



17 December 2009

Laurie Pegk, DVM
Maddie's[®] Fund
2223 Santa Clara Avenue, Suite B
Alameda, CA 94501

Dear Dr. Peek and Maddie's Fund Committee,

I am submitting this letter to request renewal of grant funding to continue the Maddie's[®] Shelter Medicine Externship at the VA-MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. The externship is available to the fourth year clinical students, during their elective externship rotations. VMRCVM fourth year students have a minimum of 3 weeks and potentially up to 12 weeks available as elective blocks where they could participate in a shelter medicine program. In 2008-2009, stipend funding allowed a total of 8 students to participate in a quality shelter medicine program, as described by the Maddie's[®] Shelter Medicine Externship criteria.

Senior students would continue to apply for a Maddie's[®] Shelter Medicine Externship stipend by completing an internal application which includes the selected externship shelter, a brief description of the shelter's philosophy, a general budget for the externship, and a short essay describing the student's interest in no-kill shelter medicine, his/her short term goals for the training and his/her long term goals for utilizing the knowledge gained during the externship.

In order to maximize the grant funding, we will continue to award 750.00 per stipend for a 3 week externship block. Students are eligible for a one-time award of the stipend. At this time selection of applicants is determined by first applied-first served, with a waiting list established once funds were spent. We will likely continue the same process unless applications become increasingly competitive, at which time Small Animal faculty would establish an order of merit list for applicants. I would continue to serve as the primary Faculty Coordinator for the Externship program; I have attached my updated CV for your files.

I am excited to participate in this opportunity to share the philosophy of and encourage training in shelter medicine among the students of VMRCVM. Our program in 2008-2009 was very successful, with more applicants that stipends available. This year we have been able to transfer the fund management to a different office located within the Veterinary College, to simplify disbursement to students. If Maddie's Fund elects to renew our funding for 2010, please direct paperwork to the following office:

VMRCVM
Office of Academic Affairs
Attn: Dr. Jacquelyn Pelzer
Director of Admissions and Student Services
Phase II, Duck Pond Drive – 0442
Blacksburg, VA 24060

jpelzer@vt.edu

We look forward to continuing our relationship with Maddie's[®] Fund. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information, at bpierce@vt.edu or 540-231-4621. I look forward to hearing from you!

Respectfully,

Bess J. Pierce, MZS, DVM
Diplomate ABVP, ACVIM
Associate Professor, Community Practice

