Shelter Medicine: What Does the Future Hold in Canada?

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(Toronto Humane Society)
Plan & Co-conspirators...

- What is shelter medicine (Dr. Karen Ward, Toronto Humane Society)
- A day in the life (Dr. Johanna Booth, Toronto Animal Services)
- Why should a shelter have a vet (Dr. LeeAnn Sealey KW Humane Society)
- Shelter medicine post-graduate training (Dr. Dani Boes, Toronto Humane Society)
- Ontario Shelter Medicine Association Initiative
- AVQMR Perspective (Dr. Vincent Paradis Association vétérinaire québécoise de médecine de refuge)
- Discussion
What is Shelter Medicine?

“Shelter Medicine is a field of veterinary medicine dedicated to the care of homeless animals in shelters or other facilities dedicated to finding them new homes. “

Association of Shelter Veterinarians
How is it different from private practice?

- Private companion animal practice focuses on individual animal health care and their owners.

- Shelter vets provide a mixture of individual and population care for a variety of animals with a focus on physical and behavioural wellness.
What does a shelter vet do?

• Preventative medicine
• Infectious disease prevention, diagnosis, treatment and management
• Outbreak management
• Companion animal welfare
• Husbandry
  • Housing
  • Nutrition
  • Sanitation

https://vetmed-maddie.sites.medinfo.ufl.edu/files/2015/09/aasv-sheltervet-rounds.jpg
What does a shelter vet do?

• Behavioural and environmental enrichment
• Cruelty investigations
• HQHVSN
• Public health
• Shelter facility design and operation
• Resource management
• Risk analysis
• Population management
• Stress reduction
A Day in the Life of a Shelter Vet
Is widely variable depending on:

• Type of Shift:
  Surgery, Intake, Medicine, Management etc.

• Type of shelter:
  Limited intake vs. Open admission

• Size of shelter

• Funding / Finances of the shelter

• Time of year
Surgery

• High volume sterilizations (20-30/day)
  Shelter animals
  Public clients
  Feral cat TNR

• Other procedures necessary for shelter animals to move to adoption (ex. Enucleations, amputations etc.)

• Dentistry
Intake

• Assessment and plan for all stray or owner surrender animals

• May have prescheduled appointments if you are a limited intake shelter

• Creating a plan to minimize the time each animals spends in the shelter (what needs to be done prior to adoption – sterilization, additional medical workup, behavioral assessment etc...)
Medicine

• Depending on funding, the shelter may have ongoing medical cases that are being managed.
• Creating/modifying diagnostic and treatment plans
• Organizing referrals for specialist consults – neuro, optho, orthopedic etc..
• Shelters with less resources may work on transferring these cases to rescue groups
Population Health

- Managing infectious diseases/ biosecurity
- Screening for incoming animals
- Isolation of infectious animals
- Treatment for sick animals
- Typical culprits: Kennel cough, Upper Respiratory infection, Parvovirus, Ringworm, Intestinal parasites
Other roles of a Shelter Vet

• Creating policies and protocols
• Ensuring efficiency in the overall flow of animals through the shelter
• Developing partnerships in the community
• Creating proactive/ preventative programs to keep animals out of the shelter
• Managing rechecks of animals out on foster
• And much more!
Challenges of being a shelter vet

• Limited financial resources
• Overpopulation and euthanasia
• Witnessing the effects of animal abuse and neglect
• Hoarding cases
• Politics of animal sheltering
• Heightened emotions and opinions in the animal welfare world
Joys of being a shelter vet

• Great satisfaction of helping abandon animals find loving homes
• Strong bonds with your patients
• Shared passion for animals amongst colleagues and co-workers
• Diversity of the job
• Exposure to high volume of interesting cases
Why Should a Shelter have a Shelter Veterinarian?
Defining “Shelter” Veterinarian

• A “Shelter” Veterinarian is a vet who has taken on extra training and dedicated their knowledge to advancing medicine and surgery in the shelter environment.

