Our Mission

To enhance the health and welfare of homeless animals through education, innovation, and advancement of the life-saving goals of sheltering programs.
The field of shelter medicine education is growing by leaps and bounds, and Maddie’s® Shelter Medicine Program is part of that trend. This year our educational offerings in Gainesville achieved more depth with the development of new courses focusing on some of the biggest challenges facing shelters: saving community cats and responding to animal hoarding. In addition to giving our future veterinarians the tools they need to provide outstanding veterinary care to shelter animals, students at UF now have the unique opportunity to contribute to the development of state-of-the-art shelter policies and protocols during animal shelter consultations. These higher-level skills position our graduates to be effective advocates for continuous improvement in the shelters they will serve.

As our program enters its fifth year, we say farewell to our departing residents, who have spent the past three years intensively training in all aspects of shelter medicine. We have high expectations for these two newly minted shelter medicine specialists, and we look forward to following their next adventures as leaders in an academic shelter medicine program and at a large metropolitan animal shelter. Although we’ll miss these friends, we welcome a fresh crop of four new interns and residents who represent the very brightest the profession has to offer.

We watch with pride the transformation of our veterinary students and specialists-in-training into highly skilled and compassionate shelter veterinarians, yet it remains apparent that our Florida program cannot meet the critical needs for shelter medicine experts across the country. As I write this, dozens of veterinary positions in shelters remain unfilled and many shelter animals are deprived of life-saving veterinary services altogether. As a result, we’ve expanded our training opportunities beyond the walls of the university. We’ve been lucky to recruit our newest faculty member, Dr. Terry Spencer - an expert in both shelter medicine and education - to develop a curriculum that harnesses the power of the internet to provide urgently needed training in shelter medicine anywhere it’s needed.

We are humbled by the work being done for animals in shelters, inspired by the passion of our students, and challenged by the critical questions of shelter medicine. Looking back at the past year’s work for shelter animals and the veterinarians who care for them, I can only grow more excited for the future opportunities for our field and for Maddie’s® Shelter Medicine Program at the University of Florida. We thank our partners, supporters, and colleagues for being part of this important work.

From the Director

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

Dr. Julie Levy
Program Director
New courses broaden scope of curriculum

This year three new courses were developed and offered to veterinary students, building on their enthusiasm for shelter medicine curriculum. The first, Community Cat Management, is an intensive week-long course that provided immersive training in humane methods for managing one of sheltering’s greatest challenges – community cats.

Led by a faculty collaboration between Maddie’s® Program, PetSmart Charities, and Humane Alliance, a leader in high quality, high volume spay/neuter, students gained both a practical and theoretical understanding of the large-scale spay/neuter programs that are required for successful community cat intervention programs. They came away from the course with exposure to every stage: evaluating community cat population numbers, trapping feral cats in the field, running an efficient surgical program, and performing surgery on community cats in need.

Critical thinking about sheltering operations is a key still for shelter veterinarians, and...
An additional new clinical training course, Consultations in Shelter Animal Medicine, provided a real-world opportunity for veterinary students to develop a critical eye in shelter medicine. Students spent one week in the classroom, learning with faculty about the process and metrics for assessing an animal shelter. They evaluated data on the shelter’s population dynamics and were trained in observation and data collection. In week two the students teamed with experienced veterinary consultants in a client shelter, assessing and developing solutions for real-world animal sheltering challenges.

Training in the role of a shelter veterinarian was further rounded out by the addition of a special projects course, Recognizing and Responding to Animal Hoarding. Also open to undergraduates, this course explored the pathology of animal hoarding as it is currently understood, and its devastating impacts on the health and well-being of hoarded animals. Students also learned about the forensic components of shelter medicine, with training in crime scene documentation and evaluation of animal victims.

**Externship program ignites student enthusiasm for shelter medicine**

In addition to faculty-led shelter medicine training, one of the most powerful components of the Maddie’s® Program is our relationship with shelter partner externship agencies, where students spend four total weeks training with shelter practitioners in both adoption guarantee and traditional agencies. These mentored experiences provide rich and rewarding exposure, empowering students to help pets directly in shelters.

