

A white dog with brown spots and large ears is lying on a green lawn. The dog's mouth is open, showing its tongue. It is wearing a black collar with a red and white pattern and a silver tag.

Annual Report 2012-2013

UF

Maddie's[®] Shelter
Medicine Program

College of Veterinary Medicine

UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Maddie's[®] Shelter Medicine Program at the University of Florida

Table of Contents

From the Director	3
Educating Future Veterinarians	4
Empowering Shelter Leaders	6
Helping Animals in Shelters	8
Developing New Knowledge	10
Expanding into Online Learning	12
About Our Program	14

Thanks to Maddie

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.



Our Mission

To enhance the health and welfare of homeless animals through education, innovation, and advancement of the life-saving goals of sheltering programs

From the Director

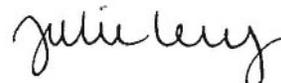
Every year we look back at the activities and accomplishments of the past 12 months. As I look back at our efforts of 2012-2013, I see that this year our program came of age. We have been through the joys of firsts and the pains of growing; this year we entered new worlds.

When the academic year started, we were thrilled to be graduating our first full residents in Shelter Medicine at UF and starting our first two interns. In the fall we offered the first courses in Maddie's Online Graduate Certificate in Shelter Medicine. Our meticulously designed curriculum is now available to veterinarians everywhere who want to help companion animals - no matter their veterinary college, country of residence, or shelter experience.

Also this academic year, ten (ten!) members of the UF Class of 2013 graduated with Maddie's Certificate in Shelter Medicine, the first of its kind. Their enthusiasm for shelter medicine had been nurtured by Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program since the very beginning of their four years at veterinary school, and they have thrived. We couldn't be prouder.

With the right tools in the right hands, we can do amazing things for animals, and I'm honored to be part of an organization - a movement - dedicated to creating a new, better future for cats and dogs. The leadership, vision, and support of Maddie's Fund have been the most vital ingredients in this better world for shelter pets, and I want to thank Maddie's Fund for their faith in our vision. The memory of the beloved Maddie is indeed living on in all the veterinarians and animals touched by Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program.

Thank you to Maddie's Fund and to all of our donors, veterinary partners, and shelter partners for making this work possible. Thank you to our students, who inspire us every day. And thank you to the animals, who make all our lives richer and whose purrs and wags make it all worthwhile.



Dr. Julie Levy
Program Director



Julie Levy
DVM, PhD, DACVIM
Program Director
Maddie's[®] Professor
of Shelter Medicine

Educating Future Veterinarians

Veterinary student training in shelter medicine is our most fundamental mission, and this academic year we graduated our largest class yet of Maddie's® Certificate in Shelter Medicine recipients, with 10 graduates of the Class of 2013 earning this distinction.

The accomplishments of these particular graduates have been especially meaningful; they began their training while our program was in its infancy, and their enthusiasm for shelter medicine has been nurtured by Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Program at every step of the way over the past four years.

We've watched these trainees since their early days full of unbridled enthusiasm. Today their enthusiasm is no smaller, but now they are empowered to make a difference. Each year they've grown, to become the skilled, hardworking, dedicated and insightful veterinarians they are today. These new veterinarians inspire us and give us hope.



Ten graduates in the UF College of Veterinary Medicine's Class of 2013 earned Maddie's® Certificate in Shelter Medicine. It is the most popular certificate program at the college.

Veterinary
Forensic Medicine Canine Discrimination,
Society, and
Animal Shelters

Shelter Animal
Behavior and Welfare

Shelter Medicine Courses

Introduction to
Veterinary
Disaster
Response

Integrating Veterinary Medicine
with Shelter Systems

Community Cat
Management

Consultations in
Shelter Animal Medicine

Introduction to
Shelter Medicine

Class of 2013 graduate Lauren Gray has been one of the program's most dedicated students. She began working in shelter medicine the summer before her DVM curriculum officially began, as part of a research project that investigated disease and risk in different types of shelters.

When her veterinary career officially commenced, Lauren continued to study in the field, taking every available shelter medicine course. She presented her research at conferences, co-authored several journal articles, and assisted with multiple shelter consultations and rescue responses. She spent weeks upon weeks training side-by-side with shelter veterinarians, and led extracurricular activities that set adoption records at our local shelter.

