Veterinary Community Outreach Program

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.

Cultivating compassion...
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.

**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.

**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...

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/

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