

Veterinary Community Outreach Program

UF | College of Veterinary Medicine



UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA



*Cultivating
compassion...*

OUR MISSION

To guide veterinary students in the development of basic clinical skills through service learning and community outreach



OUR VISION

Through innovation and leadership, we provide a successful, balanced approach to the training of compassionate veterinarians and the development of a veterinary workforce sensitive to the animal welfare needs of its community.

Veterinary Community Outreach Program



SERVICE LEARNING

Student participants in our program regularly visit local sheltering organizations to assist with medical and behavioral care of the animals at no charge to the organization.

The students learn to manage populations of small animals with unique needs, while shelters have access to leading authorities in shelter medicine. As part of our program, animals are provided with advanced veterinary care that would otherwise be impossible.

Our students also assist with free medical care and spay-neuter services for the pets of low income and homeless pet-owners in our community through the St. Francis Pet Care Clinic.

The **Veterinary Community Outreach Program** is an elective clinical rotation for veterinary students at the University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine. The first of its kind in the country, the program began its life-saving mission in 2003.

HAARTS PROGRAM

This innovative program (Helping Alachua's Animals Requiring Treatment & Surgery) is designed to enhance the surgical training of our students beyond spay and neuter – without the need for unnecessary invasive or terminal procedures.

Shelter animals in need of medical or surgical care are identified during shelter site visits or through local adoption agencies and their conditions are treated by students, interns, and residents under faculty guidance.

Once treated, the animals are adopted into permanent, loving homes by one of our community adoption agencies. This program relies solely on private donations and has saved the lives of over 1,000 animals to date.

UF | **Veterinary Community Outreach Program**
College of Veterinary Medicine
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

FACULTY

Our program is directed by talented faculty, internationally known for their expertise in shelter medicine practice.

- Natalie Isaza, DVM - *Service Chief*
- Brian DiGangi, DVM, MS, DABVP (Canine/Feline)
- Kelly Harrison, DVM, MS

It takes a village...

PEDIATRIC SPAY-NEUTER

Veterinary students who take advantage of our program spend the majority of their time learning techniques and developing skills to safely and efficiently perform pediatric spay-neuter surgeries.

On average, students perform 50 spay-neuter surgeries per week. Our patients all originate from local animal shelters where they have been selected for adoption by our partnering community animal welfare organizations.

We have successfully performed well over 18,000 procedures with a complication rate that rivals the best human hospitals.

In 2012, we were proud to begin offering our services out of the Barbara and Arnold Grevior Shelter Medicine Suite. This special veterinary facility, dedicated solely to the care of shelter animals, is the only such training center located on a College of Veterinary Medicine campus in the United States.



The Veterinary Community Outreach Program relies on generous private donations to care for our patients and realize our mission.



Here are 3 ways you can help ensure that our program continues to thrive for many years to come:

- 1. Endow a faculty position.**
- 2. Donate to the HAARTS Program.**
- 3. Support your local pet adoption agency.**

Please contact us for more information:

352-294-4256

<http://givingandalumni.vetmed.ufl.edu/>

vcop@vetmed.ufl.edu