safety shelter medicine veterinary lives adopt feral population
humane saving dogs spay/neuter
animal compassion cats technician
welfare nutrition observation kittens
wellness improving housing puppies

behavior science
Who is my patient now?
Shelter Medicine

**shelter**
- 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

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

Association of Shelter Veterinarians

www.sheltervet.org
Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Program
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

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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
  Dr. Andersen, DiGangi, and McManus join MSMI as residents in shelter medicine
- Canine Influenza FAQ for Vets
  Co-discoverer of canine Influenza answers
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.