• Shelters seek assistance for medicine and surgery in 3 ways.
  • Sourcing out to local community veterinarians on as needed basis
  • Arranging for a “contract” type care by a single community clinic which provides medical care, surgery and medications
  • Hiring or having a relationship with a “shelter” veterinarian.
What is the difference?

Essentially all vets have the same basic training. The difference is in how they perceive the animal.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Community Veterinarian</strong></th>
<th><strong>“Shelter” Veterinarian</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• The community veterinarian sees a patient as an individual and makes decisions for the individual based on what a client needs or wants.</td>
<td>• The shelter veterinarian sees a patient as a part of a larger group or herd of animals. The client in this case becomes the management of the shelter who may have different interests.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The community veterinarian is most concerned with prolonging the life of a patient and thinks in long term strategies.</td>
<td>• The shelter veterinarian is more concerned with quality of life at the moment and optimizing the immediate care of the animal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Preventative care is for the animal who lives in isolation.</td>
<td>• Preventative care is for the group and movement.</td>
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</table>
Benefits of “shelter” veterinarians.

- Specific training and understanding of shelter operations
  - Allows for development of targeted medical and surgical protocols
  - Veterinarians assist with development of shelter wide animal care protocols
Benefits of “shelter” veterinarians.

• Animal Benefits
  • Trained to make “quality of life” and “end of life” decisions
  • Consistency of care and also consistency of treatment plan
  • Specialized surgical skills for high volume
  • Consistency of surgical complication expectations
  • Case follow up
  • On-site care and possibility of future on-site surgery (new CVO regs. coming for accreditation)
Benefits of “shelter” veterinarians.

• OSMA and ASV affiliation
  • Supported by larger network of peers
  • Information shared on protocols that work and don’t work
  • Gain knowledge of other facilities through networking
  • Access to drug companies and reps.
Perception of increased cost

• Thinking of hiring a dedicated “shelter” vet may sound like a lot of $$$ BUT
  • Compare against your costs of outsourcing
  • Include time spent phoning around to find price and availability
  • There will be decreased costs of medications and care as well as treatment plans, protocols and animal care improve.
  • Decreased stress on animals by not having to transport as well as greatly decreased staff cost.
  • Consider all of the benefits listed and how the vet will be helpful in overall management before balancing the budget.
Shelter Medicine Internships and Residencies
Shelter Medicine Internships

• Intensive year long program of working and learning
• Shelter medicine focus
• May also rotate through other services
  • Emergency and critical care
  • Exotics
  • Dentistry
  • Dermatology
Shelter Medicine Internships

• Experiences include
  • HQHV spay and neuter and other surgeries
  • Population flow and management
  • Teaching vet students
  • Community outreach
  • Rounds and journal club
  • Shelter consults
  • Forensic medicine
  • Cruelty investigations
  • Protocol writing
  • And much more!
Shelter Medicine Residencies

• Completed after an internship
• Usually 2-3 year program
• Some programs eligible for board specialty
Shelter Medicine Internships and Residencies

- Funding is variable for these types of programs
- Number of open positions changes yearly
- Apply through VIRMP website
  - Match style application process
  - Transcripts and letters of reference
  - +/- Interviews
  - Applicant and institution ranks
  - Match results based on each on ranking
Shelter Medicine Internships and Residencies

Veterinary Internship & Residency Matching Program
American Association of Veterinary Clinicians

2016 - 2017 Veterinary Internship & Residency Matching Program

Welcome to the web-based Veterinary Internship and Residency Matching Program sponsored by the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians. The VIRMP web-based system replaces the Match Directory. All program information will be available on this site. In addition, all rank order lists will be entered through this site.

Open Positions List

The open positions list is now available to interested parties who were not enrolled in the match. Please remember that these are positions that were open at the end of the match. Since the end of the match, some positions may have been filled.

SEARCH OPEN POSITIONS

The 2017 VIRMP will begin accepting applicants in October 2016. The new schedule will be available in mid-Summer 2016.

