

Animal Shelter Management Course

An Online Certificate Course on Animal Shelter Management At Rutgers University

Tag Words: Shelter management; certificate course; Rutgers; animal; adoption

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Summary

Due to a continuous and ever increasing population of domesticated animals, most namely dogs and cats, the inability to care of each and every one of them becomes apparent. This leads to a poor quality of life for some of these animals, often times causing animal abuse, neglect, or starvation. As a result, animal shelters become considerably more important as a way to help and care for animals. However, currently many animal shelters do not require their personnel to participate in any sort of formal training program. By offering an online course in animal shelter management, shelter staff can become certified and better qualified to handle and care for the animals within the shelter. There are many important topics covered in the course, divided into 14 weeks. Some of the topics include nutrition, disease and disease control, and even animal training. This course will ultimately aid in improving the welfare of animals living in shelters.

Video link

Animal Shelter Management: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFox8aqUPB0>

The Issue: Animal Shelters

Introduction (HW)

Animal shelters have many roles. Besides providing a safe haven for lost or mistreated animals, a shelter should also be a place for information. They must be “accessible to the public while serving as a resource to the community” (animalsheltering.org). They definitely provide the public a better alternative than to abandon or continuously neglect their pet. Their first step should be to contact an animal shelter and they have to be encouraged to do so.

Furthermore, a course on animal shelter management will be beneficial to many students with an interest in pets or animals in general. However, there are many rules on how to properly run a shelter, and “starting and maintaining a responsible shelter requires a great deal of expertise, labor, and resources” (humansociety.org). Starting a course that teaches this will get them started and headed in the right direction. There are definitely many things associated with running an animal shelter. Besides being knowledgeable about the types of animals (what breed they are, what personality they normally have) that one might come across and providing them with constant care, such as cleaning their cages and keeping them from becoming ill, the animals must also be provided with correct nutrition and a balanced diet. There should also be routine paperwork done for each animal that enters the shelter.

There are many groups that help get the word out for animals to the public. The Humane Society of the United States and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, while not affiliated with animal shelters, have had a positive impact on bringing to light the many issues involving pets. They are important to learn about as well.

Regulations (SP)

Animal cruelty and abuse can occur in places where animals are supposed to be safe. According to The Associated Press,

“An attendant at a central New Jersey animal shelter has been accused of killing two cats by strangling one and throwing the other to the ground head first. Eatontown police say they arrested the 31-year-old man Monday after other workers reported seeing him slay the cats in the shelter's surgical recovery room.” (<http://goo.gl/RS634>).

Shelters are extremely important in regards to protecting and sheltering animals. According to the ASPCA,

“Approximately 5 million to 7 million companion animals enter animal shelters nationwide every year, and approximately 3 million to 4 million are euthanized (60 percent of dogs and 70 percent of cats). Shelter intakes are about evenly divided between those animals relinquished by owners and those picked up by animal control” (<http://goo.gl/ePXJC>).

There is a great need to have animal's shelters; however, there is a greater need to have qualified individuals in them. Within many New Jersey shelters there are no requirements that an individual must have in order to work there. In order to prevent unnecessary animal abuse we are

proposing to create a training/certificate program that will allow potential shelter workers to become certified to be an animal control officer. Hopefully, with this program implemented more shelters would make it requirement in order to handle animals.

About 63 percent of all households in the United States have a pet. (Source: American Veterinary Medical Association). According to the National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy (NCPSP), about 65 percent of pet owners acquire their pets free or at low cost. It is quite obvious that there are many pet owners (<http://goo.gl/ePXJC>). However, are all pet owners aware of local laws and regulations that are already implemented that they must abide by? Many pet owners are not aware that they may be causing harm to their pets or themselves nor are they aware of proper licensing and shot requirements. The laws in regards to animal welfare need to be made clear to not only shelter workers but pet owners as well.

The purpose of this course is to educate individuals on the state laws in regards to animal welfare. This course is not only suitable for individuals to become animal control officers but for individuals to educate themselves on the care, treatment, and proper licensing of their pets. Upon successful completion of the certificate program individuals would be knowledgeable in New Jersey's laws regarding animal welfare and duties of an animal control officer. This course will be the first in serving to prevent animal abuse in shelters, provide proper knowledge in animal care and control, and produce suitable individuals who can protect public health.

Risk of Untrained Employees (DC)

Whether working at a shelter or taking a walk in the park, the first thing a person thinks of when they see a cute puppy or kitten is how they want to play with them. They pet the animal, hug it, and maybe even let it lick their face. It's too adorable to cause any harm, right? These people, like most, are not thinking of the hazards that may come with petting that animal. There are many diseases and parasites that can be transmitted to people from contact with an infected animal. To work in a shelter, employees should know how to identify these hazards and understand the precautions necessary to take to ensure the health of the animals, potential families, and themselves.

The most common things to see in animal that are taken into a shelter are skin issues caused by fungi or mites; ringworm and scabies being the main two. Ringworm is a fungus that attacks hair follicles and causes lesions on the skin. Scabies, or mange, consists of a mite burrowing into the skin causing a very itchy rash. For an employee who does not know the common signs for these skin issues, this could result in severely itchy rashes that will take some time to heal with the help of medications. It can also lead to an outbreak between the animals within the shelter, which can prolong adoptions are several months until the animal is free of all fungi and mites.

