I. Course information: Community Cat Management

Course Number: VEM 5342

Course Title: Community Cat Management

Term offered: Summer: August 10—14, 2015

Course credit: 1 Elective Credit

Course meeting times and locations:

TBA

II. General information

Maddie’s® Shelter Medicine Program Website: http://sheltermedicine.vetmed.ufl.edu/

Course Coordinator: Julie K. Levy, DVM, PhD, Diplomate ACVIM; Maddie’s® Professor of Shelter Medicine; Director, Maddie’s® Shelter Medicine Program

- Office location & office hours: VS-12; office hours by appointment
- Office phone number: 352-273-8722
- Email: Levyjk@ufl.edu

Course Instructor(s):

- Dr. Julie Levy levyjk@ufl.edu
- Dr. Terry Spencer tspencer@ufl.edu
- Dr. Sarah Kirk skirkdvm@gmail.com
- Dr. Nancy Ferguson aspayaday@wnc.com
- Dr. Karla Brestle spaydocwnc@yahoo.com
- Dr. Brenda Griffin griffb@ufl.edu
- Dr. Amie Burling burlinga@ufl.edu
- Dr. Staci Cannon shutsell@ufl.edu
- Dr. Christine Wilford drtine@comcast.net
- Dr. Alex Alvarez wm.alexalvarez@gmail.com

III. Course description

Course goal: Develop knowledge and skills necessary to effectively and humanely
manage populations of unowned, free-roaming, community cats.

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

1. Safely capture, handle, transport, and temporarily house free-roaming and feral felines in humane traps.
2. Be able to differentiate feral cats from reactive, tame cats.
3. Use the Association of Shelter Veterinarians (ASV) guideline for pre-operative care, anesthetic management surgical care, and post-operative care as a guide to best practices in high-quality, high-volume spay/neuter programs.
4. Select those animals suitable for sterilization surgery and provide appropriate preventive healthcare and any necessary medical care at the time of anesthesia.
5. Select appropriate anesthetic agents for use in high-quality, high-volume surgical practices and develop protocols for minimizing risks of adverse events and for continuous quality improvement.
6. Safely anesthetize feral cats using injectable agents; monitor and prevent complications during anesthesia; and perform all pre and post-surgical surgical preparations compatible with high-quality, high-volume feline surgical practices.
7. Determine gender of a kitten, whether an adult male cat has previously been neutered, whether an adult female cat is intact, and whether a cat is likely to be in estrus, pregnant, or lactating.
8. Apply a tattoo and ear-tip a cat to indicate previous sterilization.
9. Demonstrate acceptable skills for handling soft tissue, surgical instruments, and buried surgical closure.
10. Conduct ovariohysterectomies on pediatric and adult felines; understand the procedure and indications for the flank approach.
11. Conduct castrations surgeries on both pediatric and adult felines; understand procedures for cryptorchid castration.
12. Perform a pedicle tie, a modified Miller’s knot, a cord tie, and a figure-8-knot.
13. Know the benefits of and special management needed to safely practice pediatric sterilization.
14. Appropriately handle presentations of pregnancy, pyometra, uterus unicorni, or other common medical conditions encountered in community cats presented for sterilization.
15. Know how to prevent, and appropriately respond to common post-surgical complications; such as prolonged bleeding, dehiscence, hypothermia, pain, hypoglycemia, stress, and ovarian remnant syndrome.
16. Demonstrate basic technique for cardiopulmonary resuscitation in the operating room and know the practical limitations for performing CPR on community cats.
17. Understand how to work with colony caretakers to effectively trap groups of free-roaming cats, safely return sterilized cats to the area from which they were humanely trapped, manage colonies, and socialize feral kittens.
18. Set-up for and operate a high-quality, high-volume sterilization clinic for community cats that is capable of sterilizing up to 250 cats per day while...
maintaining safety for patients and staff, providing basic veterinary care for each cat, and maintaining accurate medical records and controlled drug logs.

19. Understand how populations of community cats impact infectious disease control programs, public health, the environment, and cat welfare.

20. Understand the medico-legal issues and controversies surrounding management of community cat populations.

21. Analyze shelter intake and euthanasia data to identify subpopulations most at-risk for euthanasia and metrics for monitoring the impact of sterilization programs.

22. Recognize the need for targeted neutering strategies that focus on animals most at risk and that are unlikely to be neutered by other means.

23. Locate model programs, funding sources, business plans, and training opportunities to increase capacity for targeted neutering programs.

Course Delivery:

1. Classroom lectures
2. Recorded lectures
3. Surgical Demonstrations
4. Applied Surgical Skill Laboratories to Provide Spay/Neuter Surgery for Live Cats
5. Humane Trapping and Release of Community Cats

IV. Prerequisites

Basic proficiency with feline spay and neuter surgical techniques as acquired through prior completion of coursework in soft-tissue surgery followed by externship in spay/neuter, shelter medicine clinical rotation, or surgical experience in high-quality, high-volume trap-neuter-return practice such as Operation Catnip, spay/neuter clinic, or veterinary practice.