2016 Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 1, 2015</td>
<td>Program Entry. Institutions begin entering program information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 1, 2015</td>
<td>End of program entry. Last day for institutions to enter program information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 15, 2015</td>
<td>Applicants able to access website. Applicants will be able to review programs, register and</td>
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Shelter Medicine Internships and Residencies

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Program Type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internship</td>
<td>Shelter Medicine Internship</td>
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<td>Cornell University</td>
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<td>Dumb Friends League</td>
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<td>Humane Society of Boulder Valley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internship</td>
<td>Shelter Medicine Internship</td>
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<td>University of Illinois</td>
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<td>Oregon Humane Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internship</td>
<td>Shelter Medicine Specialty Internship</td>
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<td>Purdue University</td>
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Shelter Medicine Board Specialty
Why a Shelter Medicine Specialty?

• Veterinarians with additional training, skills, and experience in shelter medicine

• Experts who can serve as practitioners, educators, researchers, and consultants

• Ultimate result is increased animal welfare and better service to sheltered animals
Shelter Medicine Specialty Timeline

• **2005 - 2014:** A lot of behind the scenes work
• **Feb 2014:** American Board of Veterinary Specialties grants provisional recognition under the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (ABVP)
Shelter Medicine Specialty Timeline

- Apr 2014: AVAM executive board recognizes Shelter Medicine as the newest specialty
- Nov 2014: Credentialing applications are accepted
- Nov 2015: First sitting of the certification exam at AVBP symposium
Roles of a Shelter Medicine Specialist

• Consultation services
• Clinicians in animal shelters
• Academia doing research or education
• Veterinary forensics and animal cruelty investigations
• High quality, high volume spay neuter
• Infectious disease outbreak investigation
• And much more!
Shelter Medicine Specialty

- Two options to be eligible to write boards
  - #1 Residency Route
    or
  - #2 Practice Route
    - 6 years of experience
    - Case reports
    - Shelter visits
    - And much more!
Shelter Medicine Specialty

- Check out the AVBP website for more info!
Ontario Shelter Medicine Association Initiative
The ASV is the professional organization for shelter veterinarians, consisting of over 1500 members and 28 student chapters from around the globe.
ASV founded at American Humane Association Conference in Washington, DC

First position statements written

First Shelter Medicine residency at UC Davis

Formal discussions of board specialty begin

Drafted shelter medicine job task analysis

Shelter Guidelines task force begins

Shelter Medicine Organizing Committee formed

First shelter medicine track at AVMA

First shelter medicine track at ABVP

First ABVP Shelter Medicine Practice examination


ASV Annual Meeting moves to NAVC in Orlando, FL

Veterinary Task Force to Advance Spay-Neuter created

ASV Spay/Neuter Guidelines published

Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters published

Residency standards developed

Specialty petition accepted by ABVP

ASV Annual Meeting moves to ABVP Symposium

ABVS votes for provisional recognition of Shelter Medicine Practice
U.S. shelter medicine, sheltering infrastructure

- Association of Shelter Veterinarians
- Strong personal and organizational networks
- Publications, conferences, webinars
- Internships and residencies
- Research
- Many organizations
- Strong funding
Canada / Ontario?
Milton, Summer 2015

Linda Jacobson (Toronto Humane, Maddie’s Graduate Certificate in Shelter Medicine)

Shane Bateman (OVC, Guelph Humane, Community Vet Outreach)

Dani Boes (Toronto Humane, Cornell Shelter Med Internship)

Hanna Booth (Toronto Animal Services, Toronto Feral Cat Coalition)
General Discussion/Brainstorming/World Café
Consensus achieved
• Goals
• Structure
• Membership

• Website coming soon
COME TO OUR OPEN DISCUSSION ON ORGANIZING SHELTER MEDICINE PROFESSIONALS IN CANADA-

MONDAY 5:15-6:45 PM BAKER ROOM

National Animal Welfare Conference
Building a Humane Canada
AQVMR Perspective
Dr. Vincent Paradis- President
COME TO OUR OPEN DISCUSSION ON ORGANIZING SHELTER MEDICINE PROFESSIONALS IN CANADA-

MONDAY 5:15-6:45 PM BAKER ROOM
Discussion