Recognizing and Responding to Animal Hoarding  
VEM 5912 Supervised Research (veterinary students)  
VME 6934 Topics in Veterinary Medical Sciences (graduate students)  
2 credits – Also fulfills partial requirement for the Certificate in Shelter Medicine  
Enrollment and Credit issued in Spring 2012  
Completion deadline: April 20, 2012  
Contact Dr. Levy for more information  
Instructors:  
Dr. Julie Levy V2-114 levyjk@ufl.edu  
Dr. Cynda Crawford V2-114 crawfordc@ufl.edu

This self-paced independent study course explores the special challenges faced in recognition and response to animal hoarding using a combination of directed reading, videos, webinars, web surfing, and attendance at Maddie’s Veterinary Forensics Conference. Students will collaborate in making a formal presentation at the College of Veterinary Medicine. Following an introductory course meeting, most activities are self-paced and students are encouraged to collaborate with each other. If desired, students can complete required reading and viewing assignments over the fall holiday breaks to avoid conflict with spring semester courses.

Objectives: To understand current issues relating to animal hoarding, including:
- Definition and identification of animal hoarding
- The psycho-social aspects of hoarding
- Hoarding’s sentinel role for elder abuse and neglect, child abuse and neglect, and adult self-neglect
- Types and motivations of animal hoarding
- Hoarding by animal rescuers
- Interdisciplinary responses to animal hoarding
- Crime scene and forensic investigation of animal hoarding
- Large-scale animal hoarding responses
- The role of law enforcement in hoarding responses
- The role of veterinarians in hoarding responses
- Resources available to prevent and respond to animal hoarding

Grading: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (veterinary students) or letter grade (graduate students) based on successful completion of course content. Students may work together on all aspects of project completion and reporting.
- Student’s written reviews of assigned reading
- Student’s written reviews of assigned videos and webinars
- Student’s written report about web-based animal hoarding resources
- Student’s written report following 2-day Maddie’s Veterinary Forensics Conference on Recognizing and Responding to Animal Hoarding
- Faculty evaluation of final PowerPoint presentation
**Course Program**

- **Required reading and viewing:** Each item on the required reading and viewing list must be completed by each student. Students are encouraged to work together on this list and to discuss each item as it is completed. Reports are required for each individual item including the date each item is completed, summary of important methods and findings, and assessment of strengths and weaknesses. Signatures on the reports certify that each student completed the task and contributed to the report. The reading and viewing assignments must be completed prior to the Forensics Conference.

- **Maddie’s Veterinary Forensics Conference:** Conference registration is free for students enrolled in this special projects course. The conference will be help at the College of Veterinary Medicine in Gainesville and is 2 days long (March 24-25, 2011) with seminars on day 1 and hands-on activities on day 2.

- **Monthly instructor check-in:** Students must meet briefly (in person or electronically) each month with one of the instructors to submit a progress report. This should include an updated copy of the Course Requirements Check List, new Task Completion Reports, projected schedule for completion, and any concerns encountered.

- **Capstone presentation to the College of Veterinary Medicine:** Students will work together to prepare a one-hour presentation about animal hoarding at the end of the course. The presentation should include a 45-minute PowerPoint presentation and 15 minutes for questions. The presentation will be open to attendance by all students and staff at the College. The specific aspects of animal hoarding to be included are flexible, but must include several important concepts from the required materials. The instructors must approve the topic and will work with the students as the presentation is prepared and practiced.

**Required Reading and Viewing List**

*All materials are available free on-line or for check-out from the Shelter Medicine Library V2-110*

**Videos and Webinars**

Animal hoarding documentary TV programs: Watch a minimum of 3 animal hoarding programs from Animal Planet “Confessions,” A&E “Hoarders,” Discovery “Hoarders”

PetSmart Charities webinar: Practical guidelines for handling hoarding situations in your shelter [www.petsmartcharities.org/resources/handling-hoarding.html](http://www.petsmartcharities.org/resources/handling-hoarding.html)

ASPCA webinar: Recognizing and responding to rescue hoarders [www.challenge.aspcapro.org/strategy/webinars/rescue-hoarders](http://www.challenge.aspcapro.org/strategy/webinars/rescue-hoarders)


Nightline, ABC News: The Life of Animal Hoarders
Books and Reports


Association of Shelter Veterinarians Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters [www.sheltervet.org](www.sheltervet.org)

Professional and Public Perspectives on Animal Cruelty, ASPCA


Special Report: Operation Rescue, B Yeoman, Oprah Magazine, June 2009 [www.oprah.com/relationships/Animal-Rescue-The-Fight-to-Save-300-Dogs/print/1](www.oprah.com/relationships/Animal-Rescue-The-Fight-to-Save-300-Dogs/print/1)

