

Untitled

DIY Network Unleashes New TV Show Featuring UT Veterinarian

Knoxville, Tn. – “Barkitecture,” a new series on the DIY Network, airs Wednesday, August 10 at 9 p.m. Dr. Karen Tobias, a professor of small animal surgery at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine, co-hosts the series with Kenny Alfonso. They filming the show in Knoxville last fall. “Barkitecture” highlights the integration of a new dog into a family’s life. Each episode of the half-hour series follows a family who welcomes a dog into their home. Many of the dogs featured on the show were adopted from the Young-Williams Animal Center in Knoxville. Tobias offers tips on how to care for the animal, and Alfonso designs and builds a custom doghouse.

The shooting schedule has been an adjustment for Tobias, a surgeon accustomed to expeditiously getting her patients from the surgery table to the recovery room, “I’m surprised at how much time and effort it takes to produce 20 minutes of film. The crew and producers are fantastic, which makes the job fun.” Tobias says working with dogs leads to unscripted moments, “When working with kids and dogs, you never know what’s going to happen. On one show we tried to get the dog to sleep on the homemade bed with the orthopedic, heated, vibrating mattress. The dog went to sleep on his owner’s pillow instead, but the owner thought the bed was great for his own back aches!”

While the show can also be seen during a special airing on HGTV September 18 at 9 p.m., “Barkitecture” premieres in its regular time slot October 5 at 9 p.m. on the DIY Network.

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