Five students received the Maddie’s® Certificate in Shelter Medicine in 2012. With 41 students currently enrolled, this internationally unique program is the most popular Certificate at the University of Florida’s College of Veterinary Medicine.

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 Campbell
Maddie’s® Extern
Class of 2013
Maddie’s® Certificate in Shelter Medicine

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**By the Numbers**

- Instructed 253 students in 7 Shelter Medicine Courses
  - Introduction to Shelter Medicine 20
  - Veterinary Forensic Medicine 25
  - Introduction to Veterinary Disaster Response 113
  - Shelter Animal Behavior & Welfare 11
  - Clerkship: Consultations in Shelter Animal Medicine 13
  - Recognizing and Responding to Animal Hoarding 47
  - Community Cat Management 24

- Awarded 5 Maddie’s® Certificates in Shelter Medicine to graduating seniors

- 41 students enrolled in Maddie’s® Certificate Program
- 8 students in Maddie’s® Externships
- 12 students in Spay/Neuter Externships
- 147 students in Spay/Neuter through Operation Catnip
- Instructed in 9 lectures and labs in the core DVM curriculum
Empowering Shelter Practitioners

Advocate-practitioners connect with us to develop their skills.

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. We welcome this committed community at Maddie’s® Shelter Medicine Conference, where they refine and rethink shelter practices with insights from nationally recognized experts. At Maddie’s® Veterinary Forensics Conference they receive hands-on training that will help them be more effective advocates when called to speak for victims of cruelty and neglect.

Advanced trainees, Maddie’s® Residents, are developing a robust and critical understanding of medicine in the shelter and will be leaders in the field. From specialized coursework to leadership in shelter consultations, these veterinarians act as ambassadors, engaging with shelter volunteers, staff, and medical directors to gain insight into shelter issues.

Conferences bring together inspiring colleagues

Our team members speak across the country on shelter medicine topics, but there is a kind of electricity in the air at Maddie’s® Conferences. This year veterinarians and technicians from across the country gathered in Florida to learn from nationally recognized speakers, and were further inspired and energized by the opportunity to connect with fellow travelers on the journey to a better world for homeless pets.

Presenters at Maddie’s® 4th Annual Shelter Medicine Conference provided insights on understanding cats in the shelter environment and developing and documenting policies and procedures. A two-part series on pain management provided critical observational tools for evaluating and alleviating pain and discomfort in sheltered
pets. The generous support of PetSmart Charities made possible a new conference session, Frontiers in Shelter Medicine. There attendees connected directly with researchers from UF and across the country to learn about the latest developments in our understanding of shelter medicine.

At Maddie’s Veterinary Forensics Conference, our program teamed with the ASPCA to provide exceptional two-day training on animal hoarding recognition and response. Building on the experience of researchers and hoarding case responders, participants learned to recognize some of the most common medical effects of animal hoarding and gained insight into managing an effective large-scale response. Hands-on training included processing of a mock hoarding crime scene and proper documentation for building legal cases. Each attendee left better prepared to respond to a case of animal hoarding and act on behalf of the animal victims, whether dozens or hundreds.

Residency program draws enthusiastic veterinarians

While continuing education is essential for all those on the front lines, the goal of Maddie’s® Residency program is to cultivate a deeper expertise and broader base of knowledge and experience. These veterinarians immersed themselves in a rigorous training program, developing their skills in all aspects of shelter medicine.

Each of our three Maddie’s® Residents brings their own set of passions and interests, from disease control to shelter leadership. Two third-year residents focused on working with shelter partners for a vast array of immersive experiences. Dr. Cate McManus served as leader for a comprehensive consultation, and Dr. Laura Andersen focused on behavior training and working with veterinary students. They also completed research projects investigating infectious diseases in sheltered cats. Newly admitted first-year resident Dr. Katherine Polak assisted with international emergency sheltering in Thailand and spent weeks honing her clinical skills in the UF Small Animal Hospital.

As they finish their training, Maddie’s® third-year residents are preparing to lead. Dr. McManus will tackle sheltering challenges head-on as Director of Operations at Dallas Animal Services. Dr. Andersen, as Clinical Instructor of Shelter Medicine at Iowa State University, will help train the next generation of shelter veterinarians.

