Life-Enhancing Strategies of Animal Welfare Organizations
VME 6934
3 credits
University of Florida Distance Education Graduate Program in Shelter Medicine

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Course Description
Explore innovative, life-enhancing programs and strategies that promote optimal animal health and welfare, ideal community and personnel involvement, and organizational success of animal welfare organizations.

Course Content
Life-enhancing programs and strategies in animal welfare organizations may occur at various stages of the animal shelter experience. These programs and strategies occur prior to an animal's entry to the shelter, during their shelter stay and following their exit from the shelter. A holistic exploration of the programs and strategies that address the needs of the animals, the organization, and the staff and community members associated with the organization will be discussed as follows:

Pre-Shelter Programming: Organizational Structure, Function & Regulation, Field Services, Community Based Initiatives, Community Cat Management, Managed Admissions

Shelter Programming: Human and Animal Welfare, Population Management, Animal Medical and Behavioral Care, Foster and Transport Programming, Euthanasia Considerations

Post-Shelter Programming: Adoption Programming

Course Prerequisites
None

Co-Requisites
Access to a local animal shelter where you can observe and/or review organizational programs, structure and function related to animals, volunteers and staff.

Course Website
https://onlinesheltermedicine.vetmed.ufl.edu/

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

- Identify the structure, function and purpose of an animal welfare organization.
- Recognize the impact of legislation, policies and procedures on life-saving strategies.

- Resource regional (local, county, state) laws and regulations affecting shelter animal care and welfare.
- Identify diversion strategies in animal welfare organizations.
- Appreciate the dynamic of managed admissions.
- Review successful sheltering programs that augment animal health and welfare.
- Apply the Five Freedoms as it pertains to human and animal welfare.
- Recognize the impact of FAS on animal welfare in animal welfare organizations.
- Describe the impact of intake programming and its effect on animal health and welfare.
- Critique animal shelter programs on life-enhancing measures.
- Communicate life-enhancing strategies with administrators, board members and community members.
- Recommend shelter programming or strategies that lead to life-enhancing measures.
- Complete Fear Free Shelters Certification.

Materials and Supplies Fees
None.

Required Textbooks and Materials

1.
    a. The Best Practice Playbook for Animal Shelters (Pizano)
       https://www.amazon.com/Best-Practice-Playbook-Animal-Shelters/dp/1513641077/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=the+best+practice+playbook&qid=1585325246&s=books&sr=1-1

    b. Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters (Newbury, et al.)
       https://www.sheltervet.org/assets/docs/shelter-standards-oct2011-wforward.pdf

    c. Fear Free Shelters Program, Online (https://fearfreeshelters.com)
       This program is free to students and animal welfare personnel. It requires registration through the aforementioned website. A Fear Free Shelters Certificate will be obtained upon completion of the four primary modules.

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

3. 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.)](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-1542).

Recommended Materials

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

Course Schedule

Course Introductions (1 week)

Topic/Concepts	Activities/Assignments
Course Overview/Introductions	Assignments: A) Syllabus Quiz B) Student Introductions

Unit 1 Pre-Shelter Programming (5 weeks)

Topic/Concepts	Activities/Assignments
Organizational Structure, Shelter Regulations, Oversight (1 week) Field Service Strategies (1 week) Community Initiatives (1 week) Community Cat Management (1 week) Managed Admissions (1 week)	Assignments for most weeks: A) Reflections B) Assignments C) Quiz

Unit 2: Shelter Programming (6 weeks)

Topic/Concepts	Activities/Assignments
Five Freedoms and Population Management (1 week) Medical Programming (1 week)	Assignments for most weeks: A) Reflections B) Assignments C) Quiz

Behavioral Programming (1 week)	
Foster Care Programming (1 week)	
Transport Programming (1 week)	
Respect-for-Life Programming (1 week)	

Unit 3: Post-Shelter Programming (1 week)

Topic/Concepts	Activities/Assignments
Adoption Programming (1 week)	Assignments for most weeks: A) Reflections B) Assignments C) Quiz

Course Projects

Course Review	Course Projects Fear Free Shelters Certification

Evaluation of Grades

EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

Assignment	Weight	Grading Criteria
Quizzes	25%	See individual grading rubric for detailed grading criteria
Discussion Assignments	25%	See individual grading rubric for detailed grading criteria

Reflection Assignments	5%	See individual grading rubric for detailed grading criteria
Final Course Projects	30%	See individual grading rubric for detailed grading criteria
Fear Free Shelters Certification	15%	Course Certificate

GRADING SCALE

Percent	Grade
93 -100	A
90 - 92	A-
87 - 89	B+
83 – 86	B
80 - 82	B-
77 - 79	C+
73 – 76	C
70 - 72	C-
67 - 69	D+
63 - 66	D
60 - 62	D-
0 - 59	E

Additional information on the University of Florida Grades and Grading Policies may be found at: http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html

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/. 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:
<u>Health and Wellness</u>

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/.

<u>Academic Resources</u>

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