



*The Pet Rescue Foundation*

## UF | Maddie's<sup>®</sup> Shelter Medicine Program

<b>Title:</b>	2009 Maddie's <sup>®</sup> Shelter Medicine Externship Program
<b>Supervisor:</b>	Dr. Julie Levy
<b>Grading:</b>	Pass/Fail
<b>Credits:</b>	4 (2 credits for each of 2 different externships)
<b>Stipend:</b>	\$1500
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	This externship program may be completed during the junior and senior years.

### **Objectives:**

- To understand the issues of animal homelessness, risk factors for relinquishment, and pet reunification
- To gain first-hand experience in shelters using “open-admission” and “no-kill” management strategies
- To understand and apply the concepts of population management in shelters
- To apply concepts of quality of life and environmental enrichment in shelters
- To understand the principles of infection control, including surveillance, isolation, vaccination, cleaning and disinfection
- To develop skills in animal handling and examination
- To participate in shelter preventive health care protocols
- To perform medical and behavioral assessments
- To participate in cruelty and abuse evaluations as appropriate

### **Overview:**

Students will gain a comprehensive overview of the animal sheltering system and develop specific veterinary skills by participating in a pair of externships (each a minimum of two weeks long) representing both of the following types of agencies:

- Open-admission animal shelter
- Adoption-guaranty (“No-Kill”) animal shelter

*Revised 5/24/09*

In addition to full-time attendance for each externship, the student will keep a daily log that outlines the specific activities for each day. The most important activity or lesson of the day should be highlighted. For each externship, an essay describing the importance of the experience will be written by the extern, illustrated by photos taken during the time at the shelter. This essay and photos may be published on the UF Maddie's<sup>®</sup> Shelter Medicine webpage.

The extern will complete an evaluation within one week of completing each externship component. Each agency will also complete an evaluation of the extern. Two units of credit will be awarded following satisfactory completion of each individual component.

Stipends of \$1500 are available to support the Maddie's<sup>®</sup> Shelter Medicine Externship. Up to \$750 will be paid for each of the two externship components no more than one month prior to each scheduled component. Stipends must be repaid within one month if a component is not completed. Some externship agencies also provide stipends and housing support. This support is in addition to the stipend from the Maddie's<sup>®</sup> Program.

### **Application Process:**

The student applicant should research the attributes of prospective shelters and spay/neuter clinics to propose for Maddie's<sup>®</sup> Shelter Medicine Externship Program. Each agency must have a veterinary staff to supervise the extern during the clinical rotation, and each agency must be approved by the Maddie's<sup>®</sup> Shelter Medicine faculty. All agencies must also be approved by the UFCVM. A list of current UF-approved agencies can be found at [www.vetmed.ufl.edu/education/dvm/externship.html](http://www.vetmed.ufl.edu/education/dvm/externship.html) and a list of many other shelter medicine and spay/neuter externships that may require UF approval may be found at [www.sheltervet.org/education.asp](http://www.sheltervet.org/education.asp) .

Students should submit to a short essay (one page maximum) indicating their previous experience with shelters, why they would like to participate in Maddie's<sup>®</sup> Shelter Medicine Externship Program, and their career goals. A resume, the choice of agencies, and the proposed schedule for completion should also be included. Preference will be given to those students who plan to complete the entire externship experience within a one-year time frame. Dr. Levy can offer guidance and help facilitate placement with externship agencies and can assist agencies with the UFCVM externship approval process if needed. Applications should be submitted to [sheltermedicine@vetmed.ufl.edu](mailto:sheltermedicine@vetmed.ufl.edu) .

**Applications are reviewed quarterly until all four annual stipends are awarded.**

### **Application deadlines:**

**July 1, 2009 • October 1, 2009 • January 1, 2010 • March 1, 2010**