By the Numbers

15 lectures presented to 2239 attendees at conferences and seminars across the US
256 attendees at Maddie’s® Shelter Medicine Conference
160 attendees at Maddie’s® Veterinary Forensics Conference

I was going over the presentation again last night and saw the [slides on] celebrating success.

This morning we adopted 3 dogs and 1 cat in an hour and a half. All unexpected walk-ins. The staff did such a great job so we gave high fives all around and made a celebration attitude.

I just wanted you to know your presentation is still making a difference!!!

Thanks!

Liana Teague
Hernando County Animal Services
Helping Animals in Shelters

Shelter dogs and cats rely on us to find life-saving solutions.

While our training programs work to build a corps of shelter veterinarians for tomorrow, many organizations depend on Maddie’s® Shelter Medicine Program for advice and assistance to save animals’ lives today. We work with our shelter partners to do just that.

We teamed with shelters struggling with infectious diseases by performing diagnostic testing and advising on management strategies to employ during outbreaks. Proactive agencies looking to make the most of their animal care resources called on us to perform consultations at their facilities. Our team also assisted in several emergency animal sheltering operations, caring for as many as 700 animals in one location at a time.

Whether helping dozens or thousands, Maddie’s® Shelter Medicine veterinary faculty, trainees, and students pulled together with shelter managers to identify and implement strategies to save as many shelter pets as possible and send them each on to lifelong homes.

By the Numbers

Disease surveillance and outbreak response assistance

- 2 Traditional shelters
- 2 Adoption guarantee agencies
- 1 Emergency shelter operation

Number of animals cared for annually at these agencies:

46,500

Onsite consultations with animal shelters

- 2 Targeted to specific shelter issues
- 2 Comprehensive: virtually all aspects of shelter animal care and welfare

Number of animals cared for annually at these agencies:

47,400

Onsite assistance and medical team response for 4 emergency sheltering operations caring for 1,750 cats and dogs

Disease outbreaks continue to ravage shelters

Again this year, our program was called on to assist shelters struggling with infectious diseases. No sheltering agency is exempt from the challenges. We assisted one of the nation’s largest municipal agencies and helped a small adoption-guarantee group. Even with veterinarians of their own, organizations struggle to implement and track effective protocols for vaccination, sanitation, and disease prevention.

In the shelter environment, ringworm, panleukopenia, and canine distemper all present very real threats to saving lives. Inadequate housing places tremendous stress on sheltered pets and their immune systems, further contributing to the spread of disease. Led by Dr. Cynda Crawford, our disease surveillance and outbreak assistance program is there to help work through the challenges.
Consultation service provides expert insight

Fortunately there are numerous shelters looking to proactively address sheltering health challenges, and our shelter consultation service works with them to understand their unique sheltering environment and identify new solutions.

We led teams from across the country in a comprehensive consultation for a North Carolina shelter wanting to make the most of their new facility. We were also honored to provide an evaluation of our local animal services agency, which has made very real strides in saving lives over the past decade and is now looking to improve quality of life for sheltered animals and end euthanasia as a population control method.

Informed by successes across the nation and inspired by our hard-working shelter partners, our teams crafted comprehensive guidebooks for partner agencies to help them address operational challenges and take their lifesaving to the next level.

Agencies work together in emergency sheltering

Nowhere in the animal sheltering community is collaboration more needed or valued than when an emergency arises.

Whether in response to natural disasters or in human-driven situations like animal hoarding and puppy mills, the sheltering community bands together when vast numbers of animals need help.

This year we worked side-by-side with national and international agencies in several large-scale responses, leading medical teams, directing triage efforts, and planning health maintenance and treatment programs for hundreds of animals.

Two cases involved well-intentioned sanctuary operations that were no longer able to provide adequate care for hundreds of sheltered cats, resulting in local animal services enforcement removal of the animals from unacceptable conditions.

These efforts are transformative experiences, and there is no better reward than seeing a formerly sick, neglected animal in the loving arms of a new guardian.

Creating Happy Endings for Shelter Pets

Maddie’s® Shelter Medicine Program regularly assists animal shelters that are struggling to manage the health of the pets in their care and reduce the impact of infectious diseases. Our veterinarians provide diagnostic testing support and advice on how to treat sick animals and prevent the spread of disease. This work makes happy endings in loving homes possible, bringing years of fulfilling life to shelter cats and dogs.