Research Papers


Animal Hoarding Website Browsing

The Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium
Information contained in the “Interventions”, “Animal Welfare”, and “Public Health” is particularly relevant to this special projects course.

www.tufts.edu/vet/hoarding

National animal abuse registry
www.PetAbuse.com

Animal Legal Defense Fund recurrent hoarding case study
www.aldf.org/article.php?id=1301#kittles

Animal Legal Defense Fund Animal Protection Laws of the United States of America and Canada
www.aldf.org/article.php?id=259

Animal Legal and Historical Center Detailed discussion of animal hoarding
www.animallaw.info/articles/ddushoarding.htm

... and do your own surfing ...
Maddie’s Veterinary Forensics Conference

Recognizing and Responding to Animal Hoarding
March 24-25, 2012 • Gainesville, Florida

Day 1: Classroom Workshops
- The Psychology of Animal Hoarding: What’s Wrong with these People?
- Planning Responses to Animal Hoarding and other Large-Scale Cruelty Cases
- Medical Issues in Animal Hoarding and Other Extreme Neglect Cases
- Animal Behavior Issues in Hoarding Cases: Short and Long-term Consequences
- Zoonotic Concerns in Animal Hoarding Cases
- Dealing with the Public and the Media in Animal Hoarding Cases
- Evidence Handling and Documentation in Hoarding Cases
- Issues in Prosecuting Animal Hoarding Cases
- Community Initiatives for Prevention of and Response to Animal Hoarding

Day 2: Hands-On Exercises
- Crime Scene Response to Animal Hoarding
  Participants will participate in a planning briefing for a hoarding response and will then proceed to a simulated hoarding site to identify, photograph, and document conditions found, remove animals, and work with law enforcement to gather evidence to be presented to authorities for possible use in prosecution
- Examination of Live and Deceased Victims of Hoarding/Neglect
  Participants will work with live animals and cadavers to review procedures for examining and documenting physical condition and behavior of animals rescued from hoarding situations with an emphasis on providing systematic information that can be used to tell the story of hoarding victims

Expert Presenters:
- Tim Rickey, Senior Director, ASPCA Field Investigations and Response
- Dr. Jason Byrd, Director of Education, ASPCA/UF Veterinary Forensic Sciences Program
- Kathryn Destreza, Director of Investigations, ASPCA Field Investigations and Response
- Amanda Fitch, Forensic Analyst, ASPCA/UF Veterinary Forensic Sciences Program
- Adam Leath, Southeast Regional Director, ASPCA Field Investigations and Response
- Dr. Randall Lockwood, Senior Vice President, Forensic Sciences and Anti-Cruelty Projects, ASPCA
- Dr. Rhonda Windham, Medical Director, ASPCA Field Investigations and Response
- Dr. Cynda Crawford, Maddie’s Clinical Assistant Professor of Shelter Medicine, University of Florida
- Dr. Julie Levy, Director, Maddie’s Shelter Medicine Program at the University of Florida
Recognizing and Responding to Animal Hoarding
VEM 5912 Supervised Research
Task Completion Report
One report form is required for each task

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# Recognizing and Responding to Animal Hoarding

**VEM 5912 Special Project - Course Requirements Check List**

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## Videos and Webinars

- Animal hoarding program 1
- Animal hoarding program 2
- Animal hoarding program 2
- PetSmart Charities webinar: Practical guidelines for handling hoarding situations in your shelter
- ASPCA webinar: Recognizing and responding to rescue hoarders
- ASPCA webinar: Prosecuting Animal Hoarding: Why, when, and how
- ASPCA webinar: The veterinarian as expert witness in animal abuse cases
- Nightline, ABC News: The Life of Animal Hoarders

## Books and Reports

- Animal Hoarding: Structuring Interdisciplinary Responses to Help People, Animals and Communities at Risk
- Association of Shelter Veterinarians Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters
- Professional and Public Perspectives on Animal Cruelty
- Animal Cruelty Prosecution
- Operation Rescue

## Research Papers

- Long-term outcomes in animal hoarding cases
- Comparison of object and animal hoarding
- Animal hoarding: Slipping into the darkness of comorbid animal and self-neglect
- Characteristics and antecedents of people who hoard animals: An exploratory comparative interview study
- Normalizing passive cruelty: The excuses and justifications of animal hoarders
- The Kittles case and its aftermath
- Press reports of animal hoarding

## Web Sites

- www.tufts.edu/vet/hoarding
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