Lauren's experiences, and the opportunities available to UF's veterinary students, simply aren't possible at other colleges of veterinary medicine. At UF, she has been able to dedicate herself to understanding problems and solutions for shelter pets.

What does the future hold for this new veterinarian? Dr. Gray is spending her first years as a practicing veterinarian developing her clinical experience (at a spay/neuter clinic serving shelters and low-income pet owners), and believes that further intensive shelter medicine study in the form of a residency or internship may be in her future.

It is a new world for veterinarians-in-training who want to change the way we care for shelter animals.



Class of 2013 graduate Dr. Lauren Gray studied shelter medicine through all four years of vet school.

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For the past eight years, I have been employed at both no-kill and open admission animal shelters and have seen first hand the need for quality shelter veterinarians. I hope to fulfill this niche and help make constant improvements in the lives of shelter animals and in the animal welfare field.

*Veterinary Student,
 Maddie's® Certificate
 in Shelter Medicine
 Class Of 2016*



Certificates in Shelter Medicine awarded to graduating seniors	10	Students in Maddie's® Externships	6
Students enrolled in Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Certificate Program	39	Students in Spay/Neuter Externships	4
Shelter Medicine courses	9	Lectures in the primary DVM curriculum	17
Total enrollment in Shelter Medicine courses	281	Seminars and Wetlabs	11
Cats Spayed & Neutered by veterinary students through Operation Catnip	1,576	Pets adopted through Summer Lovin' Adoptathon	185

Empowering Shelter Leaders

This academic year we were thrilled to graduate our first full residents in Shelter Medicine at UF. After three years of intensive training, we sent two highly trained veterinarians out into the animal welfare world with expert backgrounds and keen insights to improve companion animal welfare. Leading shelters and teaching veterinary students, they have only just begun to show what they can do for shelter pets.

Today Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Program at the University of Florida continues to have a robust house officer training program, the largest nationally. This critical mass provides a rich environment for collaborative learning and critical thinking. During the 2012-2013 academic year, our three residents and two interns were able to work together in their training - visiting and working in shelters, completing advanced coursework in shelter medicine and public health, and consulting for shelters to help them achieve their lifesaving goals. Together with their faculty mentors, they help real shelters address real challenges. At the end of the academic year, we were proud to graduate our first two interns and admit a third intern into the program.



Maddie's® Shelter Medicine residents and interns are advanced trainees who have come to UF to train intensively in shelter medicine. Led by Dr. Julie Levy (residents) and Dr. Cynda Crawford (interns), these veterinarians instruct veterinary students in shelter medicine topics, participate in surgical training, and help animals in shelters through projects that grow their skills in consultation, shelter design, behavior and enrichment, and more.

Veterinarians practicing in shelters were also a vital audience this year. Our 5th Annual Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Conference once again drew attendees from across the country. The conference provided priceless opportunities for shelter veterinarians and managers to connect with colleagues and two full days of learning dedicated to shelter topics.



Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Conference in Orlando, Florida offered veterinarians and shelter leaders two full days of shelter medicine continuing education. The 200 attendees appreciated that the sessions, led by current practitioners, were timely and applicable to their own work.

Attendees went home with new options for successful parvo treatment protocols, strategies for saving the lives of newborns, and insight into the emotional and behavioral needs of pets saved from hoarding cases and puppy mills. As public awareness of these large-scale problems increases, it is more important than ever that shelter veterinarians be equipped to respond when their community steps up to save cats and dogs from dire situations.

The educational programs of Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Program are giving shelter veterinarians the tools they need to be effective advocate-practitioners.

Lectures presented to veterinarians and shelter practitioners	17	Residents completed 3-year training programs	2
Clinical training courses for shelter veterinarians	2	Interns completed 1-year training programs	2
Presentations at national and international veterinary and animal welfare conferences	9	Residents enrolled in 3-year training program	3
Attendees at conferences and seminars	2,629	Intern enrolled in 1-year training program	1

“
I can't express just how inspired, relieved, validated, and just happy I am after these conferences. I go home so excited, refreshed, and ready to put my nose back to the grindstone to keep chipping away at these problems in my shelter area.
 Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Conference Attendee
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Helping Animals in Shelters

