



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

Annual Report 2013-2014

Our Mission ~ *To enhance
the health and welfare of
homeless animals through
education, innovation, and
advancement of the
life-saving goals of
sheltering programs*

Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Program at the University of Florida

Table of Contents

From the Director	3
Educating Shelter Veterinarians	4
Empowering Shelter Leaders	8
Helping Animals in Shelters	12
Developing New Knowledge	16
About Our Program	20

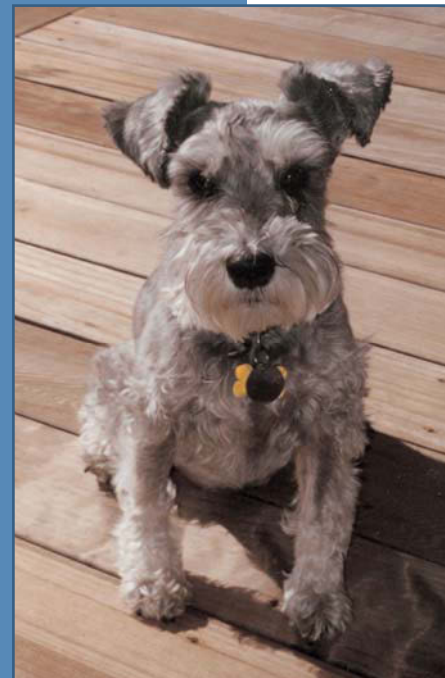
Thanks to Maddie

Maddie was a beloved Miniature Schnauzer whose unconditional love, devotion, loyalty and spirit inspired her guardians to start a charitable foundation, Maddie's Fund®, the Pet Rescue Foundation, in her name.

Dave and Cheryl Duffield fell in love with Maddie when she was only ten days old. "We held her in our arms, and loved her immediately," says Dave. "Maddie melted our hearts from the first second we saw her," adds Cheryl. "We loved her sweet ways, her stubbornness, her independence, her intelligence, her spirit, and her devotion."

The love Dave and Cheryl shared with Maddie inspired them to give generously to help save homeless, abandoned pets in desperate need of love and care. Thanks to Maddie, the dog with the indomitable spirit, shelter pets are afforded new opportunities to find loving homes in which they, too, may share in the joy, love and companionship that Dave and Cheryl enjoyed with Maddie.

On behalf of all sheltered dogs and cats, we give thanks to Maddie, whose spirit lives on through the lives her memorable gift has touched.




From the Director

Another year has flown past for Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program, and as I look back on my time as Director I can't help but marvel at how far we've come as a field and as a program. With 24-hour course access, at any time, anywhere, a veterinarian or veterinarian-to-be can be learning how to do better for shelter dogs and cats. The Maddie's Certificate in Shelter Medicine will provide a solid base of knowledge for veterinarians seeking to become boarded in the newest veterinary specialty, Shelter Medicine Practice.

It has been such a privilege to connect with so many inspiring (and inspired) young veterinarians and shelter professionals from around the world. I feel confident that the years ahead will bring more progress for shelter pets, and I look forward to the part Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program will play in the next challenges.

How incredible it is that the love and legacy of the little dog named Maddie have not faded over the years. Her name and her family's vision have traveled all the way around the world! Her life is a stone that is not causing ripples in a pond, but a true sea-change for animal welfare.



Dr. Julie Levy
Program Director



Julie Levy
DVM, PhD, DACVIM
Program Director
Maddie's® Professor
of Shelter Medicine

Educating Shelter Veterinarians

This year we multiplied our educational efforts to change the world for homeless pets by using the power of distance education to reach veterinarians and veterinary students on five continents. Expansion of the distance education program allowed nearly 400 students to pursue knowledge, skills, and values to become a successful shelter medicine practitioner.

