

University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine Syllabus

I. Course information

Number: VEM 5864
Course Title: Shelter Animal Sterilization and Population Management Clerkship
Phase: Three (Special Elective)
Semester: 2- Week Block Schedule-- 9 of every 12 months of calendar year (the clerkship will have occasional closure for faculty CE and vacation)
Year: Every Year
Course credit: 2
Students on Rotation: Minimum 0; Maximum 4 (more by special arrangement with supervising clinician)

II. General information

Course director: Dr. Lawrence Garcia
Office location & office hours: SAH 354; office hours by appointment
Office phone number: 352-294-4499
Email: garciln@ufl.edu
Mobile: 334-663-9610

Course Faculty: Dr. Simone Guerios.
Dr. Maria Serrano
Dr. Lawrence Garcia

Course prerequisites:

Junior or Senior ranking, successful completion of an anesthesia clinical rotation and one intensive small animal rotation (i.e. small animal surgery, small animal medicine, primary care, emergency and critical care). The pre-requisite small animal rotation must have a high caseload with multiple opportunities for patient case management.

Strongly recommended: Successful completion of one of the following courses: VEM 5322 Introduction to Shelter Medicine, VEM 5321 Integrating Veterinary Medicine with Shelter Systems, +/- VEM 5381 Shelter Animal Physical Health.

Case Load Variables:

Expect the caseload to vary significantly from day to day. Highest intake is during the spring and summer months. This rotation will run Monday-Friday both weeks with potential caseload work after hours or over the middle weekend of the rotation. Students are responsible for requesting this rotation be scheduled only after a rotation that does not require weekend duties or treatments that last through the Monday morning of the rotation

Required Attire:

Closed-toe shoes that are water resistant, stethoscope, matching scrub top and bottoms, change of clothes in case they become soiled or exposed to infectious disease agent; lunch in a cooler. Bring a supply of any special needs items.

III. Course description

Overview:

One in 20 cats and dogs in the US enters an animal shelter every year. Students in this two-week elective will learn how to care for these animals both as an individual and a population. This immersive, hands-on experience takes place in a large open admission municipal animal shelter.

Students will participate in all aspects of shelter practice, intake, population medicine, behavior assessment, zoonotic and species-specific infectious disease control, facilities management, sanitation, animal welfare, ethics, cultural diversity, and public policy. Students will also participate in individual animal care via performance of primary care diagnosis and treatment procedures of cats and dogs. Students may also observe forensic cases as opportunities arise. In addition, this clerkship also includes exposing the students high-quality/high-volume surgical procedures applied in shelter medicine and guided by standards of practice published by the Association of Shelter Veterinarians (ASV). Students will perform spays, neuters, and other surgical procedures common to the practice of shelter medicine as the opportunities arise (i.e., wound repairs, amputations, enucleations, lumpectomies, FHO procedures, dental extractions).

Course goals:

Provide students with hands-on training in the population and individual animal health and welfare practices within a large-sized municipal animal shelter in South Florida. Students will learn about protecting the health and welfare of dogs and cats and be able to recognize and respond to compromised physical and behavioral welfare conditions; understand animal shelter operations and flow through; and develop proficiency in basic diagnostic evaluation procedures and creating shelter appropriate treatment plans. Provide students with hands-on training in high quality, high-volume surgical practices. Students will apply the standards of care for high-quality/high-volume surgical practice, including selection of patients, anesthetic monitoring, surgical record keeping, multi-modal pain management, and post-operative recovery. Students will understand the critical role played by veterinarians in reducing pet overpopulation within a culturally diverse-community.

Course Objectives:

Students who complete the clerkship successfully, will be prepared to:

1. Competently perform a small animal recovery surgery.
2. Correctly gown and glove for surgery.
3. Correctly scrub for surgery.
4. Correctly set up a surgical field.
5. Demonstrate the ability to present case findings and summarize conclusions verbally.
6. Demonstrate the use of appropriate suture materials, knots and suture patterns.
7. Demonstrate understanding of biosecurity principles.
8. Identify signs of pain in patients.
9. Perform thorough physical examination on cats and dogs.

Course schedule:

Students will report to the shelter at 8 am the first Monday of the rotation. A rotating schedule will be established day one of the clerkship with 8a-4:30p (surgery) and 10a-7p (shelter medicine) shifts. Students will remain on duty until all patients are recovered/medically stabilized, have a plan and all medical records are complete. Expect treatment duties to carry over into the middle weekend of the clerkship. Students will need to arrive Sunday evening before the rotation starts and plan to return home the final Saturday of the rotation.

IV. Course Materials

Required texts:

Association of Shelter Veterinarians; Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters
ASV Spay/Neuter Task Force; Medical Care Guidelines for Spay-Neuter Programs;
JAVMA 2016.