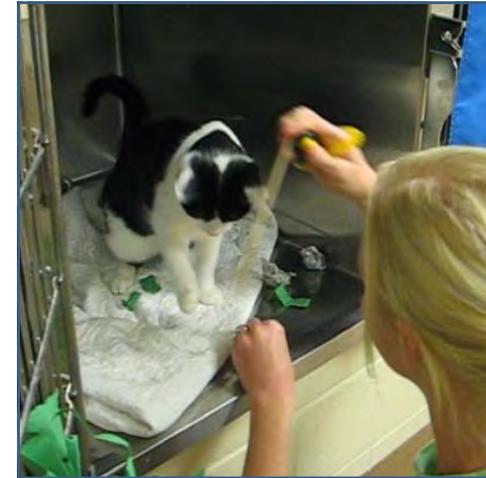
Helping animals in animal shelters is one of the most important pieces of our work, and on the front lines, shelter veterinarians are increasingly playing an important role when it comes to disasters and large-scale animal rescues.

When a cat rescue led by the ASPCA's Field Investigations and Response Team brought more than 700 animals to a central location for care and then adoption, our team stepped up to provide aid, helping ready the felines for placement into new homes. Faculty, house officers, students and staff - everyone pitched in to help.

No less important than professional care for large numbers of animals is specialized advising for rescued animals. When Hurricane Sandy struck the Northeast, both people and their pets were displaced, and in high-stress, high-density temporary shelters, disease risk can be high.



As part of our shelter consultations, shelter medicine residents and veterinary students collect samples for disease surveillance, always giving some love along the way.



When respiratory outbreaks began to appear at two such shelters for displaced dogs in New York, they called on Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Program. We were able to help the temporary shelters with disease surveillance to determine which pathogens they faced. With that knowledge, we could provide targeted recommendations to treat the patients and protect the other dogs. Panleukopenia cases in two shelters were also addressed by our team, where we helped shelters make smart and compassionate choices to avoid depopulation and save as many lives as possible.

Shelters of all kinds need shelter medicine expertise, and our programs are designed to grow the population of professionals who can provide the needed insight in cases like these.

Yet shelters need help even without disasters striking, and animal sheltering agencies of all shapes and sizes reached out to Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Program's consultation service, led by Dr. Cynda Crawford, this year.



Our shelter consultation teams included shelter medicine faculty, residents, interns, students from UF, as well as guest faculty and veterinary students from other colleges of veterinary medicine.

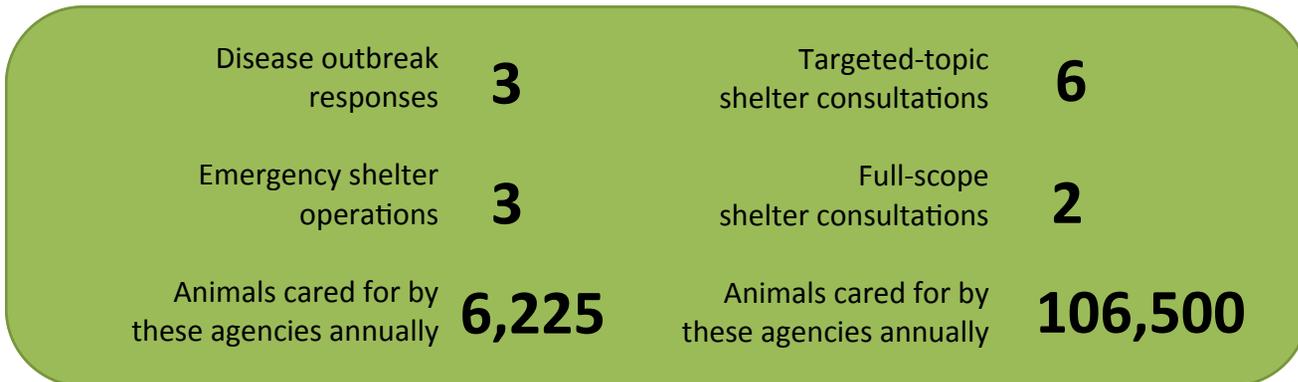
One municipal shelter needed advising on how to deal with ringworm, while another sought our input to make the best use of a new building. We provided comprehensive consultation services for shelters providing care for as many as 17,000 animals annually. The potential welfare impact of implementing simple solutions and well-crafted strategies is immense, and we advise on every topic from cage cleaning to adoption policies.