For the Maddie's® Professional Certificate in Shelter Medicine at UF veterinary, we transitioned from a wholly on-campus learning experience to a blended curriculum consisting of both on-campus and online shelter medicine courses. As a result, our UF veterinary students now benefit from interacting with their professional colleagues from around the world as together they tackle health and welfare issues of shelter pets. The modified Professional Certificate now consists of 15 credits of rigorous Shelter Medicine



2014 Maddie's® Professional Certificate in Shelter Medicine Graduates

Maddie's® Professional
Certificate Awarded **9**

Maddie's® Graduate
Certificate Awarded **31**

Total enrollment in
Shelter Medicine courses **398**

content: 3 online courses; 2 clinical externships in shelters; and 1 shelter consultation clerkship. We awarded 9 Professional Certificates in Shelter Medicine to 2014 graduates, and we expect to award 16 Professional Certificates to 2015 graduates!

In December 2013, we awarded our first Maddie's® Online Graduate Certificates in Shelter Medicine to veterinarians and veterinary students at other universities who completed all three of the online courses in Shelter Medicine. By June 2014, we had awarded 31 Certificates to practitioners who reside in North America, South America, Europe, Asia, and Australia.



Certificate student examining a kitten during her Shelter Medicine externship

Shelter Medicine courses	14	Seminars and Wetlabs	15
Students in Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Externships	8	Cats Spayed & Neutered by veterinary students through Operation Catnip	1,834
Students in additional Shelter Medicine Externships	11	Pets adopted through Summer Lovin' Adoptathon	110
Students in Spay/Neuter Externships	11	Pets adopted through Maddie's® Pet Adoption Days	680

“I thank Maddie's Fund for making it possible for UF students to study shelter medicine because it's an experience we could not have received anywhere else, enabling us to carry on a mission we all feel passionately about: saving more lives!

*Catherine,
Veterinary Student,
Maddie's® Certificate in
Shelter Medicine
Class of 2013*

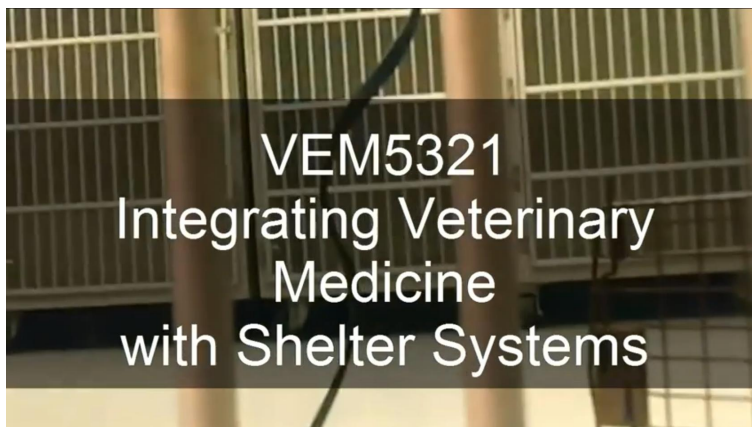
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Shelter Medicine students training in high quality, high volume spay-neuter procedures



In addition to dogs and cats, shelter medicine students learn about the special needs of rabbits and other species



This year UF recognized our success with distance learning. Our "Integrating Veterinary Medicine with Shelter Systems" course received an Online Education Excellence Award in the category of Graduate Education, and is featured in this video

In addition, our approach to blending online coursework with face-to-face interactions by offering informal “Lunch & Learn” and “Cookies & Conversations” sessions was featured in a 2014 UF Interface Faculty Seminar titled “Building Academic Community for Shelter Veterinarians.” To view this brief seminar watch this video

Creating Academic Community for Shelter Medicine Students

pre-professional students and online-graduate students



Shelter medicine student performing an eye exam on a shelter pet

With support from Maddie's® Fund, we are truly using education to build an army of well-trained shelter veterinarians who can change the world for homeless pets.

