



HOW SHELTER MEDICINE IS HELPING CREATE A NO-KILL NATION

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My former life



Who is my patient now?



How can Shelter Medicine help create a No-Kill nation?

- Keeping shelter animals healthy and happy
- Rehabilitating animals with physical and behavioral diseases
- Training shelter medicine specialists
- Advising shelters
- Developing life-saving new knowledge



Our ultimate goals

- Increase number of lives saved
- Reduce stress and disease in shelters



Implementing shelter medicine

- Recruitment, empowerment, and retention of a mission-oriented veterinarian
- Strong protocols for physical and behavioral wellness
- Treatment of medical and behavior problems
- Population management to increase life-saving capacity
- Record keeping and disease surveillance
- Expert consultation

A healthy animal is a savable animal!

Wellness =
Physical Health + Emotional (Behavioral) Health



Leveraging your veterinarian

- Assign the vet responsibility for the health and welfare of the entire shelter
 - Uniquely trained in animal health
 - Can leverage national resources and continuing education to learn new skills in shelter medicine
 - Association of Shelter Veterinarians
 - National Spay/Neuter Response Team
 - University Shelter Medicine Programs
 - National shelter programs such as HSUS, ASPCA, AHA
 - Needs to have authority to be successful
 - Needs to schedule time for protocol development, staff training, rounds, etc.
 - Needs to have technical support to maximize their potential

Physical wellness

- How do we keep them healthy?
 - Wellness programs
 - Cleaning and disinfection
 - Prevention of overcrowding and stress



Shelter wellness programs

- Two options for health:
 - Prevention
 - Treatment
- Prevention is usually cheaper and more effective than treatment
- A diseased animal in the shelter may put other animals at risk
- Disease may result in the euthanasia or death of animals in the shelter



Intake processing

- Quick health assessment
- Immediate vaccination for ALL animals
- Internal and external parasite control
- Healthy animals go to foster, holding, or adoptions
- Diseased animals go for vet care



Behavioral wellness

- Species-specific housing and enrichment
- Customized to individual animal needs
- Special consideration for animals in long-term care (> 2 weeks)



Highly treatable: scabies

More complex: generalized demodex

Rehabilitation

Surgical treatment

Population management

- Analysis of shelter population, length of stay, intakes and dispositions, health trends
- Identification of the best path for each animal
- Working within the shelter's capacity for humane care

Month	2006 (%)	2007 (%)	2008 (%)
J	10	10	10
F	10	10	10
M	10	10	10
A	10	10	10
M	10	10	10
J	10	10	10
J	10	10	10
A	10	10	10
S	10	10	10
O	10	10	10
N	10	10	10
D	10	10	10

Surveillance

- Daily Rounds
 - Who are you?
 - How are you?
 - Are you where you should be?
 - Do you need something today?
 - How can we help you?

Daily rounds

- ❑ If a veterinarian is NOT available . . .
 - ❑ Can be accomplished by TRAINED technicians
 - ❑ Must be trained by a veterinarian to recognize signs of common diseases and stress in the shelter
 - ❑ Veterinarian should be available for consultation
 - ❑ Diseased or stressed animals can be treated in the shelter or transferred for treatment
- ❑ Tasks delegated → completed & documented → requires authority & accountability



Consulting Shelter Medicine Specialists



www.UFShelterMedicine.com

Shelter consultation and assessment

- ❑ Phone and email consultations
- ❑ Disease outbreak investigation
- ❑ Focused on-site visits to address specific issues
- ❑ Comprehensive on-site evaluations



Maddie's Shelter Medicine Residency

- ❑ Veterinarians entering a 3-year specialty training program for advanced skills in population management, epidemiology, public health, surgery, medicine, forensics, behavior, welfare
 - ❑ Individual animal and group health
 - ❑ Disease outbreak control
 - ❑ Development of shelter health protocols
 - ❑ Development of new knowledge
 - ❑ Shelter consultations



Training veterinarians for Shelter Medicine



- ❑ Annual Shelter Medicine conference
 - ❑ Oct 8-9, 2010, Orlando Florida
- ❑ Certificate in Shelter Medicine for veterinary students

Merial Shelter Medicine Clerkship at UF

- ❑ Vet students spay and neuter cats and dogs for local rescue groups
- ❑ Provide veterinary care for animals at the local animal shelter
- ❑ Provide veterinary care for homeless and low-income pet owners at St. Francis House homeless shelter



Operation Catnip



Feral cat spay/neuter clinic



Shelter Medicine research

- Discovery of canine influenza virus
- Improved anesthetics for spay/neuter
- Impact of feral cat TNR on shelters and communities
- Evaluation of new diagnostic tests
- Efficacy of vaccination in shelters
- Disease epidemiology in shelters
- Outcome of adoptions
- Functionality of microchip identification networks in communities
- Contraceptive vaccines



**Coming in 2010:
ASV guidelines for minimal and
optimal standards of care in
animal shelters**

Resources

Association of Shelter Veterinarians
www.sheltervet.org



UF Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Program
College of Veterinary Medicine
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

The Pet Rescue Foundation

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