Other agencies sought the professional insight of our faculty and house officers to advise their shelters in a broader context - the community. Our research and experience has provided our team with insights that

we are pleased to share with animal welfare organizations. Shelter leaders come to Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Program with important questions:

What does the community's population data tell us? How can we optimize multi-million dollar investments to end unnecessary euthanasia? How can our rescue groups and shelter work together?

It is our goal to help communities discover these answers - and save lives.



“

I just wanted to let you know what a pleasure it was to work with you and your students and interns during the ASPCA project in Jacksonville.

I've worked with several teams during spay/neuter and none have been as pleasant and hard working as yours. Their knowledge and work ethic speak volumes about you and the shelter program, and I feel very thankful to have worked with all of you! Here's hoping to do it again someday!

”

Developing New Knowledge

The need for knowledge only grows as the field of shelter medicine begins to come into its own, and while academia's process from investigation to publication can sometimes be frustratingly long, several of our research projects were brought to nationwide audiences through scientific publications this year.

Our researchers, veterinary students mentored by experienced faculty, gathered data in partnership with a local sheltering agency. Two of the studies focused on understanding the prevalence of enteropathogens in cats and dogs. Working together with our shelter partner and diagnostic labs, we sought to uncover the linkage between the presence of enteropathogens and fecal attributes (diarrhea or normal feces) in newly admitted shelter cats and dogs.

We've discovered that with shelter animals, what we see isn't always what we get. Animals enter the shelter with a variety of enteropathogens, and it is difficult to predict infection. Preventive measures and routine treatments are key to protecting animal and human health.



A census of Florida animal shelters is just one of our current research projects being undertaken by a student scholar under the mentorship of a shelter medicine faculty member with research experience.



Trends in shelter medicine today led us to our newest research projects. In one case, a new Florida law is making it possible to gather a thorough census of Florida animal shelters. We are trying to answer a simple but essential question:

How many cats and dogs are admitted to shelters each year and what happens to them?

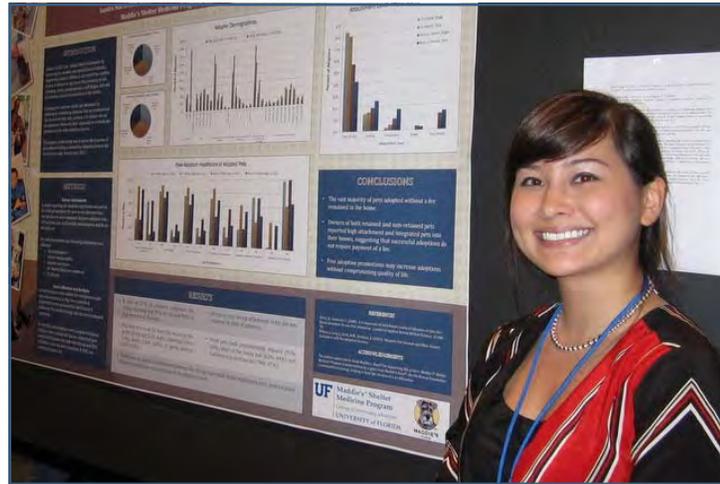
Shelter leaders frequently seek insight into benchmarks and trends, and our collection of intake and disposition data will create a baseline for Florida. In addition, we'll be able to pool regional data,

enabling each shelter to compare its region to other areas of the state.

Meanwhile, throughout the year we took advantage of the opportunity to share our previous research through poster presentations at conferences and research days. Posters covered a diverse range of topics: the relationship between adoption fee and adoption success, protective antibodies in dogs, tail vaccination in cats, dog breed assessment, and more.