ASPCA-ASV Checklist

Recommended texts:

Sykes; Canine and Feline Infectious Diseases
Greene; Infectious Diseases of the Dog and Cat, Fourth Edition
Miller and Zawistowsky; Shelter Medicine for Veterinarians and Staff, Second Edition
Gerdin and McDonough; Forensic Pathology of Companion Animal Abuse and Neglect
Tong; Identifying non-accidental injury cases in veterinary practice
Tong; Fracture characteristics to distinguish between accidental injury and non-accidental injury in dogs
Munroe and Munroe; Animal Abuse and Unlawful Killing: Forensic Veterinary Pathology
Merck; Veterinary Forensics: Animal Cruelty Investigations, Second Edition
Weiss; Animal Behavior for Shelter Veterinarians and Staff
Landsberg, Hunthasen, Ackerman; Behavior Problems of the Dog and Cat, Third Edition
Yin; Low Stress Handling and Behavior Modification of Dogs & Cats (abridged online edition)

V. Evaluation/Grading:

A complete checklist of required “Clinical SLO” procedures is available in the curriculum map. The student is responsible for assuring that required “SLOs” are submitted in the curriculum map with associated animal ID number, by midnight the last Sunday of the clerkship.

Students receive a letter grade on the following clinical assignments according to: knowledge of subject area, performance, professional attitude, readiness to practice, and satisfactory completion of required clinical SLOs. All clinicians, staff and technicians present during the clerkship contribute in the grading process. The grade also includes teamwork, respect, promptness, alertness, reliability, attitude, and attendance behaviors expected of a medical professional.

Competently perform a small animal recovery surgery: Use the Association of Shelter Veterinarians (ASV) veterinary medical care guidelines for spay-neuter programs in the shelter environment. Competently perform multiple spay/neuter surgical procedures on dogs, cats of all ages. Demonstrate knowledge of common anesthetic protocols used in small animal practice; develop an appropriate post-operative pain management plan. Understand sedation, immobilization, and the context where these strategies should be applied in a shelter environment

Correctly gown and glove for surgery: Maintains asepsis when gowning and gloving in preparation for surgery. Demonstrates awareness and knowledge the importance of asepsis.

Correctly scrub for surgery: Demonstrate proper scrub technique. Maintain asepsis when scrubbing for surgery (keep hands elevated /scrub all surfaces in the correct order/ dry all surfaces in the correct order/avoid contact with non-sterile surfaces). Knowledgeable of the importance of asepsis.

Correctly set up a surgical field: Maintain asepsis while unfolding, correctly placing and clamping drapes and creating a sterile field between the patient and instrument (mayo) stand (contaminates drape, moves drape from non-sterile to sterile field on the patient). Demonstrates proper draping techniques 85% of the time.

Demonstrate the ability to present case findings and summarize verbally: Articulate your assessment of patients to classmates, faculty, citizens, shelter staff and shelter administration. Exhibit professionalism and use appropriate medical terminology.

Demonstrate the use of appropriate suture materials, knots and suture patterns: Understand the significance and use of various suture materials and sizes. Be able to select the most appropriate suture for the desired purpose. Be able to tie all of the common surgical knots and suture patterns. Be able to discuss the importance and purpose of the common knots and suture patterns.

Demonstrate understanding of biosecurity: Practice proper biosecurity according to the ASV guidelines at all times while working in the shelter. Select appropriate PPE, cleaning agents and proper fomite control.

Identify signs of pain: Identify common signs of pain in a sheltered animal. Be able to verbalize the specific signs of pain noted and propose possible treatments.

Physical Examination: For 3 cats and 3 dogs: perform a thorough physical exam including cardio thoracic auscultation, otoscopic exam, ophthalmic exam, estimate age and estimate body condition score.

Final course grades are determined by the default grading scale in Canvas.

VI. Attendance:

The instructor & OSI should be contacted prior to absences or as soon as possible. Unexcused and unexplained absenteeism will result in a lowered grade or an Incomplete. Make up projects or clinic days at Miami Dade Animal Services/Alachua County Animal Services may be required at the discretion of supervising faculty. Requirements for attendance, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>. Grade points will be assigned according to the UF policies found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

VII. Administrative Policies:

See the CVM Student Handbook at <http://education.vetmed.ufl.edu/dvm-curriculum/student-handbook/> for complete policies regarding clinical clerkships.

VIII. Other information:

Disability Resource Center
<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

Students in need of accommodations should directly contact the DRC to begin the approval and implementation process. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) is located on the main UF campus and is available for students who request accommodations. OSI on the CVM campus works closely with the DRC to ensure student accommodations are met as articulated by the DRC. The DRC is able to assist students in receiving accommodations such as extended time for exams, low distraction environment, test reader or scribe and note-taking services. Please contact the DRC for more information on their processes and requirements (352-392-8565).

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu> on the final day of the clerkship. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: ‘On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.’” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

Contact information for Safety & Security Department: 352-294-4444 (immediate assistance 24/7). University Policy Department: 392-1111; 911 for emergencies
For assistance with on-site counseling services, contact Dr. Ron Del Moro at 352-283-0028 (rondel@ufl.edu). Counseling and Wellness Center:
<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575.

Staff members in OSI are also readily available for those who need immediate assistance. Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.