This is why it is very important to know the signs of these skin issues and the right precautions to take. However, the hazards don't stop here. (ringworm-

<http://www.preciouspets.org/newsletters/articles/ringworm-pets.htm>; scabies-
<http://scabies.emedtv.com/scabies/scabies-in-pets.html>).

Working in a shelter, you are constantly cleaning up the animals' bodily excretions. It seems easy enough, but can cause major intestinal problems for the unaware employee. Intestinal parasites are very common in animals who are found outdoors. The most common intestinal

parasite are hookworms and round worms. These parasites are picked up from the environment and can infect any animal or person who comes in contact with their stool. This is why it is very important to de-worm all animals when they first get to the shelter. However, the animal is not cured the second you give it medication. If an employee does not follow the proper procedures for handling and discarding bodily excretions, they can infect themselves, expose the other animals to these parasites, or that animal can re-infect itself. (de-worming <http://www.allpetsmacomb.com/deworming.html>; intestinal parasites- <http://www.cpvh.com/Articles/24.html>).

Although intestinal parasites are the most common invaders of bodily excrement, leptospirosis is also something employees should look out for. It is not common in your household pets, but for animals who have been out wandering the streets before being brought to the shelter, this is a very possible disease. Leptospirosis is due to exposure to water which contains animal urine. If an animal is infected, an employee can contract it while cleaning up that animal's urine. Once again, it is extremely important for employees to know the proper ways to clean up after an animal and to guarantee their own safety. (leptospirosis- <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0002352>).

When it comes to animals in shelters, their history is not always known. You do not know if they were abused or have an unfavorable personality. For the untrained employee, this can lead to being bit or scratched. Bite wounds, especially punctures, can lead to severe infections that can result in hospitalization. Scratches, though they may seem harmless, can also be dangerous and cause infections. Cat scratch fever can be transmitted by a bite or scratch from a cat infected with Bartonella. This results in swollen lymph nodes and high fevers. Preventing cat scratch fever maybe seem easy enough, just stay away from cats with Bartonella; however, a cat may be infected and not show any symptoms. This is why it is important for employees to know how to properly restrain both cats and dogs so that their chances of getting bit or scratched are drastically decreased. (cat-scratch fever- <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0002581>).

One thing that many people do realize that they can contract from animals is Rabies. Rabies is a virus which can be transmitted from animal to human. Rabies attacks the brain and results in death if not immediately treated. Treatment for rabies is a series of painful injections. This is another reason why it is important for employees to know how to properly restrain an animal. Also in a case of possible rabies, certain quarantine procedures should be followed. It is important to be aware of these procedures. (rabies- <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0002310>).

As mentioned previously, it is extremely important for employees at a shelter to be trained properly so that their health and safety can be guaranteed. There are many hazards when it comes to working with animals and employees should know how to deal with them. This is why a course on shelter management is so important. It will allow all potential employees to learn what is involved in working in a shelter. Without a course like this, people could be placed in a dangerous situation that could have been avoided.

Importance of Properly Training Employees (RV)

It is necessary for any business to properly train their personnel in order to provide an efficient and successful working environment. It is even more important for personnel working in an animal shelter to be properly trained in order to ensure the safety of both the staff as well as the animals within the shelter. Untrained staff members at an animal shelter are at risk of injury or disease, and may potentially causing harm to the animals under their care and supervision.

Properly training shelter staff to recognize the symptoms of many illnesses that are common in shelters can help reduce or prevent the spread of disease. By requiring shelter staff to be certified through a shelter management program, staff will be more knowledgeable and able to recognize signs of illnesses such as upper respiratory infections, parvovirus, or parasite infestations (many of which can be transmitted not only to the other animals in the shelter, but the shelter personnel as well). In addition to illnesses, the course can also provide vital training in recognizing body language and evaluating temperament. If shelter personnel are not knowledgeable in typical animal behavior, it may put the staff member at risk of injury if they are unable to properly evaluate an animal's temperament or are unaware of the different subtle signs that are often precursors of aggression.

Providing a course in shelter management may also encourage an increase in the number of shelters. People who are not currently involved with animal shelters may decide to participate in the course. After completion of the course which provided them with valuable information, they may feel more aware as to what is necessary to run a shelter and may feel as though starting a shelter is an obtainable goal. Such an increase will aid in the prevalent problem of homeless and abandoned animals, as well as potentially lighten the load on currently existing shelters. By educating shelter staff, a shelter management course will improve conditions in animal shelters. Shelters will be more successful if the personnel have been certified through a shelter management course and they are fully aware of the responsibilities of what their job entails. This in turn will inevitably lead to happier and healthier animals within the shelter.

The Service Project: E-College Curriculum

Summary (HW)

For our service project, we created our course through e-college with a curriculum set for 14 weeks of classes. An online course would be easier to implement as well as more accessible to the people that would be interested in such a course. It would also benefit people that live far from Rutgers campus. We each researched several different topics that will be covered in detail through this course. In order, the topics include: what is a shelter, basic information on dogs and cats, animal housing/cages, daily care, nutrition, disease and disease control, restraint, behavior, animal training, the adoption process, routine vaccines, and steps necessary to start a shelter. The information we found was put onto the course site via an outline format of each topic.

Our lesson plans can be found in the template created for this course on e-college.