V. Course Outline (schedule subject to change)

- **Day 1 Topics:**
  - Course Introduction: Levy: learning objectives, clinical procedures
  - Virtual Tour of Operation Catnip: Levy: clinic operations, surgical supplies
Course Syllabus

- Feline Castration: Brestle: castration
- Feline Ovariohysterectomy, Pregnancy, & Flank Approach: spay, alternative approaches, pregnancy
- Surgical Complications: Brestle: complication, hemorrhage, deshiscence
- ASV Veterinary Medical Guidelines for Spay/Neuter Programs: Griffin, spay, neuter quality, standards, guidelines
- Cat Colony Management: Griffin: Feral cat, nutrition, health, safety, public health
- Instrument Handling, Knots, Cord Ties, Ovarian Pedicle Ties: Griffin: surgical instrumentation, sutures, surgical knots
- Surgery Demonstrations: Levy: feline spay and neuter, anesthesia

**Day 2 Topics:**
- Class photo
- Clinical and Surgical Rotations: Levy: anesthesia, surgical preparation, physical examination, spay, neuter, vaccination, injections, fluid therapy, recovery, CPR, sanitation
- Determining Whether a Cat is Truly Feral: Griffin: behavior assessment, stress
- Cat Trapping and Feral Cat Handling: Griffin: safety, animal trapping, public health, transportation, handling equipment
- Mass Trapping Field Experience: Griffin: safety, animal trapping, public health, transportation

**Day 3 Topics:**
- Mass Intake of Humanely Trapped Cats
- Clinical and Surgical Rotations: Levy: anesthesia, surgical preparation, physical examination, spay, neuter, vaccination, injections, fluid therapy, recovery, CPR, sanitation
- Infectious Diseases of Community Cats: Levy: infectious diseases, FeLV, FIV, rabies, toxoplasmosis, parasitism, vaccination
- Medical and Surgical Considerations for Community Cat Programs: Levy: physical examination, triage, surgery, internal medicine
- Anesthesia, Analgesia, & Monitoring of Mass Cat Neutering: Levy: anesthesia, risk reduction, perioperative morality
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) of Community Cats: Pablo: CPR, cardiac arrest

**Day 4 Topics:**
- Safe Return of Cats to Field
- Clinical and Surgical Rotations: Levy: anesthesia, surgical preparation, physical examination, spay, neuter, vaccination, injections, fluid therapy, recovery, CPR, sanitation
- Determination of Cat Gender and Reproductive Status: Griffin: hormone testing, spay, neuter, gender, phenotype
- Cryptorchidism, Uterus Unicorni, & Other Anomalies: Brestle: developmental
Course Syllabus

abnormalities, cryptorchid, uterine anomaly, hermaphrodite
o Planning for Impact of Spay/Neuter Programs: Levy: population analysis, risk analysis, resource management, recordkeeping

○ Day 5 Topics:
  o Clinical and Surgical Rotations: Levy: anesthesia, surgical preparation, physical examination, spay, neuter, vaccination, injections, fluid therapy, recovery, CPR, sanitation
  o Community Cat Management: Levy: population analysis, shelter data analysis, outcomes, public health
  o Humane Alliance Training & Shelter Medicine Training Programs: Brestle: training opportunities, spay/neuter clinics
  o Course Wrap-up, Evaluations, Certificates

IV. Course Materials

Required texts:
No texts are required for this course.

Required Attire:
Surgical scrubs, closed toed-shoes for clinical sessions, CVM student dress code for lectures.

VI. Evaluation/ Grading/ Testing

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Due date</th>
<th>% of final grade (must sum to 100%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>Day 3 of Course</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>Day 4 of Course</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>Day 5 of Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proficiency with clinical skills</td>
<td>Cumulative</td>
<td>25%</td>
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For more information about grading policies, see the Undergraduate Catalog at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

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<th>Exam Percentage</th>
<th>93%-100%</th>
<th>90%-92%</th>
<th>87%-89%</th>
<th>83%-86%</th>
<th>80%-82%</th>
<th>77%-79%</th>
<th>73%-76%</th>
<th>70%-72%</th>
<th>67%-69%</th>
<th>63%-66%</th>
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<tr>
<td>Letter Grade</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<td>D-</td>
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VI. Administrative Policies:

For more information about professional veterinary student expectations, policies, and requirements, see the Veterinary Student Handbook at:
Academic Honesty Policy:
Plagiarism includes any attempt to take credit for another person’s work, even in a discussion. Cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

All students registered at the University of Florida have agreed to comply with the following statement: “I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.” In addition, on all work submitted for credit the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” To review the student honor code please visit: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honorcodes/honorcode.php

Student Evaluation of Instruction
Evaluations are performed electronically at the end of the course. To evaluate the instructor, visit the UF Evaluation site at: https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals/

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
Students requesting accommodations must first register with the Dean of Students Office, Disability Resource Center. For more information, visit the Disability Resource Center website at: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/

Software Use
All faculty, staff and students of the University are required 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.

UF Counseling and Wellness Center
Many resources are available for students who need help with stress-related problems or emergencies. Assistance is available both by appointment and after hours by calling 352-392-1575 or visiting the website at: http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/

Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from Alachua County Crisis Center: (352) 264-6789. BUT – Do not wait until you reach a crisis to come in and talk with us. We have helped many students through stressful situations impacting their academic performance. You are not alone so do not be afraid to ask for assistance.
Grade Changes
Grades will be changed only when a grading error has been made.

Attendance
Attendance is mandatory and any unexcused absence may result in a failing grade for this course.

Class Participation and Professionalism
Students are expected to participate constructively and professionally in all discussions and activities. Every interaction between classmates and/or faculty must be polite and professional. While traveling, your appearance and actions reflect on the UF College of Veterinary Medicine. You are expected to dress professionally in appropriate attire as directed by your instructors and to represent the University of Florida in a favorable manner through your dress, actions, and language.

Performance Expectations
Students are expected to produce quality work of a standard comparable to any graduate-level didactic course. All assignment submissions 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. Factual information should be documented and referenced during discussions and within assignments.