Ambitious plan for tonight

• Discuss medical decision making, quality of life, and treatable conditions, especially with foster care in mind
• Review elements of state veterinary practice acts that impact foster treatment protocols and provision
• Outline how medical protocols can be used to expand treatment in foster homes
• Present several case examples of medical foster success
• Questions, maybe some answers

Does your organization employ the use of foster homes to house animals?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

n = 137
Treating the “Treatables”
What does that mean?

Asilomar Accords (2004)

• Healthy (h)
• Treatable
  • Rehabilitatable (t/r)
  • Manageable (t/m)
• Unhealthy/Untreatable (u/u)
• www.asilomaraccords.org

Does your organization use the Asilomar Accords to define what conditions are considered “treatable”?

- Yes
- No
- Don’t know

n = 114
**Asilomar Accords (2004)**

- **Stated intention**
  - to enable uniform and accurate data collection across animal sheltering organizations

- **Other outcomes**
  - Put shelter animal care at the level of owned animal care in the community
  - Promote organized decision making in organizations

**Defining “treatable” for your organization**

- “reasonable owner in your community”
  - Animal factors
  - People factors
  - Disease factors

- Good animal welfare
  - Quality of life
  - Amenable to treatment

**Asilomar Accords (2004)**

- Each community (shelter, staff, vets, public) may create a pet evaluation matrix to classify conditions

- IMPT!!: Not the last word in decision-making

- Incorporates both behavioral and medical health
The Five Freedoms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Five Freedoms</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freedom from hunger and thirst</td>
<td>By ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freedom from discomfort</td>
<td>By providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freedom from pain, injury, or disease</td>
<td>By prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freedom to express normal behavior</td>
<td>By providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freedom from fear and distress</td>
<td>By ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Farm animal welfare council 2009; reprint ASV Shelter Standards 2010)
Quality of Life (QOL) tools in Human Health Care

- General areas of assessment
  - Physical and mental health
  - Health risks and conditions
  - Functional status
  - Socioeconomic status
  - Social support
- Examples
  - WHOQOL-BREF tool – self reporting
  - CDC HRQOL (health related quality of life) – Healthy Days Core Model

Philosophical Frameworks for QOL assessment tools

- Objective list theory
  - Things that are objectively good for an individual
  - They may not know what is good for them
  - Objectively measurable physical or physiologic parameters
- Preference satisfaction
  - Personal desires and preferences
- Hedonism
  - Being in a positive state with absence of any negative feelings
  (Wojciechowska 2005)

Methods of assessing QOL

- By proxy
- By observation and interpretation
  - Physiological parameters
  - Behaviors
- Direct reporting/ self assessment (humans)
**General Concepts for Assessing QOL**

- Comfort and Discomfort
- Medical health
- Emotional health
- Fulfillment of fundamental needs
- Control over one’s environment
- Social relationships

“Quality of life in animals is a balance between pleasant and unpleasant feelings” (McMillan 2003)

**Examples of Proxy Assessments for Animals**

   - QOL for FIV cats
   - Owners answered questions about the cats mental and physical welfare
   - Vets answered questions about general medical condition

   - Targeted for specific illness/population
   - Dogs with cardiac disease

   - Chronic pain in dogs

- No gold standard for QOL assessments
### Behavioral measures of QOL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Behavioral Measure</th>
<th>examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Normal, species-typical behavior</td>
<td>Social interactions, grooming, foraging, exploring, play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abnormal behaviors</td>
<td>Pacing, rocking, bizarre postures, self-mutilation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response to environmental manipulations</td>
<td>Enrichment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avoidance and aversion behavior</td>
<td>Negative stimuli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preference studies</td>
<td>Animal selects environment, stimuli, or situation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### Protocol-based foster care

### Provision of medical care in animal shelters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How does your organization provide medical care for fostered animals? Choose all that apply.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Not staff veterinarian</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>In-clinic or on-site veterinary care</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>On-site or at veterinary referral</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>On-site or at veterinary referral</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Private practice veterinary clinic</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

n = 118
The role of protocols in the shelter

- Standard practices
- Enable staff to enact care
- Specific to foster care
  - Training for foster parents on basic aspects of disease recognition, supportive care, housing and decontamination, outcomes, and adoption implications
- 24/7 emergency care
- Clear expectations of what treatment entails