<http://rutgersonline.net/re/DotNextLaunch.asp?courseid=4936456&userid=4191830&sessionid=0450df9a1a&tabid=BQJW3rLOGp6xV+PVCMM2TGYxv+/9SqCxUzrmnfNnJsA=&macid=3FAP6qnBh3R//jq/3/4a08zw4Pd8e7PFSQ3+TkUcZiuhJHJNv+0UNqOwj9tM3dpohkL1OQNatxB>

Animal Shelter Management

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide students with important information regarding working in a shelter. This is a 2 credit, online course. At the end of the 14 weeks, students will take an exam to certify them to work in shelters.

Grading Criteria

Class participation	25%
Quizzes	25%
Exam	50%

A =90-100

B =80-89

C=70-79

D=60-69

F=below 59

There will be no curve in this class due to the fact that doing well in this course will certify you to work in a shelter.

Textbook

There is no required textbook for this course. All information needed can be found on the course website.

Week 1: What is a shelter? /Employees

Week 2: Getting to know cats and dogs

Week 3: Shelter regulations

Week 4: Housing/cages

Week 5: Daily health/grooming requirements

Week 6: Nutrition

Week 7: Taking in pets

Week 8: Diseases

Week 9: restraint

Week 10: behavior

Week 11: training

Week 12: adoption process

Week 13: Routine Vaccines

Week 14: Steps to Start a Shelter

Quizzes

A quiz will be given before each class period. The quiz will be on the material to be covered that day. These quizzes will test whether the student reviewed the information before class.

Week 1

What is a shelter? (Sabrina)

- I. What is an animal shelter?
 - a. a facility that provides temporary homes for stray animals (mostly cats and dogs)
 - b. goal of an animal shelter: to place neglected or unwanted animals into caring, loving homes through adoption
 - c. a place for abandoned, abused, or neglected animals to stay and be cared for until they are adopted
 - d. without animal shelters these animals may likely suffer or die
 - e. shelters are also home to missing pets (those who have lost a pet should visit local shelters to find them)
 - f. central place for a community's animal care and control program
- II. Types of shelters:
 - a. Animal Control Agencies
 - i. house animals that are taken into custody
 - ii. usually non-profit, government run organizations
 - iii. limited space
 - iv. animals that are not adopted or unclaimed are usually killed
 - b. Rescue Organizations
 - i. non-profit, receives little to no government funding, therefore, relies heavily on donations
 - ii. take in pets from owners or animal control-sponsored shelter
 - iii. Humane Society is an example
 - iv. house animals and find adoptive families, also rehabilitate, train and re-socialize animals to humans and other animals
 - c. Sanctuaries
 - i. take in animals without a specific intent and care for them for the rest of their lives or until a suitable adopter is found
 - ii. usually take in animals that other shelters would not
 - d. Open-door Shelters
 - i. accept any animal that is brought to them no questions asked
 - e. No-Killer Shelters
 - i. strict policy of not euthanizing any animal, unless severe medical or behavioral problems occur that would cause the animal undue suffering
- III. Possible Employees- (Varies depending on type of shelter)
 - a. Veterinarian
 - i. prevent, diagnose, and treat animals

- ii. veterinarians address the health needs of every species of animal and play a critical role in environmental protection, food safety, animal welfare and public health
 - iii. the average veterinarian salary is between \$70,000 to \$90,000 annually
- b. Veterinarian Tech
 - i. daily responsibilities can vary depending on your work environment
 - ii. assist in physical examinations, dental procedures, spaying and neutering, immunization, birthing and euthanasia
 - iii. there are three types of vet tech specialties.
 - 1. one is the large animal specialty, which deals with livestock, as well as cats, dogs, and other household pets.
 - 2. specializing in small animals means dealing only with household-sized pets and smaller.
 - 3. exotic vet techs deals with zoo animals and other unusual patients, such as reptiles.
 - iv. A veterinary technician with an Associates degree can expect a salary range between \$20,000 and \$38,000 per year while a veterinary technician with a bachelor's degree can expect a greater salary that starts around \$33,000 per year up to \$42,500 per year
- c. Volunteers
 - i. help assist veterinarians and veterinarians tech.
 - ii. non-paid staff
- d. Groomers
 - i. responsible for the hygiene and care of the animals
- e. receptionists
 - i. runs the front desk
- f. Public Relations/ Fundraising
 - i. advertising of shelter
 - ii. promote
 - iii. find funding/donations
- g. Managers
 - i. run the shelter, keep things in a organize manner
 - ii. spends much of the work day doing paperwork
 - iii. timecards, book keeping, paperwork on animals
 - iv. provide paperwork to local government agencies
 - v. hires staff
 - 1. kennel staff, animal behaviorists, veterinary technicians, veterinarians and groomers.
 - 2. also be involved in the hiring of support staff such as receptionists and public relations and fundraising teams
 - 3. trains staff and volunteers
 - 4. Salary: \$38,000
- h. Accountant
 - i. deals with the financial aspect of a shelter

Sources:

- http://www.njcacoa.org/animal_control_officer.htm

- <http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/33-9011.00>
- http://www.animalsheltering.org/resource_library/policies_and_guidelines/guidelines_for_animal_shelter_policies.html
- http://www.ehow.com/about_5412258_types-animal-shelters.html
- <http://www.njvma.org/AnimalHealthCenter/PetCareArticles/WhatisaVeterinarian.aspx>
- <https://ebusiness.avma.org/EBusiness50/ProductCatalog/product.aspx?ID=94>
- <http://www.veterinariansalary.net/>
- <http://www.allalliedhealthschools.com/faqs/veterinary-tech-job>
- http://www.ehow.com/about_4761977_animal-health-technician-job-descriptions.html
- http://www.ehow.com/how-does_4745024_animal-shelter-manager-spend-workday.html

Assignment

Write a short essay (1-2 pages, double-spaced, 12pt font, times new roman) on what a animal shelter is and the type of employees that are essential to run the shelter.

