

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



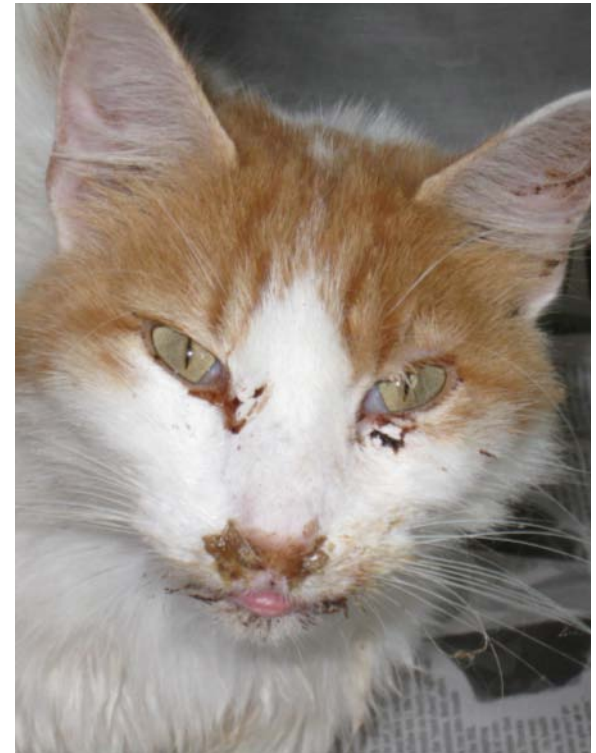


# Daily rounds

- 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](http://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

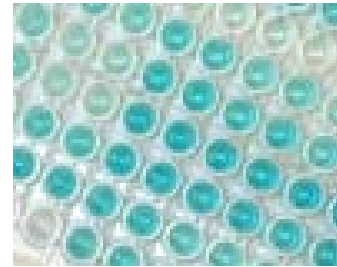
# Shelter consultation and assessment

- 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*

**Shelter Medicine Residency Programs:  
Requirements for Professional Knowledge and Skills**

Shelter Medicine Residency Standards: Test Force:  
Julie Levy DVM, PhD, DACVIM  
Cynthia Sabala DVM, MS, DACVIM  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
Cornell University  
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Cristina West Lamm DVM, MS, DACVIM  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
Cornell University

**The 2006 American Association  
of Feline Practitioners  
Feline Vaccine Advisory Panel Report**

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**2008 American Association of Feline Practitioners'  
feline retrovirus management guidelines**

Julie Levy DVM, PhD, DACVIM<sup>1</sup>, Cynda Crawford DVM, PhD<sup>2</sup>,  
Karin Hartmann DVM, MS, DACVIM, Cynda Crawford DVM, PhD<sup>2</sup>,  
Regina Hofmann-Lehmann DVM, MS, DACVIM, Cynda Crawford DVM, PhD<sup>2</sup>,  
Susan Little DVM, DACVIM (Feline Practice)<sup>3</sup>, Eliza Sundahl DVM, DACVIM (Feline Practice)<sup>4</sup>,  
Vicki Thayer DVM, DACVIM (Feline Practice)<sup>5</sup>

**Coming in January 2010:  
ASV guidelines for minimal and  
optimal standards of care in  
animal shelters**

**Spy-neuter programs and cats: review of unwanted  
spy-neuter programs throughout the United States.**

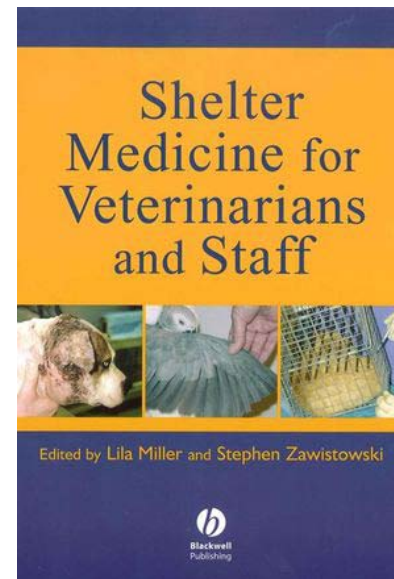
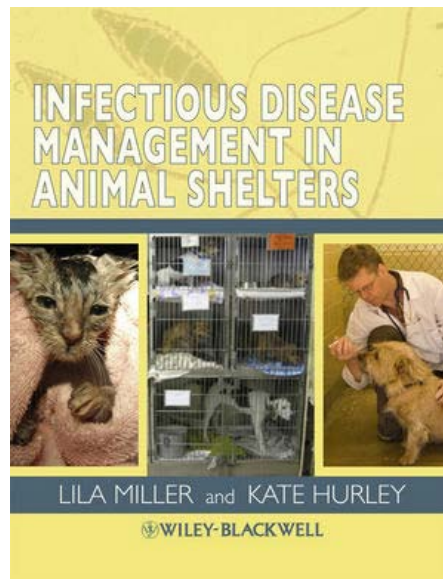
**Spy-neuter programs are designed to facilitate access to spy-neuter services among targeted populations of animals in an effort to prevent reproduction and reduce subsequent overpopulation. Current**

From the Section of Feline Medicine (Levy) and Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program, Department of Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences (Levy, Sundahl), College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853 (Levy); the Department of Small Animal Clinical Science of Veterinary Medicine, Mississippi State University, Mississippi, MS 39762 (Sundahl); the Department of Clinical Animal Science (Hofmann-Lehmann), Mississippi State University, Mississippi, MS 39762 (Sundahl); the Department of Small Animal Clinical Science, College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843 (Hofmann-Lehmann); the Department of Small Animal Clinical Science, School of Veterinary Medicine, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803 (Hofmann-Lehmann); the Department of Small Animal Clinical Science, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32610 (Hofmann-Lehmann); the Department of Small Animal Clinical Science, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211 (Hofmann-Lehmann); the Department of Small Animal Clinical Science, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37946 (Hofmann-Lehmann); the Department of Small Animal Clinical Science, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706 (Hofmann-Lehmann); the Department of Small Animal Clinical Science, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL 61820 (Hofmann-Lehmann); the Department of Small Animal Clinical Science, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602 (Hofmann-Lehmann); the Department of Small Animal Clinical Science, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546 (Hofmann-Lehmann); the Department of Small Animal Clinical Science, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis, CA 95616 (Hofmann-Lehmann); and the Department of Small Animal Clinical Science, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis, CA 95616 (Hofmann-Lehmann).

Address correspondence to Dr. Gofritz.

# Resources

## Association of Shelter Veterinarians [www.sheltervet.org](http://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


**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:**

- Shelter assessment and consultation services
- Training of shelter medical professionals to fill the current shortage of skilled providers
- Training of veterinary students in the problems of homeless animals, animal sheltering systems, shelter medicine, and opportunities for careers in the field
- Development of new knowledge to solve existing and emerging threats to successful sheltering programs

### 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

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*The Pet Rescue Foundation*

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