

Topics in International Shelter Medicine

VME 6939

3 credits

University of Florida Distance Education Graduate Program in Shelter Medicine

Instructor:

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Course Coordinator:

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Course Description

Introduces and familiarizes students to the unique challenges of practicing shelter medicine in international, resource-limited environments.

Course Content

The rapid expansion of veterinary outreach programs into international environments has given rise to complex dilemmas on how to shelter and provide adequate veterinary care to animals in need, often with minimal resource investment. Traditionally, the focus of most shelter medicine training has been on the health of animals in brick and mortar shelters. This course is designed to address the unique challenges shelters face internationally, in addition to providing practical recommendations, protocols, and helpful tips for delivering high quality medical care under challenging circumstances. This course will provide students with a background on dog population management and rabies control programs around the globe, recommendations for operating both shelters and field spay/neuter clinics in limited-resourced environments, methods of programmatic monitoring and evaluation, and humane handling and capture techniques for free-roaming animals. Special topics covered include international adoptions and transport, the dog and cat meat trade, and cultural factors affecting euthanasia. Shelter medicine programs in both Europe and Asia will also be discussed.

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. Recognize the components of a humane rabies control and dog population management program.
2. Discuss the overall trends in stray animal population worldwide and provide examples of successful dog population management programs.
3. Assess whether canine handling, capture and transport techniques to collect free-roaming animals for sterilization and vaccination are safe and humane.
4. Select appropriate methods for maintaining surgical sterility during field projects.
5. Compare surgical and non-surgical methods of sterilization and select appropriate methods for permanently marking sterilized free-roaming animals.
6. Know the threat the dog meat trade poses to animal welfare and public health.
7. Discuss ways of integrating community engagement and education into international animal welfare programs.
8. Create preventive health and screening measures to minimize risk of disease transmission when adopting animals internationally.
9. Identify methods of measurement and evaluation for assessing programmatic success of dog population management programs.
10. Design practical medical protocols specific for treating commonly-observed conditions in free-roaming cats and dogs in resource-limited environments.

Materials and Supplies Fees

Required Textbooks and Software

1. **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:** (available as an e-text free through Course Reserves)
Polak K., Kommendal T. (2017) Field Manual for Small Animal Medicine, Eds Katherine Polak & Tess Kommedal, Wiley Publishing.
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.).

Recommended Materials

Course Schedule

Module/Dates	Topic/Concept	Activities/Assignment
1. Getting Started (1 week)	Course Introduction/Expectations Syllabus Introduction to dog population management	Introduction Quiz – reading Quiz – syllabus Discussion
2. An introduction to dog population management programs (2 weeks)	History and context Components of stray dog population management Relationship between rabies control and dog population management Community engagement	Readings Discussion Assignment Quiz Reflections
3. International sheltering (2 weeks)	Unique challenges of operating shelters in resource limited environments Group housing of dogs Vaccination guidelines Infectious disease control International dog adoptions	Readings Recorded lecture Discussion Assignment Reflections Quiz
4. Shelter medicine in Europe, Asia, and Australia (3 weeks)	BSAVA Shelter Medicine manual Tackling feline upper respiratory infections in European shelters Puppy trade Comparison of cat adoption policies between UK and US Feline community cat management programs in Hong Kong	Readings Reflections Recorded lecture Quiz

	Asia-specific shelter medicine challenges	
5. The dog and cat meat trade (1 week)	Threats to public health and animal welfare Relationship between the dog and cat meat trade and rabies Motivations for consumption	Readings Recorded lecture Discussion Assignment Quiz
6. Medical practices in resource-limited environments (2 weeks)	Practical and cost-effective diagnostic and treatment strategies for commonly observed conditions in cats and dogs Euthanasia considerations	Readings Assignment Reflections Quiz
7. Operating a field spay/neuter clinic (2 weeks)	Selecting a clinic site Patient return to-the-field Instrument sterilization Anesthetic protocols Ovariohysterectomy: Flank vs midline Non-surgical sterilization Identification of sterilized animals	Readings Reflections Discussion Assignment Quiz
8. Programmatic M&E (1 week)	Programmatic strategic planning and assessment Methods of evaluating program success	Readings Reflections Discussion Quiz
9. Final week -Ways to get involved (1 week)	International opportunities Methods of evaluating potential programs	Evaluation/Feedback

Evaluation of Grades

EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

Submit each of the following assignments as directed within each module. Student grades will be seen only by the individual student who submits his/her own assignment.

Also post items indicated with a * to your e-portfolio

Assignment	Weight	Grading Criteria
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Unit Assignments* (5)	60% total, 12% each	See individual grading rubric for detailed grading criteria
Quizzes (8)	16% total, 2% each	See individual grading rubric for detailed grading criteria
Reflections (6)	12% total 2% each	See individual grading rubric for detailed grading criteria
Discussion Posts (5)	10% total, 2% each	See individual grading rubric for detailed grading criteria

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
80 - 82	B-	2.67
77 - 79	C+	2.33
73 – 76	C	2.00
70 - 72	C-	1.67
67 - 69	D+	1.33
63 - 66	D	1.00

60 - 62	D-	0.67
0 - 59	E	0.00

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>

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:

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>