Quiz

True/False: Circle your answer

1. An animal shelter is a place that only cares for pets of owners who travel constantly.(True or False)
2. A manager is not an essential employee in a animal shelter.(True/ False)
3. Animal shelters are homes to missing pets. (True/ False)
4. There is only one type of animal shelter. (True/ False)
5. Rescue organizations are for profit. (True/False)

Short Answer: Write Clearly

1. Please list the 5 types of animal shelters:
2. Briefly explain the role of the manager in an animal shelter.
3. Explain why volunteers are essential to animal shelters.
4. What is the goal of an animal shelter?
5. How would public relations be used in an animal shelter?

Week 2

Getting to Know Cats and Dogs (Haynes)

Basic Info on Pets

-Dogs

- first domesticated to be a guard dog or hunting companion
- should be chosen based on your lifestyle
 - larger dogs need more food, exercise, space
- worldwide, over 200 million dogs as pets (60 mill in US)

- average lifespan of 12 years
 - smaller dogs live longer, ie terriers, can live to 20 years
- female sexually mature 8-12 months, heat period 18-21 days
- males usually more active and headstrong
- females usually demand more attention, easier to train

-Puppy's development

- pregnancy's last about 63 days
- 7 days, eyes and ear canal closed
- between 13-17 days, begins to hear and see
- 3 weeks, can focus its eyes, nails should be trimmed
- 3-5 weeks, teething
- 1 month, can play
- can be separated from its mother at 8 weeks and receive vaccinations

-Anatomy

- paws with unretractable claws, helps absorb shock
- sees in mainly black and white, with a few shades of gray
- eyes further apart than humans, has a wider field of vision (250°-290° vs. 210°)
- strong sense of smell
 - human nose has 5 million sensory cells, average dog has >200 million
- strong sense of hearing
 - can focus their ears at source of sound
 - can hear high pitched sounds (35000Hz, 20000Hz for humans)

-Hounds and Gundogs

- includes retrievers, spaniels, dachshunds, greyhounds
- strong, fast, fearless
- long muzzles help with scent tracking

-Herding and Guard dogs

- includes collies, mastiffs, shepherds, sheepdogs, great dane
- assist farmers to police officers

-Terriers

-Special breeds and toy dogs

- includes bulldogs, boxers, spitzes, poodles, Chihuahuas, mini spaniels

-Cats

- lives up to 15 years
- retractable claws that must be trimmed regularly
- sleeps up to 16 hours a day
- affectionate
- self reliant
- can live strictly indoors
- should be fed at regular times and places
- spend time interacting with it (at least 10-15 minutes a day)

- visit the veterinarian regularly for check ups and vaccinations

-Kitten Development

- newborns born deaf and blind
- week 3, teething
- week 4, begins to groom itself, use litter box
- 5-7 weeks, can start weaning
- 8 weeks, fully weaned
- sight completely developed at 2 months

-Types

- (DSH) Domestic short hair
 - most common
- (DLH) Domestic long hair
 - higher maintenance
- (DMH) Domestic medium length hair
 - long top coat, thinner undercoat
- differentiated by color of the coat
 - tabby
 - solid color
 - tri-color
 - calico
 - bi-color

-Determining the sex

- female: vulva close to anus
- male: gap (for testes) between anus and penis

-Signs of Health

- clean and dry ears
- bright eyes
- velvety, slightly moist nose
- steady breathing
- clean rear (no diarrhea)
- pale pink, uninflamed gums
- stomach rounded, not potbellied
- smooth, soft coat

-Neutering/Spaying

- neutered males will become more docile
- recommended unless breeding
 - prevents unwanted sexual desires in males
 - done after penis fully develops (around 6 months)
 - operation removes testes
 - no stitches, heals quick
 - prevents unwanted pregnancies

- female spayed before entering “heat” (around 6 months)
- operation removes uterus and ovaries

-Holding a Cat

- one hand under its chest, one hand under its legs
- important to support hindquarters
- pet it to reassure it

-Litterbox

- either covered or opened
 - covered is more comfortable for shy cats
- reusable litter (washable, nonabsorbent)
 - fuller’s earth (natural clay based)
 - lightweight litter
 - fiber based (absorbs liquid well)

-Fighting

- hissing
- back arched
- tail puffed

-Playfighting

- fur not raised
- teeth not bared

Assignment

Find either a picture of 1 dog and 1 cat (could be your neighbor’s pet or from a magazine/online, but include the picture and your source) and describe them as thoroughly as you can, without doing research on the breed. Write down their characteristics, features, and do your best to guess what they are. (ie. Female, black and white DSH cat)

Quiz

- 1) What are some differences between male and female dogs?
- 2) Why were the first dogs domesticated? (Hint: What were they used for?)
- 3) Give two differences between dogs and cat.
- 4) Why is neutering recommended?
- 5) List 4 signs of a healthy kitten.
- 6) List 3 different category of dogs.
- 7) What are some differences between cats who are playfighting vs real fighting?
- 8) How can you tell the difference between a male and female kitten?
- 9) What does it mean when a cat enters “heat”?
- 10) What colors can a dog see?

