

shelter
medicine
compassion
animal
welfare
veterinary
lives
kittens
adopt
humane
observation
nutrition
saving
cats
wellness
management
feral
population
spay/neuter
dogs
enrichment
housing
behavior
science
puppies



Who is my patient now?



Shelter Medicine

shel·ter

- Pronunciation: \shel-tər\
- Function: *noun*
- Etymology: origin unknown
- Date: 1585
 - ▣ an establishment providing food and shelter (as to the homeless)
 - ▣ an establishment that houses and feeds stray animals

med·i·cine

- Pronunciation: \me-də-sən, *British usually med-sən*
- Function: *noun*
- Etymology: Middle English, from Anglo-French, from Latin *medicina*, from feminine of *medicinus* of a physician, from *medicus*
- Date: 13th century
 - ▣ A substance or preparation used in treating disease
 - ▣ the science and art dealing with the maintenance of health and the prevention, alleviation, or cure of disease

The science and art of preserving or restoring health and happiness in individuals and populations of animals living in shelters

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 goal

- Increase number of adoptions, lives saved, and minimize length of stay
- An end to euthanasia of healthy and adoptable animals
- A healthy animal is an adoptable animal!
- Shelter medicine includes:
 - Intake procedures
 - Provision of physical and mental health requirements
 - Treatment of medical and behavior problems



Disease prevention

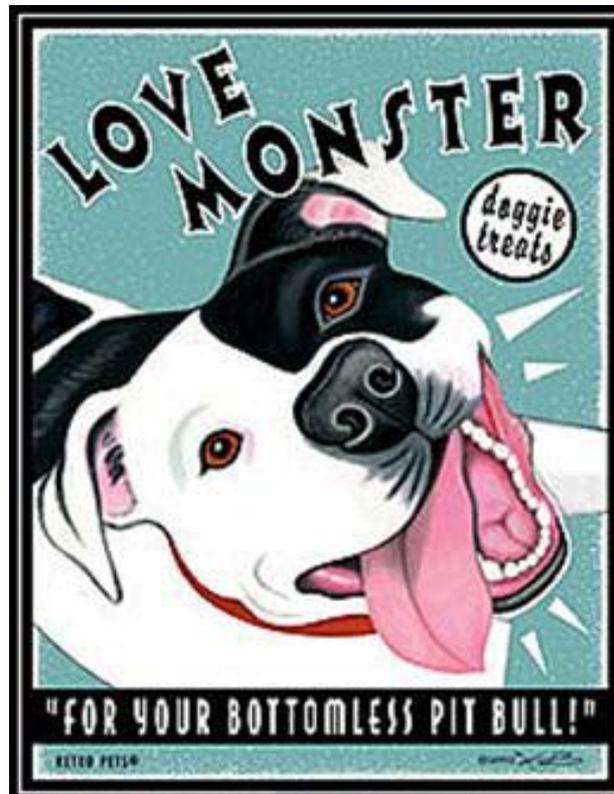
- How do we keep them healthy?
 - Wellness programs
 - Cleaning and disinfection
 - Prevention of overcrowding and stress



Shelter wellness programs

Wellness =

Physical Health + Emotional (Behavioral) Health



Shelter wellness programs

- Two options for health:
 - ▣ Prevention
 - ▣ Treatment
- Prevention is usually cheaper 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 strategies for shelters

On intake, every animal should receive a minimum of:

- Quick Health Assessment
- Vaccination
- Internal and external parasite control





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
 - ▣ This person should be trained by a veterinarian to recognize signs of common diseases and stress in the shelter
 - ▣ Veterinarian should be available for consultation
 - ▣ Diseased animals can be treated in the shelter or transferred for treatment



Assumptions about treatability

Many animals can be significantly helped with **modest** care that requires little money, time, and resources

Don't assume the worst!

Looks can be deceiving!



Highly treatable: scabies



More complex: generalized demodex



Assumptions about treatability

“Taylor”

- ❑ 3 year old mixed breed
- ❑ Starvation
- ❑ Dehydration



Assumptions about treatability

If we had assumed the
worst ...

“Taylor” would not have
had this happy ending!



Assumptions about treatability

- Many wounds aren't as bad as they first appear...