“*I have found my true calling and take my role as a shelter veterinarian seriously. I have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the University of Florida's Maddie's Shelter Medicine Certificate Program. It has expanded my knowledge of the field, and, ultimately, improved the quality of care that I am able to provide the animals in my care.*

*Rachel Barton,
Graduate Student,
Maddie's® Certificate in
Shelter Medicine
Class of 2014*

”

Empowering Shelter Leaders

Our shelter medicine residents and interns will become tomorrow's leaders and ambassadors for shelter veterinarians. Each of our Maddie's shelter medicine specialists in training brings their own set of passions and interests, from disease control to shelter leadership.

Senior resident Dr. Katherine Polak completed her residency and board certification in preventive medicine before accepting a position as Medical Director with the Thai homeless dog rescue group, Soi Dog Foundation. She will be spending her time establishing spay/neuter clinics for street dogs and pets throughout the Bangkok region and managing a shelter that houses thousands of dogs rescued from the brutal and illegal Asian dog meat trade.



Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Residents: Dr. Amie Burling, Dr. Katherine Polak, and Dr. Staci Cannon

Our second-year residents spent much of the past year working with shelters to help them enhance shelter operations to improve the outcomes for shelter pets. Dr. Amie Burling is completing a research project investigating trends in FeLV and FIV infections in shelter and pet cats, and Dr. Staci Cannon is studying the infectious diseases impacting dogs rescued from dogfighting operations. Intern Dr. Ken Sieranski completed a rigorous year of training, with a focus on in-shelter practice, consultation, and behavioral support and accepted a position with Florida’s largest animal shelter, Miami-Dade Animal Services.

This year, our program established closer ties with the canine advocacy group Animal Farm Foundation. We visited the AFF’s New York facility to explore shared interests and began promoting implementation of the ground-breaking Dogs Playing For Life program in Florida shelters. Our conference added a day of dog-focused sessions co-presented by Animal Farm Foundation speakers, Dr. Levy, and Dr. Crawford. This event resulted in the establishment of a regional focus on strategies to improve outcomes for all dogs in Florida shelters through meeting their behavioral needs and removing barriers to adoption.



Dr. Burling leading a field trip for on-campus students at a local shelter

“
This was a great conference! I am a shelter medicine veterinarian and flew in from Michigan because I felt this was a worthwhile workshop. It was very helpful and provided information I will use.
 ”

Maddie’s® Shelter
 Medicine Conference
 Attendee

Continuing education presentations to veterinarians and shelter professionals	45	Residents completed 3-year training programs	1
National conferences hosted	3	Interns completed 1-year training programs	1
Clinical training courses hosted	2	Residents enrolled in 3-year training program	2
Attendees at conferences and seminars	1,184		

Veterinarians across the country have come to depend on Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Program as a source for professional development. They pull themselves away from their work in shelters in order to improve their knowledge base and develop their skills as shelter medicine practitioners. Our team spoke at conferences across the country and internationally for veterinarians, technicians, and shelter managers whose hunger for new knowledge was outweighed only by their fervent desire to make a difference in the lives of shelter pets. The centerpiece of our continuing education program is our annual conference. The 7th annual Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Conference offered participants an overview of life-saving techniques for shelters and new details on the latest research and findings from the field of shelter medicine. Over half of the attendees were veterinarians, with shelter managers, staff, and rescue organizations rounding out the audience. While most traveled from across the United States, international participation was also strong. Participants hailed from Canada, Australia, the United Arab Emirates, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Bermuda, demonstrating again that our work impacts shelter veterinarians across the globe.





2013 Community Cat Management Course for veterinary students and veterinarians

At Maddie's Veterinary Forensics Conference, our program teamed with the ASPCA to provide an exceptional day of training on Recognizing and Documenting Non-Accidental Injury. Building on the experience of researchers and cruelty case responders, participants learned to recognize some of the most common signs of cruelty and learned how veterinarians should respond when they encounter it. Hands-on training included processing of a mock cruelty scenes and proper documentation for building legal cases.

