

High Quality High Volume Spay Neuter

VME 6818

3 credits

University of Florida Distance Education Graduate Program in Shelter Medicine

Instructor(s):

Katie Marrie, DVM, MS Email: katiemarrie@ufl.edu

Course Coordinator:

Terry Spencer, DVM, MEd E-mail: tspencer@ufl.edu

Course Description

Gives students in-depth knowledge of HQHVSN (High Quality High Volume Spay/Neuter) and introduces skills necessary for evaluating, improving, and developing successful HQHVSN programs based on community need.

Course Content

Spay/neuter remains the most reliable and effective means of preventing unwanted reproduction of cats and dogs. A good spay neuter program reduces shelter euthanasia rates, directly improves length of stay, and increases capacity for care in animal shelters. In this course, students will a) learn to apply The Veterinary Medical Care Guidelines for Spay-Neuter Programs to increase both quality and volume for spay neuter programs, b) learn about existing programs, resources, and organizations on the front lines of spay neuter, c) identify and address spay/neuter needs in their communities, d) evaluate their local and organizational resources for spay neuter, e) address common questions and debates surrounding spay/neuter with intelligent, evidence-based discussion.

Course Prerequisites

None

Co-Requisites

Contemporary or historical access to a mobile/stationary/or MASH-style spay/neuter facility (can be as a visitor, volunteer, or staff member) for learning context.

Course Website

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

Course Objectives:

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

1. Discuss the methodology, importance, and current status of HQHVSN as well as its alternatives.
2. Describe available training programs, leading organizations, and funding sources for HQHVSN.
3. Evaluate the current research on HQHVSN and the arguments for and against the practice.
4. Evaluate existing HQHVSN programs for their efficacy at addressing community need, efficiency in utilization of resources, and adherence to the current Veterinary Medical Care Guidelines for Spay Neuter Programs.
5. Design a targeted HQHVSN program, adhering to the VMC Guidelines, that addresses a specific community or organizational need.

Materials and Supplies Fees

None

Required Textbook

1. White, S. (ed), High-Quality, High-Volume, Spay and Neuter and Other Shelter Surgeries, First Edition. Wiley-Blackwell. 2020. (An e-text version of this textbook will be available within online Course Reserves.)
2. All other required and recommended readings are listed at the beginning of each module and 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; cell phone, camera, or other device capable of digital video recording. 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.).

Course Schedule

Module/Dates	Topic/Concept	Assessment/Assignments
<p>1 - Introduction</p> <p>AND</p> <p>2 - Available Programs and Resources (1 week; 5/10-5/17)</p>	<p>Course Introduction/Expectations Syllabus</p> <p>What is HQHVSN, what need is it addressing/why is it important</p> <p>What programs, educational opportunities and resources exist for HQHVSN. Who's doing it well?</p>	<p>Discussion 1</p> <p>Assignment: Contact a Spay/Neuter Program</p> <p>Discussion 2</p> <p>Assignment: Internet Research</p>
<p>3 - What's Your Type (1 week; 5/18-5/24)</p>	<p>Assessing and addressing community needs. Benefits and challenges of mobile, MASH, brick & mortar, transport programs, and shelter integration.</p>	<p>Discussion 3</p>
<p>4 - To Spay or Not to Spay (1 week; 5/25-5/31)</p>	<p>Current research, controversies, and questions about the practice of surgical sterilization.</p>	<p>Discussion 4</p> <p>Assignment: Interview Write-up</p> <p>Journal Club 8 Papers</p>
<p>5 – Veterinary Medical Care Guidelines for Spay Neuter Programs. Part 1 (1 week; 6/1-6/7)</p>	<p>Examining and breaking down the VMC Guidelines for spay neuter.</p>	<p>Discussion 5</p> <p>Assignment: Report A</p> <p>Assignment: Clinic Diagram</p>
<p>6 – Veterinary Medical Care Guidelines for Spay Neuter Programs. Part 2 (1 week; 6/8-6/14)</p>	<p>Examining and breaking down the VMC Guidelines for spay neuter.</p>	<p>Discussion 6</p> <p>Assignment: Report</p> <p>Assignment: Thank You Letter</p>

7 – Veterinary Medical Care Guidelines for Spay Neuter Programs. Part 3 AND 8 - Midterm (1 week; 6/15-6/21)	Examining and breaking down the VMC Guidelines for spay neuter. Midterm Project	Discussion 7 Assignment: Report Assignment: Reflection Midterm Project
9 - Alternatives to spay/neuter (1 week; 6/22-6/28)	Alternatives to Spay/Neuter. What’s working, what’s not, and what’s next?	Midterm Peer Reviews Discussion 8 Assignment: Choose Subject for Final Project
10 - Questions, Conundrums, and TNR/RTF (1 week; 6/29-7/5)	Common questions and conundrums facing HQHVSN clinics. TNR and RTF	Discussion 9 Assignment: Clinic Info For Final Project
11 - SOP’s, policies, and record keeping (1 week; 7/6-7/12)	The importance of SOP’s and how to write a good one. Record keeping systems and requirements for HQHVSN	Assignment: SOP’s Assignment: Medical Record
12 - Balancing the Q and the V (1 week; 7/13-7/19)	Utilizing available resources to increase efficiency while maintaining quality at a clinic.	Assignment: A Day in the Clinic
13 - Show me the money (1 week; 7/20-7/26)	Funding for HQHVSN clinics and how to get it.	Assignment: Budget Assignment: Grant
14 - Who’s in charge here? (1 week; 7/27-8/2)	How to recruit, train, and retain staff and volunteers. Staffing and leadership structure at HQHV clinics and who is responsible for what	Assignment: Staffing Structure and Details Assignment: Volunteer Recruiting
15 - Final (1 week; 8/6)	Final Presentations & Course Wrap-Up	Final Presentation

Evaluation of Grades

Point Assignments:

Discussions = (15% of total)

Assignments = (15% of total)

Journal Club = (15% of total)

Midterm Project = (20% of total)

Final Project = points (35% of total)

EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

Assignment	Weight	Grading Criteria
Discussion posts	15%	Discussion Rubric
Assignments	15%	Grading Rubrics specific to each exercise
Journal Club	15%	Discussion Boxes Completed
Midterm	20%	Grading Rubric. Accuracy, clarity concision, depth and breadth, key concept integration and writing mechanics.
Final	35%	Grading Rubric. Accuracy, clarity concision, depth and breadth, key concept integration and writing mechanics.

Grading Policy

GRADING SCALE

Percent	Grade	Grade Points
93 -100	A	4.0
90 - 92	A-	3.67
87 - 89	B+	3.33
83 – 86	B	3.00

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/. 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/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at 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 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. <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.

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