

Maddie's Fund  
Student Externship Grants

November 26, 2008

Dear Dr. Peek,

We are pleased to learn that you are now offering student grants to be exposed to and learn at a progressive animal shelter. Here at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine we have had a Shelter medicine program along with a spay/neuter program for the last few years. Along with didactic courses and service learning in the shelter, the students have really had their minds opened in this area. Some students having never been in a shelter, are exposed to the overpopulation problems in the animal shelters/control in most of Louisiana, poor functioning shelters and more progressive shelters. They access at the beginning of the course their experiences and expectations and then at the end they again evaluate the experience. They learn so much that they would not have learned in the DVM curriculum without the course. There are a few students contemplating a career in shelter medicine, of which Randi Adams is one. They all say they will surely support their community animal shelters and know with little money they can make a difference. Although a society problem, veterinary medicine is realizing that veterinarians can make a huge difference.

Students that will be selected to take advantage of Maddie's Fund externship program are those who have a sincere desire to learn and experience a shelter very different from what they have seen. A student in good academic standing with satisfactory clinical skills and knowledge base would also be considered if many want to take advantage of the program.

Randi Adams is considering becoming a shelter veterinarian. She is a third year student who will be a senior student in May, 2009. She will enter clinics March, 2009. I think she is the perfect candidate as she and her mother have worked very hard in their local shelter in Houma, Louisiana where conditions are very poor, particularly after hurricane Gustav. She wants to make a difference for animals.

My CV is enclosed.

(1) Criteria for shelter selection

The shelter selected needs to be adoption guarantee shelter and employ a full time vet. Exceptions can be made upon written request to include externships at pre-existing shelter medicine programs (i.e., Cornell, UF, UC Davis). LSU-SVM will select students that desire to do an externship at a animal shelter that has an adoption guarantee and employs a full time vet.

(2) A budget

The total budget for this program is \$6,000 to be used to fund the externships. We will not use more than \$1,500 of the grant funds to support a single externship. The budget for each student will depend on where they choose to go. We will keep Maddie's Fund posted on the status of the grant funds as students apply and are accepted for these externships.

Please let me know if you have any further concerns or questions.

Best Regards,

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