



## Shelter Animal Physical

### Health

VME 6811 all sections

3 credits

University of Florida Distance Education Graduate Program in Shelter Medicine

#### ***Instructors:***

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#### ***Course Coordinator:***

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#### ***Course Description***

Construction, critique, and implementation of policies and protocols to protect and enhance the physical health and well-being of sheltered dogs and cats, including recognizing and responding to threats to physical health. 3 credit course.

#### ***Course Content***

This course is delivered totally online through UF eLearning using an interactive digital “textbook” divided into Modules. Each Module includes interactive activities, readings, recordings, webinars, group discussions, and assignments to deepen student understanding as well as assess achievement. Assignments are due throughout the semester on specific due dates. Faculty, teaching assistants, and guest lecturers are available as resources throughout the course.

#### ***Course Pre-requisites/Co-Requisites***

None

#### ***Course Website***

<https://onlinesheltermedicine.vetmed.ufl.edu/>

#### ***Course Objectives***

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Develop professional skills necessary for ensuring legal and ethical practice of

- veterinary medicine within animal shelters.
2. Facilitate effective communication regarding medical concerns within the animal shelter.
  3. Construct and critique intake and preventative medical protocols for shelter animals.
  4. Recognize and manage common infectious diseases within the shelter setting.
  5. Analyze the financial impact of preventative and medical care on animal shelter resources.
  6. Understand how to humanely and compassionately consider and perform euthanasia when necessary within the shelter setting.
  7. Create and implement an effective standard operating procedure (SOP) for promoting and enhancing shelter animal health.

### ***Materials and Supplies Fees***

None

### ***Required Textbooks and Software***

(all required texts are available online through Course Reserves)

## **REQUIRED TEXTS**

1. *Shelter Medicine for Veterinarians and Staff, Second Edition*, Lila Miller and Stephen Zawistowski (editors), Blackwell Publishing, 2013.
2. *Infectious Disease Management in Animal Shelters, Second Edition*, Miller, Janeczko, and Hurley (editors), Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, 2021.
3. *ASV Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters*  
Download a copy from the Association of Shelter Veterinarians website at <http://www.sheltervet.org/>

## **RECOMMENDED TEXTS**

1. *Canine and Feline Infectious Diseases*, Jane E. Sykes, 2013. Elsevier Health Sciences (available in Course Reserves)

2. *Maddie's Infection Control Manual for Animal Shelters: for Veterinary Personnel*, Christine A. Petersen, Glenda Dvorak, and Anna Rovid-Spickler (editors), 2008. Center for Food Security & Public Health, Iowa State University (not available as an e-text, can be purchased for \$40 from: <https://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/product/maddies-infection-control-manual-for-animal-shelters/> )
3. Plumb's Veterinary Drugs (Annual subscription special rate of \$4.95 per year for students if you sign up here) [Student Sign Up](#)
4. Merck Veterinary Manual (free online version) <http://www.merckvetmanual.com/mvm/index.html>
5. Saunder's Veterinary Dictionary (available in Course Reserves)

**Other required and recommended readings** will be posted in e-learning and Course Reserves to download and review without charge.

### **Required Technology:**

Computer with reliable, high speed internet access; your preferred web browser; video player with ability to play MP4 videos; speakers and/or headphones and working sound; PDF reader. For more information on hardware and software necessary to run Canvas, visit <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2059> (Links to an external site.). Canvas offers mobile applications for both [Apple](#) (Links to an external site.) and [Android](#) (Links to an external site.) products. These apps may be downloaded in the respective app stores. Depending on the device and your equipment, not all Canvas features may be available on the app at this time. For more information on Canvas apps, visit <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-1542> (Links to an external site.).

### **Recommended Materials**

Recommended readings will be posted in e-learning and available in online Course Reserves.

### **Course Schedule**

The course consists of seven modules, each lasting two weeks. Assignments are due weekly throughout the semester. Coursework culminates in a final project presentation during the last module.

## **Module 1: The Shelter Medical Team**

Students will practice using e-learning tools, learn about the structure and flow of the course, complete a pre-course quiz that reviews the structure and expectations for this course, and introduce themselves to their classmates. Students will develop professional knowledge and skills necessary for ensuring legal and ethical practice of veterinary medicine within animal shelters.

## **Module 2: Coordination of Medical Care Within the Shelter**

Students explore the role of communication and collaboration to assure that every animal's needs are met every day. Students practice daily rounds to enhance the health and welfare of sheltered pets and ensure that every animal is moving toward its most positive outcome as quickly as possible.

## **Module 3: Intake Protocols**

Students assess and revise standard operating procedures (SOPs) designed to improve the delivery of shelter preventative health care and prevent disease outbreaks.

## **Module 4: Infectious Diseases**

Students investigate common pathogens that cause disease outbreaks in shelters and review options for preventing and treating cases that incorporate best practices for animal shelters.

## **Module 5: Outbreak Management**

Students learn how to manage a disease outbreak in an animal shelter by appropriately applying isolation; quarantine; creation of clean breaks between incoming animals and already exposed or ill animals in the shelter; biohazard control, diagnostics, risk assessment, decontamination, documentation, and communicating with staff and community stakeholders.