The pet parent of a shelter puppy who was adopted with distemper is happy Maddie’s® Program was there: “Luke is smart, handsome and brings us so much joy.”

“I’m attaching a picture of him on his birthday and in his finest on New Year’s Eve,” emailed Mayra, his new mom. “I wanted you to see what your work has done for Luke... and for us.”

When the cats at [the sanctuary] were rescued we were concerned about their health.

Without your contribution... we could never have prepared them for adoption.

It is with extreme gratitude that I thank you and your staff for their willingness to help with this worthwhile endeavor.

Due to their efforts, six hundred cats are now going to good homes that will continue to care for them.

Lee Pinkoson
Chair
Alachua County Commission

Luke was adopted from a South Florida shelter and was found to be suffering from canine distemper. With the help of our veterinarians, Luke recovered and is seen here on his first birthday, enjoying the comforts of his forever home.
Infectious disease management is put under the microscope

With distemper, parvovirus, and panleukopenia some of the greatest health threats facing dogs and cats in shelters, our research program worked this year to better understand how to prevent infection and respond in the case of outbreaks.

We researched the performance of diagnostic tests and evaluated different tools for detecting protective antibodies, so that shelter veterinarians can use scientific data to understand the risks faced by individual animals. With better information, shelter veterinarians can make plans to move pets safely into homes, despite battling active infections in some of the shelter population.

This year we also published research addressing surgical and nonsurgical sterilization, key components in the field’s battle to prevent pet homelessness.
Inquisitive students drive research on welfare issues

Through Maddie’s® Research Fellows, we sought to understand some of animal sheltering’s more programmatic questions whose answers have far-reaching implications for how we find homes for shelter pets.

We continued to explore identification of shelter dog breeds, comparing visual identification’s relationship to DNA analysis. With the collaboration of shelter partners and dog experts from across the country, we have been able to identify concerns with visual breed identification compared to DNA breed analysis. For thousands of shelter pets whose communities have guidelines about placement options for specific breeds and for prospective adopters hoping to glean information about a potential pet’s future behavior, uncertainty about breed identification poses new challenges to the sheltering community.

One of our studies investigated the use of antibody titer testing for shelter dogs. A test that can be performed at a shelter in less than an hour proved a good choice for determining which shelter dogs are protected from canine parvovirus and canine distemper in the face of an outbreak.

Our student researchers and faculty mentors are also tuned to current sheltering trends. Recently the field has seen a move to capitalize on economic incentives for adopting a pet. But some adoption agencies fear that discounted or free adoptions may result in riskier placements for pets, into homes where they aren’t highly valued. But what do the data say?

Partnering with the ASPCA and Maddie’s Fund®, we began investigating this question, evaluating pet adoption success and attachment levels during special promotion events. Preliminary results indicate that free and discounted adoption promotions may be valuable tools for increasing adoptions without compromising quality of life.

Research exemplifies collaboration

Whether in the field or in the laboratory, our research brings together many stakeholders to advance the body of knowledge in shelter medicine. With data and participation from animal shelters and their staff, surveys and protocols crafted by primary researchers, and guidance and mentorship from seasoned investigators, many minds are brought to bear on these shelter medicine questions.

Working together and sharing knowledge is the only way forward if we are to find real solutions for shelter pets.

By the Numbers

Presented 15 research posters at conferences and symposia
Published 9 research articles in veterinary journals
Initiated 7 new shelter health research projects

I am on the board of a non-profit that was started to support the county run shelters in our county.

What you are doing for shelter medicine is amazing!

Thank you for your vision and effort, it is not lost on any of us!

Martha Kehoe, DVM

Through poster presentations, our researchers were able to explain their projects and preliminary findings. Sharing our research discoveries with the animal sheltering and veterinary communities is essential to advance the field and empower more effective lifesaving practices in animal shelters.
Online learning opens doors for new connections

With few programs at veterinary schools training students in the unique challenges of shelter medicine, and even fewer with the ability to develop a robust curriculum, Maddie’s Fund® took the visionary step to support an exciting new initiative in shelter medicine, and this year our program began development of the world’s first Graduate Certificate in Shelter Medicine, designed to be offered entirely online to students in any city, state, or country.