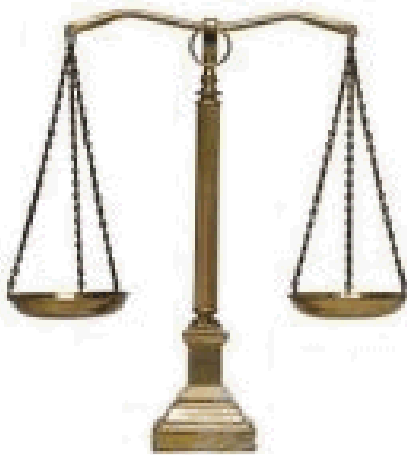
Sources:

Edney, Andrew and David Taylor. *101 Essential Tips: Cat Care*. Dorling Kindersley Limited, London. 1995.

Taylor, David. *DK Pockets: Dogs*. Dorling Kindersley Limited, London. 1997.

Week 3

Shelter Regulations (Sabrina)



- Compliance
 - All shelters must comply with laws in regards to rabies and other diseases, and local laws.
- Facilities
 - Housing facilities for animals should be maintained in good repair.
 - location, construction, arrangement and operation shall not constitute a nuisance
 - Adequate electric and water should be available.
 - Facilities not receiving water from a municipal water supply system shall test their water annually, in order to be proven free of coliform bacteria.
 - Supplies of food and bedding are to be stored in facilities which adequately protect such supplies against infestation or contamination by rats, roaches.
 - Refrigeration shall be provided for supplies of perishable food.
 - Disposal facilities shall be provided and operated as to control vermin infestation, odors and disease hazards.
 - Washrooms, basins or sinks, shall be provided in the facility; hot and cold water, soap, and towels shall be provided.
 - Toilet facilities shall be provided in the facility or nearby on the premises and shall be kept clean and in good repair.

- Premises shall remain free of accumulations of trash and the overgrowth of vegetation up to the property line or within 20 feet of the facility. Insects, ectoparasites, and avian and mammalian pests shall be controlled effectively.
- Should be heated, properly ventilated, and ample light.
- Interior of the shelters should be in proper condition.
- Primary Enclosures
 - Primary enclosures shall be structurally sound and maintained in good repair so as to:
 - Contain the animals
 - Protect animals from injury
 - Keep predators out
 - Enable animals to remain dry and clean
 - Permit animals convenient access to food and water as required in these rules
 - Provide sufficient space for each animal to turn about freely and to stand, sit and lie in a comfortable normal position
 - Have no sharp points or edges accessible to the animals that could cause injury
 - Minimum square footage of floor space for animals.
 - Males and females animals should be kept separated.
- Feeding and Watering
 - Animals shall be fed at least once each day except as otherwise might be required to provide adequate care.
 - Food from the previous day should be discarded and fresh food supplied daily except when self-feeders are used.
 - When using self-feeders: (http://www.awfnj.org/?page_id=20)
 - “Food should be free from contamination, wholesome, palatable, and of sufficient quantity and nutritional value to meet the normal daily requirements for the condition and size of the animals.
 - Immature animals shall be fed in accordance with generally accepted procedures; those animals less than three months of age shall be fed three times daily; those three to six months of age shall be fed twice daily.
 - Containers of food shall be accessible to animals and shall be located so as to minimize contamination by excreta.
 - Feeding pans shall be durable, cleaned and disinfected daily.
 - Disposable food receptacles may be used but must be discarded after each feeding.
 - Self-feeders may be used for the feeding of dry food and they shall be cleaned regularly to prevent molding, deterioration or caking of feed.
 - Potable water must be accessible to animals at all times unless contraindicated by the supervising veterinarian. Receptacles for such purposes shall be cleaned daily.”
- Sanitation
 - Remove animal waste as often as necessary to keep a clean, healthy environment.
 - Animal cages should be cleaned daily.