Veterinary Practice Acts (state-level)

- Vary by state, but generally define the scope of veterinary practice limited to a licensed veterinarian
- Diagnosis and treatment of disease
  - This is fairly consistent across states
- Prescribing medications
  - Antibiotics
  - Prescription diets
  - Nutraceuticals
- Performing procedures (surgical, alternative medicine, dental)
- Providing medical treatment recommendations

AVMA Model Practice Act (2013)

- “direct supervision”
  - Licensed veterinarian is on the premises and assumes responsibility for the procedure
- “Indirect supervision”
  - Vet does not need to be on the premises, but has given written or oral instructions, is readily available by phone, and assumes responsibility
- Includes a shelter-specific statement
  - Trained employees may provide treatment for shelter-owned animals in compliance with written standard protocols developed in consultation with a veterinarian
Medical Protocol, with added specifics for foster parents in each section

- Header
  - Title, disease, logo, date
  - Shelter policy
  - Recognition and diagnosis
  - Notification
  - Treatment
  - Outcome decisions
  - Adoption considerations

The role of handbooks and protocols

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>8%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

n = 117

Foster Parent Handbook

- Organizational information
  - Mission of the organization
  - Role and expectations for foster parents
  - Contacts, including emergency info
- Training information
  - Puppies
  - Kittens
  - Others
- Start simple
- Steal what you like from online
Treating the Treatables: Saving Lives Through Medical Protocols, Foster Care and Proactive Thinking  

September 18, 2014

**Foster Parent Training**

Does your organization offer formal training for foster caregivers prior to taking animals home?

![Pie chart showing training offers](chart1.png)

- Yes: 52%
- No: 42%
- Don’t know: 6%

n = 118

**Foster Parent Support**

In your experience as a foster caregiver for the organization you are currently affiliated with, to what extent did you feel:

- Supported by the organization?
- That the experience was difficult?
- That the experience was rewarding?

![Bar chart showing support levels](chart2.png)

- Supported by the organization: 43%
- That the experience was difficult: 14%
- That the experience was rewarding: 86%

n = 101

**Case selection for foster care**

- Very frequently: 59%
- Other: 22%
- Sometimes: 10%
- Rarely: 11%
- Never: 8%

![Bar chart showing case selection](chart3.png)

Aug n = 117

- Underage Kittens (n = 101): 17%
- Underage puppies (n = 77): 17%
- Upper respiratory disease (n = 104): 25%
- Ringworm (n = 97): 23%
- Parvo in puppies (n = 67): 30%
- Trauma or broken bones (n = 104): 33%
- Behavioral issues (n = 90): 26%
**Foster parent support**

- Training
  - In person sessions
  - Specific to types of fostering
  - Videos: See Maddie’s Institute training videos on orphaned kittens
  - Handbook: See SPCA SF for model

- Support/Mentoring
  - Paired with a more experienced foster parent
  - Adequate supplies

- Communication
  - List-serv, google documents, emergency contacts
  - See Animal Sheltering article re: “on-deck” system

**Foster care needs to be planned, not default**

- Shelter’s role
  - Case selection
  - Timeline
  - Prognosis
  - Exit plan
  - Matchmaking

- Foster’s role
  - Know your limits
  - Ask for help
  - Don’t burn out; we need you!

**Veterinary Support**

- After hours
  - Foster-parent mentors
  - On-call shelter medical staff

- Emergency
  - On-call veterinarian
  - Emergency clinic

A foster parent is meant to take the role of an owner, NOT a veterinarian. Just like owners, with special training, they may provide more care...
Protocols specific to foster care

- Shelter policy
- Recognition and diagnosis
- Notification
- Treatment in foster care
- Documentation
- Housing and decontamination
- Outcome decisions
- Adoption Counseling

Case Examples

Orthopedic cases: case selection

- Already healing, stable fractures
  - Post-operative
  - Minimally displaced, young animals
  - Cats with pelvic fractures

- Able to urinate, defecate, ambulate
- Otherwise healthy
- Pain is well managed and monitored
- Behaviorally sound
Orthopedic cases: role of the foster home

- Short term supportive care with a CLEAR diagnosis and prognosis
- Cage rest is usually critical
  - Behavioral enrichment
- Manage and assess pain, medicate as needed
- Physical therapy?

