling of injured animals.
- Maintained accurate records of care and rehabilitation outcomes for organizational and regulatory purposes.

### University Of Central Florida - Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

*Clinical Psychology & Psychology Of Women* • 08/2021 - 05/2024

- Facilitated student understanding of topics in Clinical Psychology and Psychology of Women.
- Proctored exams and provided feedback on assignments, fostering academic development.
- Researched and presented current methodologies to enhance classroom learning.

### Second Chance Dog Rescue - Medical Director

*San Diego, CA* • 10/2022 - 08/2023

- Led a diverse team of medical and administrative professionals in daily clinic operations, including patient care and business development.
- Optimized clinical management and improved protocols for safety and health.
- Ensured effective collaboration across departments to enhance animal care delivery.

### Vetco Total Care - Locum Veterinary Technician

*San Diego, CA* • 01/2022 - 01/2023

- Administered anesthetics and monitored patient vitals during surgical procedures.
- Collected diagnostic samples and assisted with laboratory analysis.
- Supported veterinarians in advanced interventions, including diagnostic tests and imaging.
- Effectively managed time-sensitive tasks while maintaining high-quality patient care through multitasking abilities during busy shifts at the clinic.

### University Of Central Florida - Marine Turtle Research Intern

*05/2022 - 08/2022*

- Analyzed data to develop strategies for protecting wildlife ecosystems.
- Investigated sea turtle habitats and identified solutions to environmental challenges.
- Collaborated with stakeholders on methods to protect loggerhead, leatherback, and green turtles.
- Conducted tests, handled specimens, and maintained accurate records.

### Banfield Pet Hospital - Veterinary Assistant/Shift Lead

*Orlando, FL* • 12/2020 - 02/2022

- Supervised and led clinical staff to ensure smooth daily operations and high-quality care.
- Administered treatments and recorded observations to guide veterinary diagnoses.
- Coordinated training initiatives to enhance staff skills.
- Conducted facility inspections to ensure safety and compliance.
- Educated clients on treatment plans, preventive care, and behavioral health strategies.

### Veterinary Emergency Clinic Of Central Florida - Veterinary Receptionist

*Orlando, FL* • 09/2019 - 05/2021

- Evaluated incoming patients to assess treatment needs and urgency.
- Welcomed pet owners and facilitated sign-ins upon arrival.
- Monitored animal health through urine and fecal output, weight checks, and appetite observation.
- Entered pet records and visit data into the Cornerstone system.
- Provided exceptional customer service by answering health questions and educating on animal care practices.

### BGM Animal Rescue - Founder and Director

*Orlando, FL* • 07/2019 - 01/2022

- Developed and implemented the organization's vision and goals.
- Managed staff, volunteers, and animal care programs.
- Built partnerships with veterinary clinics to support medical needs.
- Executed community outreach initiatives and advocacy programs for animal welfare.

### Pet Alliance Of Greater Orlando - Veterinary Assistant

*Orlando, FL* • 08/2016 - 08/2019

- Provided comprehensive care for animals undergoing surgeries and treatments, ensuring optimal recovery.
- Assisted in diagnostic imaging and laboratory testing to support accurate diagnoses.
- Documented medical observations and collaborated with veterinarians to develop effective care plans.