

Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Externship Grant Proposal
University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine
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- Objectives:**
1. Provide students with exposure to and experience in shelter medicine; increase awareness of how they, as veterinarians, can help shelter animals
 2. Foster student understanding of the no-kill philosophy and how, as veterinarians, they can advance this cause
 3. Promote student interest in shelter medicine as a veterinary career choice
 4. Foster the development of a shelter medicine curriculum at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine (UGA-CVM)
 5. Educate the UGA-CVM community about shelter medicine issues through reports and seminars by students completing Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Externships

Introduction and Rationale

UGA-CVM does not currently have a shelter medicine curriculum. In 2006, a group of veterinary students interested in shelter medicine established the student chapter of the Association of Shelter Veterinarians (ASV) at UGA. The club advisor is Nicole Northrup, a board certified veterinary oncologist who worked as an associate veterinarian at the Alex Lewyt Veterinary Medical Center at North Shore Animal League America from 1995-1997. In November 2006, a petition supporting the development of a shelter medicine curriculum at UGA was submitted to the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. It was signed by 230 of 288 (80%) first through third year veterinary students. In 2008, a College Shelter Medicine Committee of student ASV members and College faculty was formed. This Committee includes the Faculty Advisor to the student ASV chapter, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, the Small Animal Department Head, and Small Animal Medicine and Surgery Departmental faculty members. This charge to this committee was to guide the development of a shelter medicine curriculum at UGA-CVM.

Since 2008, largely through the efforts of our students, we have worked to increase the college's awareness of shelter medicine, build relationships with local shelters and rescue organizations, and create opportunities for students to learn about shelter medicine by bringing in outside speakers on shelter medicine, feral cats, legal issues, and forensic veterinary medicine. We have established relationships with local shelters including spaying/castrating animals from shelters in our junior surgery course, hosting canine and feline spay days with local shelters, hosting an annual continuing education conference for shelter veterinarians and professionals in Georgia, getting involved as a representative to the board of directors for a local shelter, and, again through the efforts of our

students, establishing and funding a weekly externship opportunity to work with a shelter veterinarian at a high quality, high volume, low cost spay neuter clinic at a no-kill shelter in northeast Georgia.

The importance of shelter medicine and animal welfare is unquestionable, the students, faculty and administration are engaged, and we continue to believe that the time is right for a shelter medicine program at UGA-CVM. Unfortunately, the downturn in the economy over the last 2 years has slowed our progress. We desperately need a full-time faculty member to lead our shelter medicine program and funding for a faculty line is not available at this time. We are actively seeking private donations toward our program, but this will take time.

In the meantime, with the efforts of the students and the level of support that faculty can provide in addition to their full time jobs, we are working to provide exposures and experiences in shelter medicine for our students. With the help of a generous foundation donation, we have been able to contract a shelter medicine specialist, Dr. Brenda Griffin to teach the first course in shelter medicine at the UGA-CVM in April 2009. While she is here, she will help me to write a Maddie's[®] Teaching and Research Grant proposal which I anticipate will be submitted later this year. Also using funding from a donation, one researcher here has initiated a study into heartworm disease and control at animal shelters in the southeast.

It is our hope to continue to provide students with as many opportunities as possible to gain experience in shelter medicine. For this reason, we wish to submit this proposal for the Maddie's[®] Shelter Medicine Externship grant for 2010. While we intend to submit a proposal for a Teaching and Research Grant later this year, it is months away and we are hoping to provide externship opportunities for our students all year. The funding you provided in 2008 went to some of our best students with the strongest interest in shelter medicine. I remain in touch with some of these students and know that they intend to stay involved at some level with animal rescue and sheltering. Lisa Last has become a leader in animal welfare on the University campus and is highly involved in Speak Out for Species. Wesley Campbell is involved in canine rescue and the local animal control. On her own, Staci Hutsell has pursued much education in shelter medicine (visiting University of California at Davis, University of Florida, and the North American Veterinary Conference) and while it is early in her career to know where she will end up, she plans to hone her skills with rotating internship in small animal medicine and surgery and then is interested in a career that includes shelter medicine. The experiences provided by the UGA Maddie's[®] Shelter Medicine Externship Grant helped foster this interest and we are grateful to you.

Criteria for Award

1. Recipients must be 3rd or 4th year students in good academic standing.
2. Recipients must demonstrate interest in animal welfare, animal rescue, improving the health and quality of life for sheltered animals, increasing adoptions and decreasing deaths of sheltered animals, and reducing pet overpopulation through education and spay/neuter programs.
3. Recipients must demonstrate an appreciation of the no-kill philosophy.
4. Recipients must honor Maddie's[®] Fund's core values of honesty, integrity, and mutual respect.
5. Recipients must submit a report detailing their experience, what they gained from the experience, and their understanding of the no-kill philosophy within 2 weeks of completing the externship. In addition, recipients will give presentations describing their experience at a meeting of the Student Chapter of the Association of Shelter Veterinarians.

6. The externship must take place at an adoption guarantee facility that saves all healthy and treatable shelter animals, reserving euthanasia only for unhealthy and untreatable animals. A full-time veterinarian must be on staff. The facility must provide a suitable learning experience.
7. The externship must be at least 2 weeks in duration.

Application Process

1. The application process will consist of a brief interview and a written application containing the following:
 - a. A cover sheet with the student's name, contact information, class, GPA, site of the externship, and proposed dates. There will also be a signed statement of agreement that the student will complete the required report and presentation describing the externship experience.
 - b. A 1-2 page essay describing the student's interest in the externship, what his or her role will be, and what he/she expects to gain from the experience.
 - c. A proposed budget for the stipend.
2. Up to \$1,500 of stipend may be requested per student.
3. Applications will be reviewed by the College's Shelter Medicine Committee and evaluated on the basis of the student's demonstrated interest, value of the experience, and appropriateness of the budget. The Student Association of Shelter Veterinarians Advisor (Northrup) will be the coordinator of this program.

Evaluating the Impact of Maddie's[®] Shelter Externship at University of Georgia

Student reports will be submitted to the Maddie's[®] Fund Foundation as they are received. At the end of the year, the Faculty Coordinator will prepare a report summarizing the names/numbers of students completing externships and the sites of the externships.