In today’s connected world, Maddie’s® Online Certificate was a natural step in the program’s evolution. By breaking out of the boundaries of a physical location, this online program will bring leading minds in shelter medicine together to guide veterinarians and students in their exploration of shelter health questions and the development of real solutions for protecting the physical and behavioral health of shelter pets.

The 9-credit Certificate, led by Dr. Terry Spencer, is an integrated curriculum designed to equip a shelter veterinarian with the tools, knowledge, and critical thinking skills to be
effective shelter practitioners and advocates for the animals in their care. Following an exhaustive curriculum development process, the Certificate’s three core courses are Integrating Veterinary Medicine and Sheltering Systems, Shelter Animal Physical Health, and Shelter Animal Behavior and Welfare.

With the first course beginning in August 2012, veterinarians nationwide are excited to come together virtually to share their own knowledge and get connected with the latest standards and strategies in shelter care, and we are no less excited to have the opportunity to work with even more veterinarians and future veterinarians passionate about doing their best for shelter pets.

**Maddie’s® Program reaches out nationwide**

In a small but growing field, Maddie’s Program® is honored to play a vital role. Our faculty members lead a task force guiding specialty training, are invited to connect with other sheltering-minded practitioners at meetings of key opinion leaders, and speak at national and international conferences and meetings.

Our training programs are opened to shelter medicine residents and interns from across the country, who join us virtually through web meetings and conference calls, and travel in person for hands-on courses and animal shelter consultations.

**By the Numbers**

Researched and designed a 9-credit online graduate-level certificate

Tested 2 online short courses in shelter medicine

Served in 6 task forces and key opinion leader meetings

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We engage with students at other colleges of veterinary medicine as invited speakers, while visiting veterinary students take advantage of Maddie’s Program® unique set of offerings. As we move forward, we are pleased to be able to offer them more comprehensive training through Maddie’s® Online Certificate.

**Shelter medicine is creating a better future for shelter pets**

Animals in shelters rely on their human caretakers completely. In shelter medicine, it is our duty to ensure that their needs—for health, wellness, love, and security—are met.

Together with our sheltering partners, veterinary students, specialists-in-training, and veterinary colleagues, we work every day to ensure a future where every pet lives a comfortable, enriched life. It’s no small thing that our lives are enriched in the process.

**Survey Respondent**

I am so excited to see this [online graduate certificate]!

I’ve been following the development of the Shelter Medicine Program at U of F and been very impressed with the leaps and bounds it has taken...

The program at U of F is more than just the internship or even the rare residency that is available; it is a holistic approach that includes practicing veterinarians in the field as well as cultivating the next generation of vets.
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, 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®
The Sweetbay Foundation
Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica
The ASPCA
PetSmart Charities
National Canine Research Council
IDEXX Laboratories
The Humane Society of the United States

Alliance for Contraception in Cats & Dogs
BioGal
Crijo Pet Products
FidoPharm
Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association
Intervet Schering-Plough
Merck Animal Health
Operation Catnip of Gainesville
Pethealth, Inc.
PKB Animal Health
Novartis Animal Health
Tomahawk Trap Company
UF Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service
UF Shelter Animal Medicine Clerkship
Veterinary Products Laboratories
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Cynda Crawford, DVM, PhD
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Brenda Griffin, DVM, MS, DACVIM
Adjunct Associate Professor of Shelter Medicine

Terry Spencer, DVM, ME
Director of Distance Learning
Maddie’s® Clinical Assistant Professor of Shelter Medicine

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Laura Andersen, DVM
Maddie’s® Shelter Medicine Resident

Catherine McManus, VMD, MPH, DACVPM
Maddie’s® Shelter Medicine Resident

Katherine Polak, DVM, MPH
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Maddie’s® Administrative Assistant

Our Team

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.

“I hope you know how much we all appreciate the work your group has done with us over the last couple of years.

I know that it changed the way I look at how we care about the animals and made me refocus on what we are truly here to do.

Thank you for that gift.

Kathy Beatson
Operations Manager
Brevard County Animal Services

Maddie’s® Shelter Medicine Team with this year’s Community Cat Management Course students.