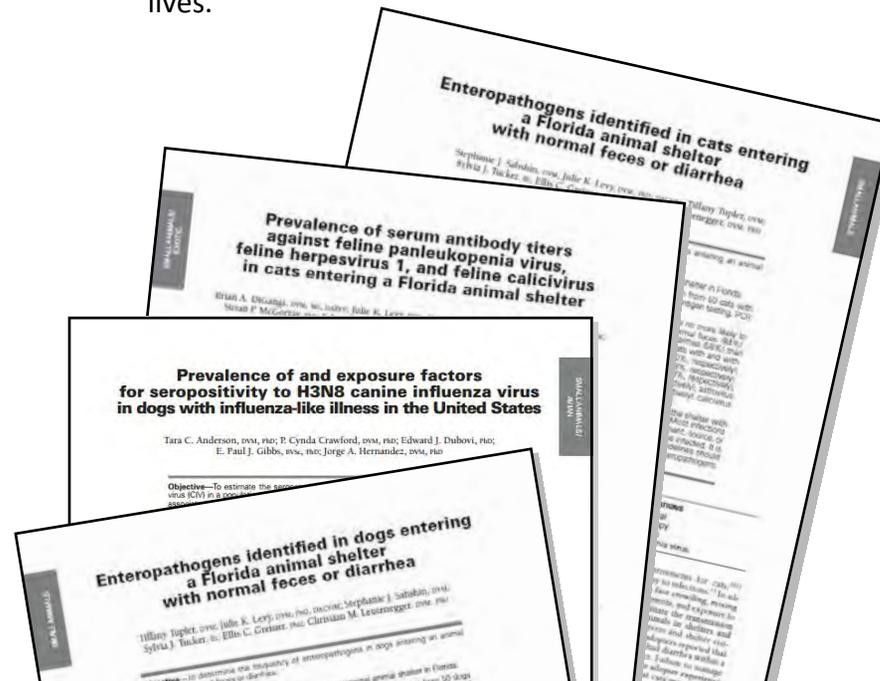
Conferences and poster sessions provide us the opportunity to share preliminary data and start enabling veterinarians to put our recent discoveries to work improving shelter policies and practices.

As animal welfare organizations are improving outcomes and working to place every animal, shelter medicine research will be increasingly important.



Preliminary research data are presented in scientific poster sessions, enabling us to begin putting our new knowledge to work in shelters and communities.

Through collaboration between shelters, academic programs, and industry partners, we can explore solutions and use scientific evidence to guide our policy decisions and save more lives.



Research articles published in veterinary journals **4**

New shelter research projects initiated **3**

Posters presented at conferences and research days **9**

“...these veterinary students are setting the stage for a whole new reality in animal welfare.

Leadership in the making.

Bert Troughton, MSW
Vice President
ProLearning,
Community Outreach

ASPCA

”

Expanding Into Online Learning

The response to our on-campus shelter medicine training program has been so strong that we knew we couldn't stop there. Shelter medicine training opportunities are increasing, but across the country there are still a limited number of specialist faculty who can guide students through the challenges unique to this field. So we designed a new curriculum, streamlined and outcomes-focused, to train shelter veterinarians across the country. This new curriculum would be delivered online, through Maddie's® Online Graduate Certificate in Shelter Medicine.

Under the leadership of Dr. Terry Spencer, three intensive online courses provide the core knowledge for an effective shelter medicine practitioner. The semester-long duration and the online format, facilitated by knowledgeable instructors and teaching assistants, create an environment that encourages the exchange of ideas, critical thinking, and problem solving.

Students not only learn about recognizing and addressing behavior problems and disease outbreaks, but they learn how to build shelter programs that protect the physical and behavioral health of the animals in the first place. Through problem-based learning, they develop plans for tracking risk factors and outcomes, research laws applicable to shelters in their area, and build a shared library of knowledge to serve as a guide going forward.