Assumptions about treatability

- Same dog after clipping and cleaning, antibiotics, and two days of healing
- Surgery was done to complete closure



- **Our Mission:**
 - ▣ To enhance the health and welfare of homeless animals through education, innovation, and advancement of the life-saving goals of sheltering programs
- **Our Vision:**
 - ▣ A comfortable and enriched life for all companion animals
- **Our Core Strategies:**
 - ▣ Training of veterinary students in the problems of homeless animals, animal sheltering systems, shelter medicine, and opportunities for careers in the field
 - ▣ Training of shelter medical professionals to fill the current shortage of skilled providers
 - ▣ Shelter assessment and consultation services
 - ▣ Development of new knowledge to solve existing and emerging threats to successful sheltering programs

Training veterinarians for Shelter Medicine



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



Operation Catnip



Feral cat spay/neuter clinic



www.operationcatnip.org

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

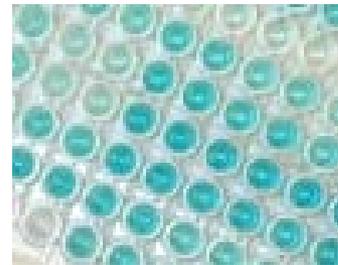
Shelter consultation and assessment

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



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
- Disease epidemiology in shelters
- Outcome of adoptions
- Functionality of microchip identification networks in communities
- Contraceptive vaccines



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

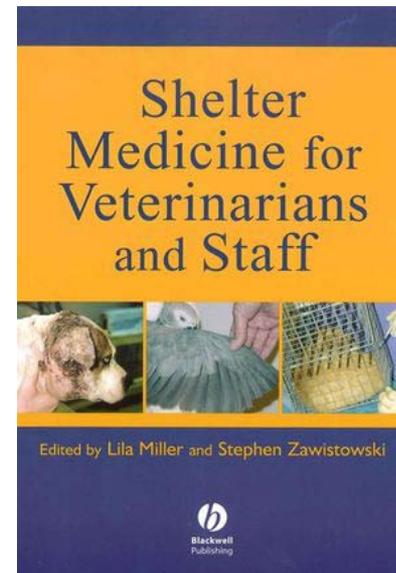
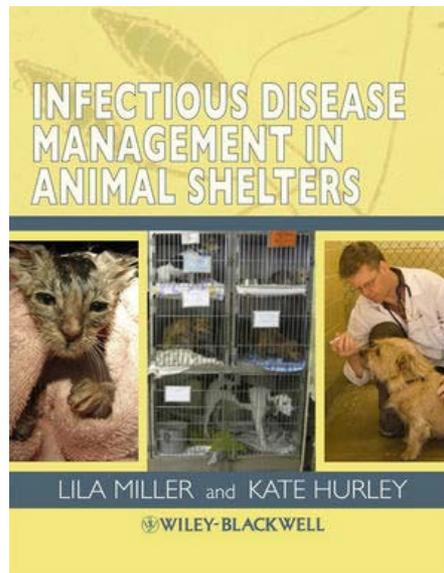
“My sincere thanks to you and the rest of the shelter medical team for coming to our shelter to conduct the shelter health assessment. Your team was wonderful and I cannot thank you enough.

You and your team have lifted our spirits and have given us the hope that we were looking for and so desperately needed . . . I want them to succeed, and for me, it is all about the animals”

-- Florida shelter director, October 2009

Resources

Association of Shelter Veterinarians www.sheltervet.org



UF Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Program

UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



The Pet Rescue Foundation

- Home
- Shelter Health Assessment Services
- Shelter Resources
- Animal Forensics, Cruelty, and Abuse
- Disaster Preparedness
- Training Programs
- Research

Search:

- Meet Our Team
- Shelter Directory
- Contact Us
- Make a Difference

Upcoming Events



- 2009 Shelter Medicine Conference**
October 23-24, 2009
Gainesville, FL

Our Mission

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A comfortable and enriched life for all companion animals

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News

-  **Feral Cat Veterinary Resource Center Launched**
Alley Cat Allies shares information on feral cats, medical protocols, and community cat management
-  **Canine Influenza FAQ for Shelters**
Co-discoverer of canine influenza answers questions about the virus and new vaccine
-  **Meet Our Newest Team Members**
Drs. Andersen, DiGangi, and McManus join MSMP as residents in shelter medicine
-  **Canine Influenza FAQ for Vets**
Co-discoverer of canine influenza answers

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



The Pet Rescue Foundation

Maddie's[®] Shelter Medicine Program is underwritten by a grant from Maddie's Fund[®], The Pet Rescue Foundation (www.maddiesfund.org), helping to fund the creation of a no-kill nation.