## **Module 6: Humane Euthanasia**

Students review best practices for euthanasia in animal shelters, analyze case-examples, and modify SOPs to address concerns about the humane handling of animals selected for euthanasia.

## Module 7: Final Course Project

Students create an SOP stepwise through the semester, based on a topic and an animal shelter of their choosing. In this final module, students create and present a brief video for shelter staff and volunteers to introduce, describe and implement the SOP. Students discuss and review the SOPs of their classmates.

### EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

Assignment	Weight	Grading Criteria
Discussion posts	15%	Discussion Rubric
Quizzes	10%	Answer Key
Reflections	10%	Reflection Rubric
Assignments	25%	Accuracy, clarity, concision, depth and breadth, and writing mechanics.
Final project preparation and peer reviews	15%	Accuracy, clarity, concision, depth and breadth, and writing mechanics.
Final project presentation	25%	

### Grading Scale:

#### Letter Grade/% Score

<b>A</b>	<b>100-93</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>92-90</b>
<b>B+</b>	<b>89-87</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>86-83</b>

<b>B-</b>	<b>82-80</b>
<b>C+</b>	<b>79-77</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>76-73</b>
<b>C-</b>	<b>72-70</b>
<b>D+</b>	<b>69-67</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>66-63</b>
<b>D-</b>	<b>62-60</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>59 -0</b>

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:

<http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#grades>

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

## **EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES**

Students are responsible for meeting all academic objectives as defined by the instructor.

Plagiarism ([as defined by the UF Student Honor Code](#)) will not be tolerated. Be sure to cite your sources and references and attribute any verbatim quotations included in your submissions and posts.

[UF Maples Center for Forensic Medicine Code of Conduct and Professionalism \(our Department\)](#)

### **Instructional Policy:**

This course is part of the distance education program at the University of Florida. Instead of traditional lecture format, the medium for communication between course instructors, teaching assistants and students will be via Canvas e-learning. (<http://elearning.ufl.edu> )

**Attendance:** Students must participate in the online discussions, and are required to visit the course e-learning daily for important updates and announcements.

Additional information regarding attendance/absences can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

**Class Participation:** Students are expected to constructively join in online discussions with appropriate preparation, to post interesting and relevant information on the class bulletin board, and to interact professionally with their classmates.

**Performance Expectations:** Students are expected to produce quality work of a standard comparable to any graduate level didactic course. Bulletin postings and discussions must be legible, constructive and appropriate. Students are required to think for themselves and will be expected to complete assignments that require the application of logic and reasoning skills when the answer may not be found in a book or the course notes.

**Due Dates and Late Submissions:** Pay close attention to the due dates posted in e-learning on your personal Dashboard and the Canvas Calendar for each assignment. Late submissions are eligible for up to 50% of the available points for each assignment.

This course is designed for working professionals like yourself. So we understand that sometimes life gets in the way of our best plans for juggling work, home, and school. If you anticipate you will likely miss a due date, request an extension in advance of the due date by sending an email through the Canvas Inbox to your instructors that explains the reason you need more time and when you expect to submit the work. Please title these posts clearly with "REQUEST EXTENSION FOR ASSIGNMENT 6A" (or whatever you need). Please avoid overuse of this option as it interferes with your classmate's ability to complete their own assignments.

NOTE: We honor most, but not all, requests for extensions.

**Grade Changes:** Grades will be changed only when a grading error has been made. If you think an error has been made, you should email the instructor as soon as possible. Your entire assignment will then be re-graded.

**Incomplete grades:** Under special circumstances, if a student is unable to finish a course before the end of the semester we may be able to assign an incomplete grade. An incomplete grade is a non-punitive grade assigned at the discretion of the course instructor. In this course an incomplete grade may be assigned if 1/3rd or more of the course assignments have been completed and if the student has remained in communication with TA's and instructors throughout the course, or has made an effort to request an incomplete grade. If an incomplete grade is assigned, outstanding assignments must be completed by the end of the next semester. If the assignments are not completed in this time you will be assigned a grade based on the completed assignments.

***Students Requiring Accommodations***

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability

Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc>) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

### ***Course Evaluation***

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at [gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/](http://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via [ufl.bluera.com/ufl/](http://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at [gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/](http://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/).

### ***University Honesty Policy***

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 (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) 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 or TAs in this class.

### ***Software Use***

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

### ***Student Privacy***

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see:

<http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html>



***Campus Resources:***

***Health and Wellness***

**U Matter, We Care:**

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

**Counseling and Wellness Center:** <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc>, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

**Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)**

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

**University Police Department** at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or

<http://www.police.ufl.edu/>.

***Academic Resources***

**E-learning technical support**, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu). <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

**Career Resource Center**, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://www.crc.ufl.edu/>.

**Library Support**, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

**Teaching Center**, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>.

**Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall**, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>.

**Student Complaints Campus:**

[https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF\\_Complaints\\_policy.pdf](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf).

**On-Line Students Complaints:** <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>