“ Along with gaining experience managing a shelter population and seeing just how the veterinary team can run smoothly in a shelter, I learned a lot about the role a shelter veterinarian can play in investigating animal cruelty and protecting animals from neglect. The veterinarians at this shelter do great things for Shelter Medicine, and I was proud to spend time learning from them this year.

Heather,
Veterinary Student,
Maddie's® Certificate in
Shelter Medicine,
Class of 2013

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Helping Animals in Shelters

Helping animals in shelters is one of our core missions. Working on the front lines with shelters not only benefits the animals and staff, but provides fertile real-life training opportunities for veterinary students, residents, interns, and faculty.



Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Consult Team at a large municipal Florida

This year we provided boots-on-the-ground assistance in identifying and implementing best practices in animal health and welfare for 13 shelters in Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, and Indiana. Five of these consultations were part of a combined effort by all local animal sheltering organizations to push their community's life-saving capacity for homeless animals beyond 90%. To work with a struggling municipal shelter, we partnered with HSUS and the National Animal Control Association to provide a more comprehensive range of recommendations for resolving their challenges.

When a dogfighting rescue led by the ASPCA's Field Investigations and Response Team brought more than 250 animals to a central location for care in August 2013, our team, assisted by veterinary students, stepped up to provide medical aid and forensic examinations to support the cruelty case. In February 2014, we were called upon again by a local humane law enforcement agency to perform medical and forensic examinations for 53 dogs rescued from a puppy mill situation.



Students preparing enrichment toys during a full service consultation clinic

Disease outbreak responses	11	Emergency shelter operations	2
Targeted-topic shelter consultations	6	Animals cared for by these agencies annually	106,000
Full-scope shelter consultations	7		



One of the many beneficiaries of the students' enrichment activities

“Attending multiple shelter consults taught me to apply innovative solutions to real-world problems and made me feel prepared to work in a shelter!”

Michelle,
Veterinary Student,
Maddie’s® Certificate in
Shelter Medicine,
Class of 2014

”



Students collecting diagnostic samples during a disease outbreak response at a shelter

Some of our most rewarding work is helping shelters save lives threatened by a disease outbreak. Gone are the days of resorting to mass euthanasia to resolve disease spread. Our team has pioneered life-saving strategies for disease containment that we take directly to shelters in their moments of crisis. This year, we assisted 11 shelters facing canine distemper, canine parvovirus, canine pneumovirus, feline panleukopenia, or feline ringworm outbreaks, impacting the lives of more than 2000 animals. The life-saving strategies minimized loss of life and empowered shelters with new knowledge and positive actions to address disease threats in the future and, better yet, prevent their occurrence.



Puppies being treated for distemper during an outbreak response



A student providing enrichment during a shelter consultation

“
The best thing about earning the Maddie’s Certificate Shelter Medicine is being able to launch a career providing veterinary care to homeless animals and fulfilling my lifelong passion for helping animals, especially the ones who need it the most

Mallory,
Veterinary Student,
Maddie’s® Certificate in
Shelter Medicine,
Class of 2014

”



Dr. Burling and students assessing a dog during a shelter consultation

Developing New Knowledge

The need for evidence-based practices is increasing as the field of shelter medicine morphs to a widely recognized and important discipline in veterinary medicine.

Through collaboration between shelters, academic programs, and industry partners, we explore solutions and use scientific evidence to answer questions from the field and empower shelter leaders to make better decisions that save more lives.

Trainees at every level work under experienced faculty mentors at UF. They develop critical thinking skills and a scientific mindset – essential to any practitioner, but priceless for shelter veterinarians ready to challenge conventional wisdom.

Conferences and poster sessions provide our resident and veterinary student scholars the opportunity to share their findings and start enabling veterinarians to put our most recent discoveries to work improving shelter policies and practices. While academia's process from investigation to publication can be a long process, 8 of our shelter medicine scholars' projects were brought to fruition this year through scientific publications reaching international audiences.