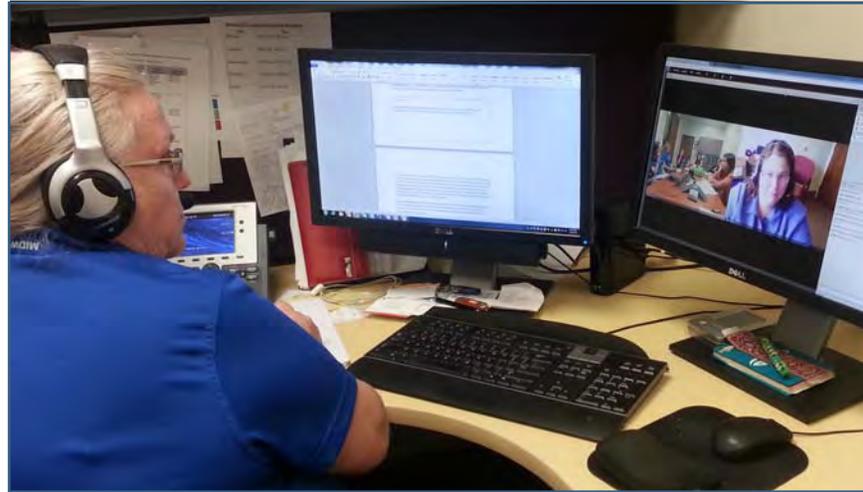
The students, both practicing veterinarians and veterinary students completing their professional training, are also able to develop strong relationships with colleagues in the field - an essential ingredient for success in animal sheltering. Veterinarians are clamoring for training that can quickly and effectively help them improve programs, and enrollees log on from every corner of the world, including Florida, Texas, California, Hong Kong, Canada, Spain, and New Zealand, and more!



Partners like the ASPCA provided generous scholarships to make it possible for promising students to enroll, reimbursing successful students for their tuition costs.

With Maddie's® Online Graduate Certificate in Shelter Medicine, modern strategies for addressing shelter animal welfare can now more easily get into the hands of the professionals who need them; the flexible structure of our online learning program enables veterinarians to study while continuing their work for animals. In addition, our experiential learning strategy provides an opportunity to address real-life in-shelter problems as the students learn.

Collaboration with other veterinary colleges has already begun, and it is our hope to bring shelter medicine training



A wide array of technological tools are employed in our online courses. Live web chat sessions enable students who have been studying asynchronously to come together online at the same time to ask questions and share ideas.

to any veterinary student across the country who has a passion for the mission. With the launch of Maddie's® Online Graduate Certificate, new vistas of possibility have opened for shelter medicine education.



A rich multimedia experience is an important part of our online courses, and our staff work in real shelters to create case material.

New online graduate courses offered	2
Total enrollment in the online program	89
Countries represented by online students	5

“

I just wanted to say THANK YOU for such an absolutely wonderful course!

I learned so much--I wish I could have spent even more time on the subject material than I did!

I think I learned more in these few weeks than I did in all of vet school.

I truly appreciate the work you guys (and everyone who participated) went to, and I am so excited to share what I have learned with my shelter.

Shelter Animal Behavior and Welfare Online Student

”

About Our Program



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 and 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**

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.

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

Merck Animal Health

Nestle Purina

Operation Catnip of Gainesville

Petfinder.com

PetPoint Solutions

PKB Animal Health

Novartis Animal Health

Tomahawk Trap Company

UF Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service

UF Shelter Animal Medicine Clerkship

Veterinary Products Laboratories

Our Team

Faculty

Cynda Crawford, DVM, PhD
Maddie's® Clinical Assistant Professor
of Shelter Medicine

Sheila D'Arpino, DVM, DACVB
Adjunct Associate Professor
of Shelter Medicine and Behavior

Brenda Griffin, DVM, MS, DACVIM
Adjunct Associate Professor
of Shelter Medicine

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

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

House Officers

Amie Burling, DVM
Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Resident

Staci Cannon, DVM
Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Resident

Jessica Hekman, DVM, MS
Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Intern

Katherine Polak, DVM, MPH
Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Resident

Ken Sieranski, DVM
Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Intern

Emily Swiniarski, DVM
Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Intern

Resident Alumni

Laura Andersen, DVM
Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Resident

Brian DiGangi, DVM, MS, DACVP
Sweetbay Shelter Medicine Resident

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

Staff

Michael Crandall, BFA
Maddie's® Media and Instructional Designer

Rachel Michaud, BA, CAWA
Maddie's® Program Coordinator

Sylvia Tucker, BS
Biological Scientist



“
*I thank Maddie's Fund
for making it possible
for UF Grads to study
shelter medicine
because it's an
experience we could
not have received
anywhere else,
enabling us to carry on
a mission we all feel
passionately about:
saving more lives!*

*Class of 2013 Graduate
Maddie's® Certificate in
Shelter Medicine*

”



2015 SW 16th Ave 100126 | Gainesville, Florida 32610 | 352-273-8660 | sheltermedicine@vetmed.ufl.edu

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