







Our ultimate goals Increase number of lives saved Reduce stress and disease in shelters

Implementing shelter medicine Recruitment, empowerment, and retention of a mission-oriented veterinarian Strong protocols for physical and behavioral wellness Treatment of medical and behavior problems Population management to increase life-saving capacity Record keeping and disease surveillance Expert consultation

A healthy animal is a savable animal!

Wellness =

Physical Health + Emotional (Behavioral) Health



Leveraging your veterinarian

- Assign the vet responsibility for the health and welfare of the entire shelter
 - Uniquely trained in animal health
- □ Can leverage national resources and continuing education to learn new skills in shelter medicine
 - Association of Shelter Veterinarians
 - National Spay/Neuter Response TeamUniversity Shelter Medicine Programs

 - National shelter programs such as HSUS, ASPCA, AHA
- □ Needs to have authority to be successful
- Needs to schedule time for protocol development, staff training, rounds, etc.
- Needs to have technical support to maximize their potential

Physical wellness

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



Shelter wellness programs

- □ Two options for health:
 - Prevention
 - Treatment
- □ Prevention is usually cheaper and more effective 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 processing

- Quick health assessment
- Immediate vaccination for ALL animals
- Internal and external parasite control
- Healthy animals go to foster, holding, or adoptions
- Diseased animals go for vet care



Behavioral wellness

- □ Species-specific housing and enrichment
- $\hfill\Box$ Customized to individual animal needs
- Special consideration for animals in long-term care

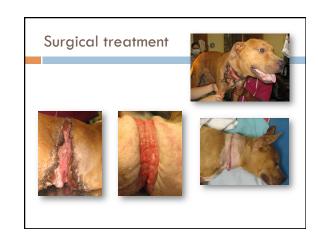












Population management

Analysis of shelter population, length of stay, intakes and dispositions, health trends
Identification of the best path for each animal
Working within the shelter's capacity for humane care



Daily rounds

- If a veterinarian is NOT available . . .
 - Can be accomplished by TRAINED technicians
 - Must be trained by a veterinarian to recognize signs of common diseases and stress in the shelter
 - Veterinarian should be available for consultation
 - Diseased or stressed animals can be treated in the shelter or transferred for treatment
- □ Tasks delegated → completed & documented → requires authority & accountability





Shelter consultation and assessment

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



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



Training veterinarians for Shelter Medicine



- Annual Shelter Medicine conference
 Oct 8-9, 2010, Orlando Florida
- □ Certificate in Shelter Medicine for veterinary students

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 lowincome pet owners at St. Francis House homeless shelter