Parvovirus Outpatient Protocol (CSU)

- Colorado State Outpatient Protocol
  - Injectable antibiotic at hospital
  - Antiemetic and pain medications
  - Intravenous (hospital) and subcutaneous fluid administration (home)
- Bigger challenge is biohazard management
  - Special training
- Puppy socialization may be improved.
- Clear communication re: outcomes. These are critically ill patients.

Kittens, oh kittens

- Weight
- Ins and outs
  - Nutrition
  - Urine
  - Stool
- Common diseases and signs
  - URI
  - GI
  - Skin
- When to worry
Lots of resources for kitten fostering

- Maddie’s Institute Videos
  - [Maddie’s Institute Videos](http://www.maddiesfund.org/Maddies_Institute/Videos/Orphaned_Kitten_Care_How_to.html)

Topics

- Examining Bottle Feeding, Bathing and Weaning an Orphaned Kitten
- Stimulating an Orphaned Kitten to Urinate and Defecate

Tube feeding demo

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E1_BZn_eX4M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E1_BZn_eX4M)

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Levels of Neonatal Care and Training

Basic (Level 1)
- healthy weaned kittens
- healthy moms and kittens

Advanced (Level 2)
- bottle feeders
- tube feeders
- ill moms and kittens
- ill kittens with diarrhea, URI, etc.

“We all do the best we can, and sometimes we all need a hand.”

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Skin Issues: ARGHHH

- Image of a cat wearing a pink bandana and shirt

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Skin issues: allergies
- Flea?
- Food?
- Environment?
- These become chronic management issues
  - Foster role to assess reasonable management
  - Measure response to treatment
- Timeline?
- Goals?
- Possible outcomes?

What about Mange?
- Sarcoptic
  - Zoonotic
  - Contagious
  - Highly treatable
    - 2-3 weeks, topicals
    - Secondary infections
- Demodex
  - Self-limiting in puppies
  - More serious in adults
  - Long-term, daily treatment

Is Ringworm appropriate for foster care?
- Long term (up to 4-6 weeks)
- Zoonotic
- Environmental contamination
- Strict isolation from other animals
- Advanced, specific fostering
- Special settings
Foster patient selection is key

- Reasonable
  - Timeline
  - Treatment
  - Biohazard management
- Clear communication
  - Expectations
  - Outcomes
- Support
  - Shelter staff
  - Veterinary

Protocols save time and lives
Veterinarians are essential and central to protocol-based foster care
Foster care is the pinnacle of community collaboration, and as such communication is essential
  - In person
  - Through tech and social media
  - Through ongoing training

In Conclusion
• McMillan FD. Quality of life in animals. JAVMA 2000; 216(12):1904-190.
• Rollin B. Euthanasia and Quality of Life. JAVMA 2006;228(7): 1014-1016.
Useful links

Animal Sheltering article on foster parent on-deck system at Animal Rescue League

ASPCA Protocol Template Example

ASV Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters

AVMA Model Veterinary Practice Act
https://www.avma.org/KB/Policies/Pages/Model-Veterinary-Practice-Act.aspx?PF=1

CDC video on hand-washing for training purposes
http://www.cdc.gov/cdctv/handstogether/

CSU outpatient protocol for parvovirus

Michigan Humane Society Foster Parent Manual (template)

Orphaned Kitten Care – short instructional videos including examining, bottle-feeding, stimulating to urinate and defecate, bathing, weaning, and probiotics. Also contains links to several charts and documents for foster kitten care.
http://www.maddiesfund.org/Maddies_Institute/Videos/Orphaned_Kitten_Care_How_to.html

San Francisco SPCA Foster Care Manual

Thank you!
Additional Notes: