



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



Maddie's Fund

Annual Report

We've been honored to spend **July 2014 through June 2015** working with you on behalf of shelter pets across the country.

We hope you enjoy seeing what you've helped make possible.
Thank you for your support!



What is Shelter Medicine?

A new specialty steps up to solve an old problem

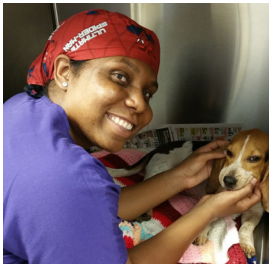
A skilled veterinarian makes the difference between life and death for homeless pets.

The veterinary specialty of shelter medicine recognizes that a shelter environment poses unique challenges when it comes to keeping dogs and cats healthy and happy.

Shelter Medicine is at the CORE of saving lives in animal shelters.

Care for Every Shelter Pet

To save lives, we protect health through exams and vaccines, treat injury and disease, and ensure a clean, humane shelter. Every dog, every cat, every animal - every day.



Outbreak Prevention & Management

We design shelter systems and animal care that stop disease at the source. When an outbreak does strike, we use tested strategies to bring it under control without loss of life.



Responding to Disasters

Hurricanes to hoarding, we keep a cool head when large numbers of animals need help. We manage animals, people, information, and the unpredictable.



Ending Pet Homelessness

Every piece of the puzzle matters to us: performing spay-neuter, providing services for low-income owners, and advising programs that keep pets in their homes.



1,673

Total
Course
Enrollment
to Date



EDUCATION UNLIKE ANY OTHER

*Applied learning,
expert instructors,
worldwide reach*

In the 2014-2015 academic year, Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program reached a **record course enrollment of 427**. Students from around the world also completed the one-of-a-kind Maddie's Certificate programs in record numbers: a total of **111 Shelter Medicine Certificate holders** are now armed with the knowledge to save the lives of shelter pets.

Each class was once again led by the best minds in the field and their online format kept them flexible and scalable – our students logged on from **5 continents!** Nearly **1 in 4 graduates** in the UF Class of 2015 earned Maddie's Certificate in Shelter Medicine. Students from **other veterinary colleges comprised 18%** of graduate certificates.

Our **new Master's Degree with a Concentration in Shelter Medicine** opened, offering training in shelter medicine, nonprofit management, and veterinary forensics. This program expanded training opportunities to **shelter directors, managers, and technicians**.

**COMMENTS ON THE
CORE COURSES
FOR THE
CERTIFICATE IN
SHELTER MEDICINE**

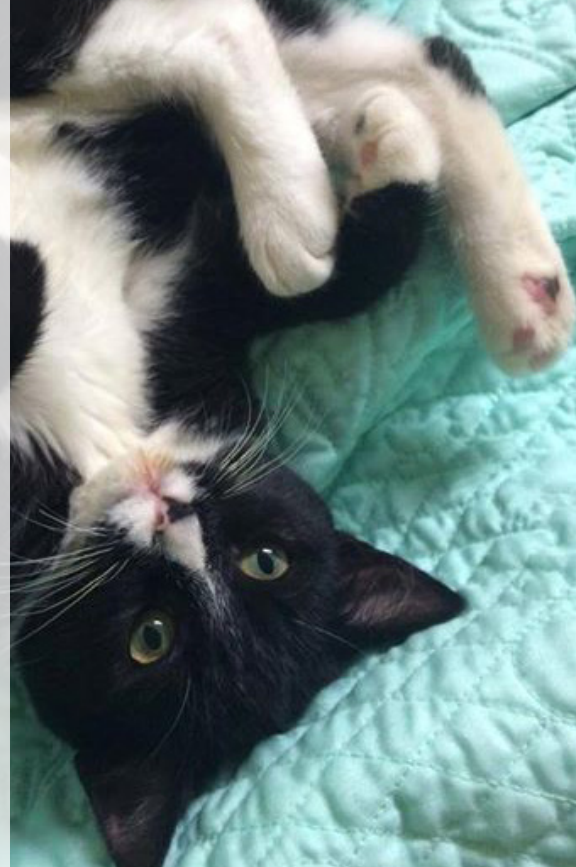
“I would not want to be a shelter veterinarian without this course.”

“...being new to shelter medicine, it would have taken me years to gain the level of knowledge I have acquired through the duration of this course.”

“This course has opened up a whole world to me. It has totally changed how I understand behavior in the shelter and the veterinarian’s role.”

***Shelter Animal
Behavior & Welfare***

“The **best course I have ever had** in veterinary medicine! Gave me confidence to do this work. Gave me a great foundation. [I] learned things about sheltering that I never even thought of! Taught me **every shelter and every animal is an individual.**”



17 Professional
Certificates
Awarded

Veterinary students enrolled on-campus at the University of Florida completed a rigorous series of courses and hands-on trainings.

27 Graduate
Certificates
Awarded

Veterinarians and veterinary students from around the world met online to learn critical concepts and exchange lifesaving ideas.

24 Master's
Degree
Enrolled

The inaugural Master's Degree term welcomed veterinarians and shelter professionals into a robust 2-year curriculum.



TRAINING THE TRAINERS

Advanced education prepares leaders in shelter medicine

*"I am thrilled at the opportunity to **create a comprehensive shelter medicine training program...***

*Providing veterinary students with exposure to medicine, surgery, disease prevention, and behavioral welfare in the context of animal shelters will provide **enormous benefits to animals in shelters and communities...**"*

Two advanced veterinarians completed their rigorous **3-year specialty training** programs, Maddie's Residency in Shelter Medicine, completing coursework, research, and advising animal shelters.

Dr. Staci Cannon has accepted a position as **Medical Director** at Metro Nashville Animal Care and Control, where she'll oversee care of as many as 10,000 animals each year.

Dr. Amie Burling accepted a **faculty position** with the new shelter medicine program at the University of Missouri beginning in September 2015.

MPH

The veterinarians earned Master's Degrees in Public Health; they'll advise on zoonotic diseases, disaster response, and public policy.

ACVPM

The American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine welcomed both residents as Diplomates, a mark of professional distinction.

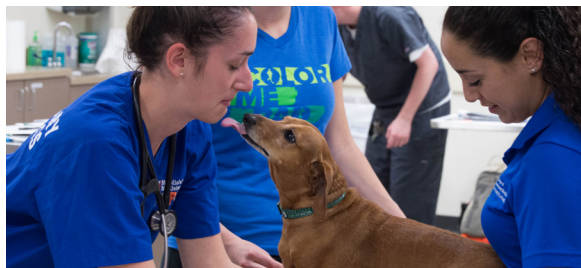


EXPONENTIAL RETURNS

Transforming students and shelters

Our education programs in shelter medicine have remarkable power. Each student we touched this year came away with greater compassion and new skills for saving shelter pets. They'll each save not one, not two, but **hundreds or perhaps thousands**. And they will influence other veterinarians in turn. Our program graduates already work in leading animal shelters across the country.

This year those **program alumni became mentors** by hosting current veterinary students for two-week hands-on learning experiences. These students trained with the best-educated shelter veterinarians and returned home even more enthusiastic about shelter medicine. They learned about online courses and other opportunities with our program... and the cycle continues! Through each student we reach, **shelter medicine education has an incalculable lifesaving impact** on shelter dogs and cats.



72,100

Animals Impacted Annually
through Consultation Client Shelters

4,512

Animals Helped in
Disease Outbreak Responses



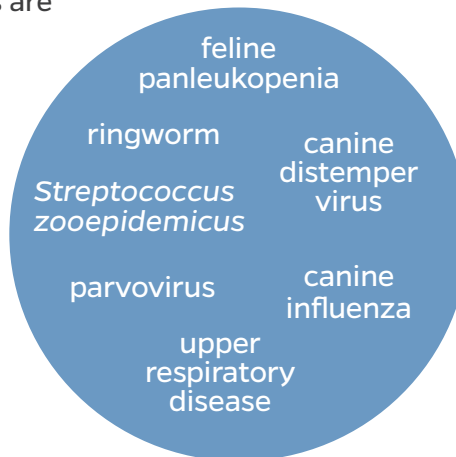
Sharing expert insight through shelter consultations



Providing critical assistance to stop infectious disease outbreaks



By their very nature, animal shelters are places where even small efforts can have tremendous impact. This year we worked with incredible shelter professionals to change policies and shift paradigms. In the **19 formal disease outbreak consultations** we provided this year, thousands of animals were



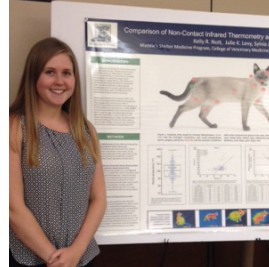
helped. Broader consultations for animal shelters resulted in critical **operational and policy changes** that transform quality of life for shelter pets. When an agency's focus shifts from panicked response to proactive management, the lives of all the shelter's pets are changed for the better - those sheltered on **that day and each one sheltered every day thereafter.**

RELEVANT RESEARCH

Answers that make a difference

Research at Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program is about real-world questions and practical solutions. In the 2014-2015 academic year, **6 veterinary students** and **4 advanced trainees** collaborated with our experienced **3 faculty members** to investigate a wide range of issues affecting shelters and their animals.

Community cat management was an area of strong focus, with publications and ongoing research seeking to identify approaches that will save cats' lives and reduce shelter euthanasia. We **followed up on an outbreak of distemper** we fought in 2010, to learn about the health and quality of life of the dogs who had come through the ordeal as puppies. We're also **investigating a mobile diagnostic lab** that shelter veterinarians and staff might one day use to get critical test results in hours instead of days. Quick and definitive answers save lives.



4 Scientific Papers Published

Investigation of community cat management tactics (simulated and actual); heartworm in animal shelters; Strep zoo.

7 Research Studies Conducted

First-ever census of Florida animal shelters; real-time disease diagnosis; learning online; follow-up with distemper outbreak survivors.

6 Research Manuscripts Under Review

Feline heartworm, FeLV and FIV in the US and Canada; infectious diseases found in fighting dogs; low-stress thermometry.





PARADIGM-SHIFTING LEADERSHIP

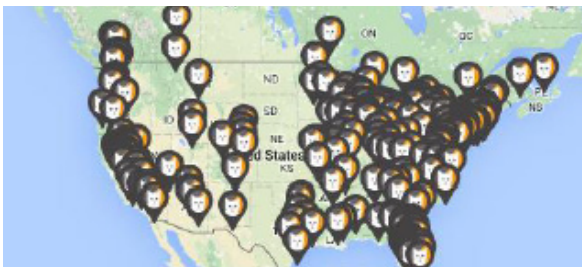
Inspiration and implementation

250,000

Cats Saved by
Million Cat Challenge Member Shelters

273

Participating
Challenge Member Shelters



The status quo hasn't been working for cats and shelters, so we pioneered a multi-year project dedicated to saving the lives of **one million cats** across North America.

The **Million Cat Challenge** promotes five key initiatives shown to save lives. In partnership with the University of California-Davis, the Challenge provides tools, examples, mentorship, and other resources to shelters ready to revolutionize how they handle cats.

The Challenge has taken over the country, with **101 Supporting Organizations** cheering the project and its **273 Challengers**.





EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Connecting with veterinarians and shelter professionals

46

Continuing
Education
Sessions
Presented

4,723

Continuing
Education
Session
Attendance

CULTIVATING COMPASSION

Service learning with adoption events and Operation Catnip, our community's free feline spay/neuter program

1 Week **Community Cat Management Course**

The week-long one-of-a-kind course, made possible by PetSmart Charities, covered every detail of humanely managing cat populations. From surgery and exams to trapping and policymaking, intensive mentoring ensured optimal learning.

529
Local
Community
Cats **Spayed & Neutered**

33
Veterinarians
& Veterinary
Students
Trained



97

Pets Adopted
at Student-Run
Summer Lovin' Adopt-a-Thon

210

Veterinary
Students
Volunteered with
Operation Catnip

90

Veterinary
Student
Surgeons with
Operation Catnip

1,561

Surgeries by
Veterinary
Students at
Operation Catnip



UF Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Program

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.

Do your part for shelter pets:
Help ensure a strong future for
shelter medicine education
at the University of Florida.
Visit <http://sheltermedicine.vetmed.ufl.edu>
to **donate** or **call us** to discuss how you can help!

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



2015 SW 16th Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32610
352.273.8660
sheltermedicine@vetmed.ufl.edu
<http://sheltermedicine.vetmed.ufl.edu>