Yet hundreds of questions remain, and if shelter medicine is to continue to advance the care of shelter pets, we cannot let up in our pursuit of answers.



Dr. Julie Levy and her student research scholar discussing their project on cat vaccination

New Research Projects:

Assessment of effectiveness of teaching shelter animal physical health using distance education technology

Comparison of noncontact infrared thermometry with digital rectal thermometry to reduce handling stress in cats

Florida shelter census 2013

Health status and quality of life for dogs four years after recovery from distemper virus infection

Using structured play to increase adoption of shelter dogs



Students presenting research findings at the 2014 Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Annual conference



Research articles published in veterinary journals **8**

New shelter research projects initiated **5**

Ongoing research projects **4**

“The Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Certificate training will provide you with so much experience, and expose you to so many new people and ideas. You will be leagues ahead of your peers.”

Jill,
Veterinary Student,
Maddie's® Certificate
in Shelter Medicine,
Class of 2014

Ongoing Research Projects:

Effectiveness of online coursework for preparing veterinarians to practice shelter medicine

Efficacy of azithromycin and compounded atovaquone for treatment of *Babesia gibsoni* in a large-scale dogfighting case

Infectious diseases in dogs rescued during dogfighting investigations

Seroprevalence and risk factors for feline leukemia virus, feline immunodeficiency virus, and heartworm infection in North American Cats



Published Findings:

Dingman PA, Levy JK, Rockey LE, Crandall MM. Use of visual and permanent identification for pets by veterinary clinics. *Vet J* 2014;201:46-50.

Hendricks CG, Levy JK, Tucker SJ, Olmstead SM, Crawford PC, Dubovi EJ, Hanlon CA. Tail vaccination in cats: A pilot study. *J Fel Med Surg* 2014;16:275-280.

McManus CM, Levy JK, Andersen LA, McMorray SP, Leutenegger CM, Gray LK, Hilligas J, Tucker SJ. Prevalence of upper respiratory pathogens in four management models for unowned cats in the Southeast United States. *Vet J* 2014;201:196-201.

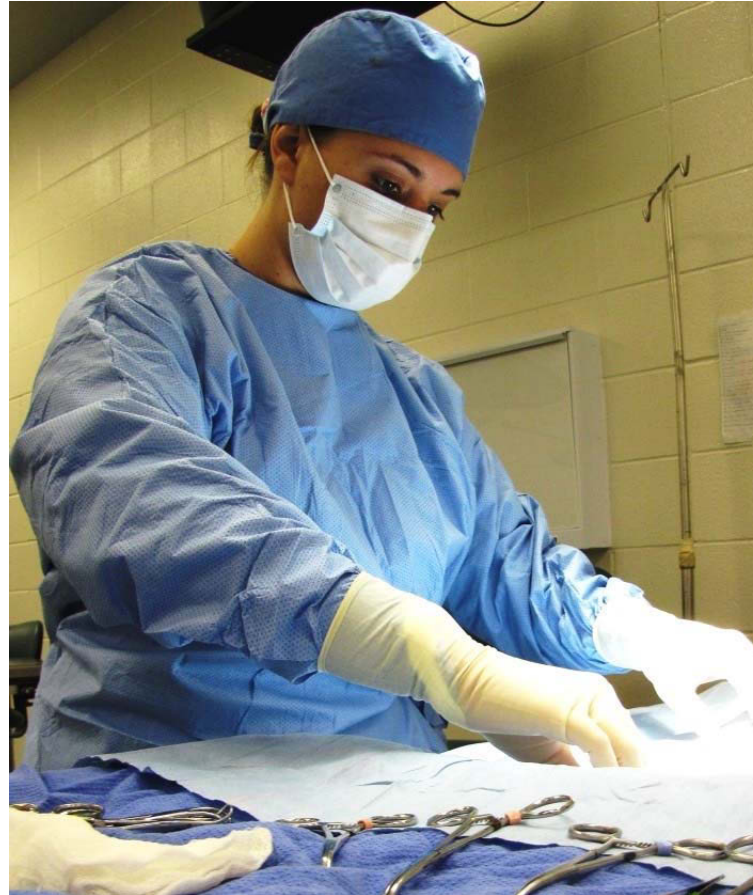
Polak KC, Levy JK, Crawford PC, Leutenegger CM, Moriello KA. Infectious diseases in large-scale cat hoarding investigations. *Vet J* 2014;201:189-195.

Polak KC and Smith-Blackmore M. Animal shelters: Managing heartworms in resource-scarce environments. *Vet Parasitol* 2014;206:189-195.

Scherk MA, Ford RB, Gaskell RM, Hartmann K, Hurley KF, Lappin MR, Levy JK, Little SE, Nordone SK, Sparkes AH. 2013 AAFP Feline Vaccination Advisory Panel Report. *J Feline Med Surg* 2013;15:785-808.

Scherk MA, Ford RB, Gaskell RM, Hartmann K, Hurley KF, Lappin MR, Levy JK, Little SE, Nordone SK, Sparkes AH. 2013 Disease information fact sheets. *J Feline Med Surg* 2013;15:Supplement.

Wald DM, Jacobson SK, Levy JK. Outdoor cats: Identifying differences between stakeholder beliefs, perceived impacts, risk and management. *Conservation Biol* 2013;167:414-424.



“ I get to work as a shelter vet at a great shelter 1 week after graduation! Thank you Maddie's Fund® !

Jaime,
Veterinary Student,
Maddie's® Certificate in
Shelter Medicine,
Class of 2014

”

About Our Program



Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Program at the University of Florida is dedicated to enhancing the health and welfare of homeless animals through education, innovation, and advancement of the life-saving goals of sheltering programs.

Founded in 2008 by Dr. Julie Levy and Dr. Cynda Crawford and underwritten by Maddie's Fund®, the Pet Rescue Foundation, Maddie's® Program has become one of the country's most comprehensive shelter medicine programs. From shelter assistance to veterinary

student instruction and veterinary continuing education to specialist training, we work with the sheltering and veterinary medical communities to improve quality of life and outcomes for cats and dogs in shelters.

The veterinary medical perspective is an essential part of successful animal sheltering. Shelter veterinarians make sure healthy animals stay healthy, and help treatable animals recover and move out of the shelter into permanent homes. At Maddie's® Program, we strive to train current and future veterinarians in the special problems and challenges facing animals in shelters, while undertaking vital research and identifying innovative solutions.

With Gratitude to our Supporters and Partners



Maddie's Fund

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.

The Sweetbay Foundation

Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica

The ASPCA

PetSmart Charities

National Canine Research Council

IDEXX Laboratories

The Humane Society of the

United States

Animal Farm Foundation

Alliance for Contraception in Cats & Dogs

BioGal

Crijo Pet Products

FidoPharm

Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association

Merck Animal Health

Nestle Purina

Operation Catnip of Gainesville

Petfinder.com

PetPoint Solutions

PKB Animal Health

Novartis Animal Health

Tomahawk Trap Company

UF Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service

UF Shelter Animal Medicine Clerkship

Veterinary Products Laboratories

Our Team

Faculty

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Maddie's® Clinical Assistant Professor of Shelter Medicine

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Program Director, Maddie's® Professor of Shelter Medicine

Terry Spencer, DVM, Med

Director of Distance Learning, Maddie's® Clinical Assistant Professor of Shelter Medicine

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Sylvia Tucker, BS

Biological Scientist

“

“I thank Maddie's Fund for making it possible for UF grads to study shelter medicine because they provided the funding and opportunities that are unique to the UF program. I would never have had this chance without them.”

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*Lauren,
Veterinary Student,
Maddie's® Certificate in
Shelter Medicine,
Class of 2013*





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