- Premises (buildings and grounds) shall be kept clean and in good repair in order to protect the animals from injury and disease, to facilitate the prescribed sanitary practices as set forth in these rules, and to prevent nuisances.
- Disease Control
 - Programs of disease control and adequate health care shall be established and maintained under the supervision and assistance of a doctor of veterinary medicine.
 - A form, developed by the State Department of Health and Senior Services, Should be signed and dated yearly by the supervising veterinarian.
 - This form should be posted in the facility in an area clearly visible to the public.
 - (http://www.awfnj.org/?page_id=20)
- Holding and Receiving of Animals
 - Steps in the protection of the public from rabies infection include:
 - “Impounded animals should be kept alive for seven days to give opportunity for rabies disease surveillance and opportunity for owners to reclaim.
 - Unowned or surrendered dogs, cats or ferrets which have bitten a human shall be either held for rabies observation for 10 days following the bite or euthanized for laboratory examination for rabies, provided that this shall not affect compliance with N.J.S.A. 4:19-15.16.
 - The specimen to be submitted for laboratory examination is the head of a small animal such as a dog or cat. The specimen shall be carefully packaged so as to maintain refrigeration temperatures during delivery and to prevent the leakage of any body fluids to the exterior of the package. The specimen should be delivered by messenger to the State Department of Health and Senior Services Laboratory.
 - Animals brought in for elective destruction shall not be euthanized until the person in charge of the facility has determined the animal is not a stray, and that the person requesting the animal’s euthanasia is its owner or a representative with written authorization of the owner. The person in charge of the facility shall keep a record of evidence submitted.”
 - (http://www.awfnj.org/?page_id=20)
- Euthanasia
 - Animals being euthanized should not be allowed to make physical contact with another animal unless pretranquilized to the extent that they are not capable of aggressive actions dangerous to humans or animals.
 - Methods not acceptable for euthanasia include the following:
 - Hydrogen cyanide gas
 - Injection of chloral hydrate
 - Injection of magnesium sulfate
 - Strychnine in any form
 - Injection of hydrocyanic acid
 - Electrocution
 - Shooting and captive bolt pistol
 - Drowning
 - Exsanguination

- Decompression chambers
 - Nitrous oxide, when used as the sole euthanasia agent
 - Chloroform
 - Chambers using any gas that is not an anesthetic or neuromuscular blocking agent.
- Transportation
 - Vehicles used in transporting animals should have current inspection sticker and be equipped to prevent hazards to the health of the animals being transported and to the driver and all human passengers of the vehicle.
 - Vehicles should have the name, address and telephone number of the agency picking up the animals clearly visible on both the driver and passenger sides of the vehicles.
- Records and Administration
 - A record of all animals received and/or disposed of should be kept.
 - The record should state the date each animal was received, description of animal, license number, breed, age and sex; name and address of person from whom acquired; date euthanized and method, or name and address of person to whom sold or otherwise transferred.
- An excerpt from the NJDHSS website on licensing of shelters: (To be reviewed in class and highlight the key components).
 - **“4:19-15.8 Licensing of kennel, pet shop, shelter, pound.**
 - Any person who keeps or operates or proposes to establish a kennel, a pet shop, a shelter or a pound shall apply to the clerk or other official designated to license dogs in the municipality where such establishment is located, for a license entitling him to keep or operate such establishment.
 - The application shall describe the premises where the establishment is located or is proposed to be located, the purpose or purposes for which it is to be maintained, and shall be accompanied by the written approval of the local municipal and health authorities showing compliance with the local and State rules and regulations governing location of and sanitation at such establishments.
 - All licenses issued for a kennel, pet shop, shelter or pound shall state the purpose for which the establishment is maintained, and all such licenses shall expire on the last day of June of each year, and be subject to revocation by the municipality on recommendation of the State Department of Health and Senior Services or the local board of health for failure to comply with the rules and regulations of the State department or local board governing the same, after the owner has been afforded a hearing by either the State department or local board, except as provided in subsection c. of this section.
 - Any person holding such license shall not be required to secure individual licenses for dogs owned by such licensee and kept at such establishments; such licenses shall not be transferable to another owner or different premises.
 - The license for a pet shop shall be subject to review by the municipality, upon recommendation by the State Department of Health and Senior

Services or the local health authority for failure by the pet shop to comply with the rules and regulations of the State department or local health authority governing pet shops or if the pet shop meets the criteria for recommended suspension or revocation provided under subsection c. or d. of section 5 of P.L.1999, c.336 (C.56:8-96), after the owner of the pet shop has been afforded a hearing pursuant to subsection e. of section 5 of P.L.1999, c.336 (C.56:8-96).

- The municipality, based on the criteria for the recommendation of the local health authority provided under subsections c. and d. of section 5 of P.L.1999, c.336 (C.56:8-96), may suspend the license for 90 days or may revoke the license if it is determined at the hearing that the pet shop: (1) failed to maintain proper hygiene and exercise reasonable care in safeguarding the health of animals in its custody or (2) sold a substantial number of animals that the pet shop knew, or reasonably should have known, to be unfit for purchase.
- The municipality may issue a license for a pet shop that permits the pet shop to sell pet supplies for all types of animals, including cats and dogs, and sell animals other than cats and dogs but restricts the pet shop from selling cats or dogs, or both.
- Every pet shop licensed in the State shall submit annually and no later than May 1 of each year records of the total number of cats and dogs, respectively, sold by the pet shop each year to the municipality in which it is located and the municipality shall provide this information to the local health authority.”

<http://www.state.nj.us/health/animalwelfare/law.shtml>

Sources:

- <http://www.state.nj.us/health/animalwelfare/law.shtml>
- http://www.awfnj.org/?page_id=20

Assignment

Write a 3 Page paper (double-spaced, 12 pt. font, times new roman) on an animal cruelty, abandonment, or neglect. Your paper should clearly state the case, what was done about the case, how was this brought to the attention of the community, and if NJ laws and regulations have changed to properly address this issue.

