



21 July 2008

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

Dear Dr. Peek and Maddie's Fund Committee,

Following our recent conversations, I am submitting this letter to request grant funding to establish a Maddie's[®] Shelter Medicine Externship at the VA-MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. The externship would be available to the fourth year clinical students, during their elective externship rotations. 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. Stipend funding for the students would maximize the opportunities for them to participate in a quality shelter medicine program, as described by the Maddie's[®] Shelter Medicine Externship criteria.

Senior students would 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, flexible stipends ranging from 600-1200.00 per externship (3 week block) would be awarded, depending upon location of the training and cost of living in that locale. Students would be eligible for a one-time award of the stipend. Selection of applicants would be determined by faculty of the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences, and I would serve as the primary Faculty Coordinator for the Externship program. I have attached my CV for your reference.

I am excited to participate in this opportunity to share the philosophy of Maddie's[®] Fund and encourage training in shelter medicine among the students of VMRCVM. 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



Application for Maddie's[®] Shelter Medicine Externship VA-MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine

From Maddie's[®] Fund: The Pet Rescue Foundation -

“Maddie's Fund envisions a time when animal shelters will truly be shelters – temporary way stations of nurturing, refuge and rehabilitation for dogs and cats awaiting new homes. In order for this to happen, we need to prevent healthy shelter pets from getting sick and help the sick pets get well. Most animal shelters today lack the veterinary staff to maintain wellness programs and/or comprehensive treatment programs for the sick, injured or poorly behaved. The veterinary profession itself lacks a sufficient body of knowledge to help with shelter medicine programs because shelter medicine has rarely been addressed in academic institutions. To change this situation, Maddie's Fund has elected to support Colleges of Veterinary Medicine that are seeking to establish Shelter Medicine Programs. Through newly developed curriculum, residencies, externships and hands-on shelter rotations, Shelter Medicine Programs will introduce veterinary students to this emerging discipline of veterinary medicine and create a well-informed pool of shelter medicine specialists for the future. These individuals will play a key role in building the no-kill nation.

As lifesaving efforts for healthy animals improve, all shelters – traditional, animal control and adoption guarantee – will be able to focus more attention and resources on animals who are underage, sick, injured and poorly behaved. A new generation of shelter veterinarians will desperately be needed to administer behavioral and medical care for dogs and cats with contagious diseases, broken bones and behavior disorders. Maddie's Fund[®] is offering grants to U.S. Colleges of Veterinary Medicine to offer stipends to third and fourth year veterinary students interested in a Maddie's[®] Shelter Medicine Externship at adoption guarantee shelters.”

A Maddie's Fund Shelter Medicine Externship Program has been established at the VMRCVM, and fourth year clinical students may apply for a stipend to support an externship rotation at a high quality, no-kill shelter. Stipends range from 600.00-1200.00 per elective block (3 weeks) depending upon the cost of living and location of the externship; students are eligible for a one-time award. Following the externship, a final report must be submitted to the Externship Coordinator detailing your experiences during the externship and your understanding of the no-kill philosophy.

To apply for an externship stipend, please complete the application form and return it to Dr. Bess Pierce, Maddie's Fund Externship Coordinator, Community Practice, VMRCVM. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, subject to remaining annual funding. For more information contact Dr. Pierce at pager 557-0423 or 231-4621.

**Application for Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Externship
VA-MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine**

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Externship facility name and address:

For shelters not listed in Attachment 1, state the organization's no-kill philosophy and operational objectives:

Attach a brief essay (no more than one page) of your expectations for this externship by describing your interest in no-kill shelter medicine, your short term goals for this training and your long term goals for utilizing the knowledge gained during the externship:

Proposed dates for externship:

Stipend amount requested:

General budget for requested stipend: _____

**Travel –
Housing –
Food -**

Please return application to:

**Bess J. Pierce, DVM, DABVP, DACVIM
Associate Professor, Community Practice
VA-MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine
Phase II, Duck Pond Dr – 0442
Blacksburg, VA 24060**

**540-231-4621
bpierce@vt.edu**

Attachment 1

This shelter list is provided for your information; you may select one of these shelters for your externship or potentially arrange to attend another shelter not on the list.

Any shelter considered for an externship location must practice a no-kill philosophy outlined as follows:

- 1) Saves all healthy and treatable animals under its care and make public its commitment to doing so
- 2) Clearly articulates to its community that is saving all healthy and treatable animals under its care
- 3) Uses the definitions of healthy and treatable as described by the Asilomar Accords
- 4) Publishes, at least annually, in the organization's primary publications and on its website, the organization's shelter statistics, including the number of live intakes, adoptions, redemptions, transfers, died in kennel and euthanasia, including owner-requested euthanasia.

Some of the shelters students have gone to include the following:

Best Friend's Animal Society in Utah

ASPCA in NYC

Richmond SPCA in VA

PAWS Chicago

San Francisco SPCA

Tompkins County SPCA in NY (first adoption guarantee animal control)

Nevada Humane Society in Reno

Arizona Animal Welfare League in Phoenix

Charlottesville Albemarle SPCA in VA

If you would like to attend a shelter not on the list, please fill in the information requested on the application form (Attachment 2).