Quiz

True/False

1. License and metal registration tag are required for all dogs. (True/False)
2. Any person who keeps or operates or proposes to establish a kennel, a pet shop, a shelter or a pound shall apply to the clerk or other official designated to license dogs in the municipality where such establishment is located, for a license entitling him to keep or operate such establishment. (True/False)
3. All licenses issued for a kennel, pet shop, shelter or pound shall state the purpose for which the establishment is maintained. (True/False)

4. Evidence of inoculation with rabies vaccine or certification of exemption is required for individuals who work in shelters, pet shops, or kennels. (True/False)
5. Rules and Regulations for kennels, pet shops, shelters and pounds shall be enforced by the State Department of Health and by local boards of health. (True/False)

Short Answer

1. How are facilities housing animals should be kept? Briefly describe the proper conditions.
 2. Explain 3 ways to ensure proper sanitation.
 3. What are the 4 steps involved in holding and receiving animals?
 4. What should you keep records of?
 5. What are the laws regarding to Euthanasia?
-

Week 4

Animal Housing/Cage (Haynes)

-Purpose

- Reduce stress for the animal
- Disease Control
- Separate
 - Dogs from cats
 - Males from females
 - Sick animals
 - Injured animals
 - Shy/scared animals away from door

-What's on the Outside

-Cage Tag:

-Identification:

- animal's name
- breed
- age
- coloring
- gender

-Dogs

- ideally each have their own kennel/cage
- enough room to turn around and stand up
- usually stainless steel
 - large (>50 lbs) at least 4' by 6' (24 sq ft)
 - medium (36-50 lbs) at least 4' by 5' (20 sq ft)

- small (10-35 lbs) at least 3' by 4' (12 sq ft)
- shared, 5' by 10' holds up to 2 large, two medium, or 3 small dog
- What's on the inside
 - feed dry food
 - available potable water at all times
 - best to be mounted
 - prevent spills
 - prevent urination/defecation
 - beds/resting boards
 - especially for injured/sick/nursing animals
 - alternative to cold floor
 - use cardboard boxes
 - other disposables
 - blankets
 - towels
 - accessories: toys
 - durable
 - rubber
 - i.e. Nylabone
 - easily disinfected
 - animal won't choke on it
- Cats
 - Material for cage
 - stainless steel
 - fiberglass
 - impervious material
 - at least 9 sq. ft. for each cat
 - no more than 15 adult cats/ 20 kittens in 10' by 15' room
 - 1 cat to a cage
 - except for nursing mothers
 - cats from same household (familiar)
 - What's on the inside
 - cat litter pan
 - at least 1 12" by 18" litter pan for 3 cats/5 kittens
 - constant access to water and dry food
 - shelves/resting boxes
 - accessories:
 - toys
 - i.e. ring hanging from the cage
 - animal won't choke on (like string)
 - stuffed animal (soft)
 - hideaways
 - paper bag
 - shoe box

Assignment

Suppose you are given the task of designing the layout of a room for animal cages. If you have a room measuring 20' by 20' by 8', draw how you would place the cages, keeping in mind the minimum dimensions for each size of animal (Also: you want to be able to accommodate all sizes of dogs and cats.)

Quiz

- 1) List 3 purposes of using animal cages.
- 2) What are some things a cage tag consists of? (at least 2)
- 3) What are some advantages of having mounted water in the cages?
What should the minimum cage dimensions be for a:
- 4) Small dog:
- 5) Medium dog:
- 6) Large dog:
- 7) 2 Large/ 3 Small dogs:
- 8) Cat:
- 9) What types of toys are suitable for animals?
- 10) What items can be used as "hideaways" for cats?

Source:

http://www.animalsheltering.org/resource_library/policies_and_guidelines/guidelines_for_animal_shelter_operations.html

http://www.animalsheltering.org/resource_library/magazine_articles/jan_feb_2002/how_to_set_up_comfy_dog_kennel.html

http://www.animalsheltering.org/resource_library/magazine_articles/nov_dec_2001/how_to_set_up_comfy_cat_cage.html

Week 5

Daily Care (Sabrina)

Introduction to Grooming

- Brushing, bathing, and clipping are essential to the health of dogs and cats.
- More than just beauty care
- Keeping animals on a routine grooming schedule is a great way to practice preventive care-and to detect problems in an early stage.
- Don't forget to brush their teeth!

Dogs

- Brushing
 - Daily brushing will keep the dogs fur free of mats that can cause sores and lesions. Plus, parasites, such as fleas and ticks, can go unnoticed beneath a matted coat.

- With a brush or a comb you can keep a dogs hair clean by removing dirt, spreading natural oils throughout their coat, preventing tangles and keeping their skin clean and irritant-free.
- Brushing will also aid in preventing excessive shedding.
- If the dog has a smooth, short coat (like that of a chihuahua, boxer or basset hound), you only need to brush once a week:
 - The first step would be to use a rubber brush to loosen dead skin and dirt.



- The next step would then be to use a bristle brush to remove dead hair.



- If the dog has short, dense fur that's prone to matting, like that of a retriever, here's your weekly routine:



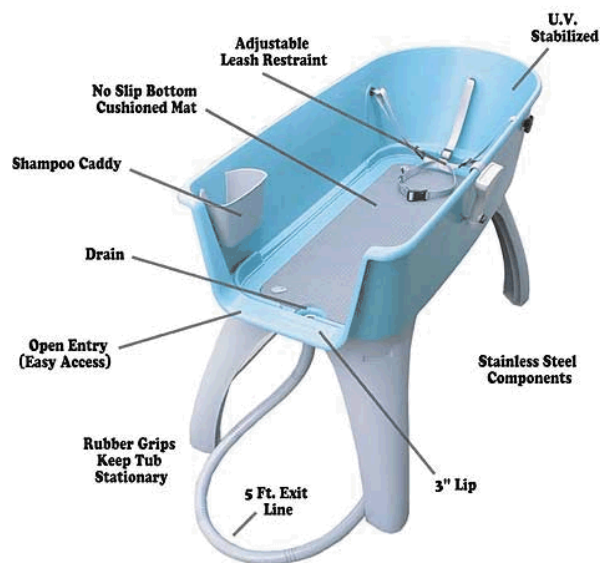
- You would need to use a slicker brush to remove tangles.
- Next, you would catch dead hair with a bristle brush.
- Finally, you don't want to forget to comb their tail.
- If the dog has a long, luxurious coat, such as that of a Yorkshire terrier, they will need daily attention:



- It is very important to brush the undercoat to keep it from building up (if the undercoat builds up it can prevent a dog from regulating proper body temperature).
- Every day it is important to remove tangles with a slicker brush.
- Then you would gently tease mats out with a slicker brush.
- Finally, brush their coat with a bristle brush.
- Bathing
 - Bathing not only makes the dogs smell fantastic but also get them clean.

- Dirty skin usually is oily which causes dogs to scratch and lick themselves, this can lead to sore spots and hairless patches
- The ASPCA recommends bathing dogs every 3 months or so
- Always use a mild shampoo that's safe to use on dogs, and follow these easy steps:
 - Brush to remove all dead hair would be the first thing to do.
 - A rubber bath mat should be placed in the bathtub (or equivalent) to provide secure footing.
 - The tub should be filled with 3 to 4 inches of lukewarm water.
 - You should use a spray hose to thoroughly wet the dog, taking care not to spray directly in their ears, eyes or nose.
 - Next, gently massage in shampoo, working from head to tail.
 - Thoroughly rinse with a spray hose.
 - Make sure to check the ears for any foul odors or excessive debris.
 - Dry the dog with a large towel or blow dryer, but carefully monitor the level of heat.
 - A helpful video: http://youtu.be/4hO9Z-Lu5_A (How to bath the dog)

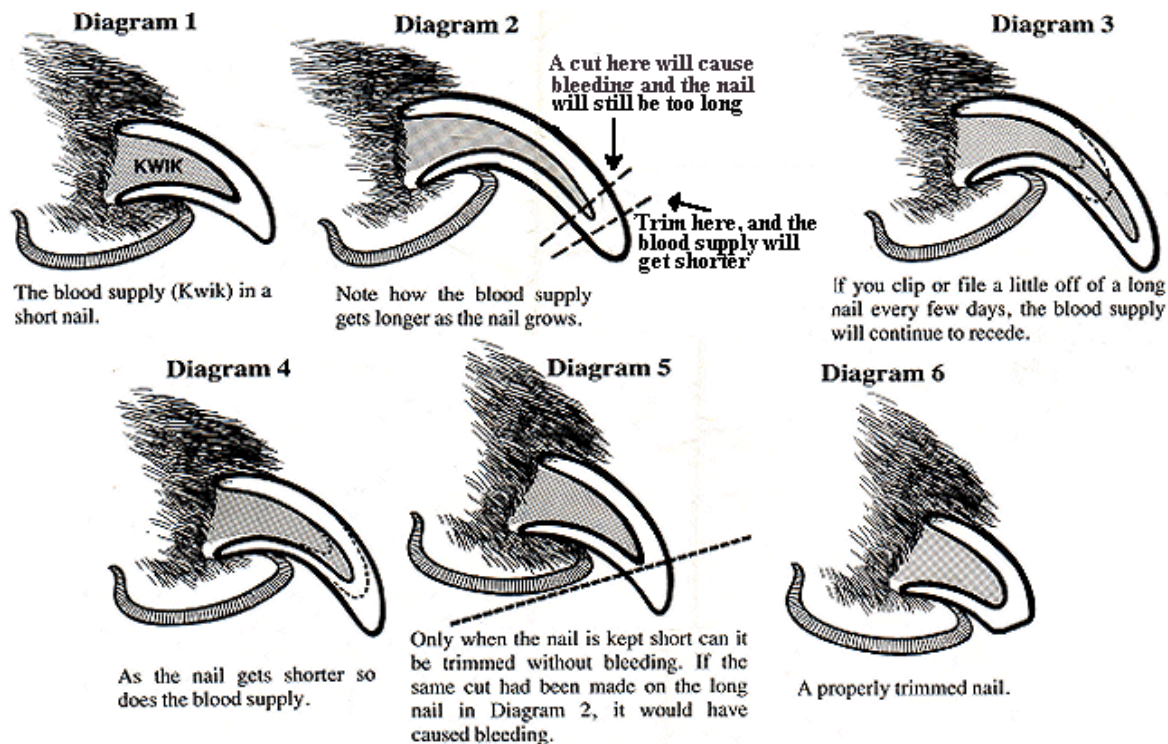
(An example of a Dog's Bathtub)



- Nail Clipping
 - Unclipped nails can get snagged and also make the paw “splay” which can lead to posture problems.

- Before clipping the dog's nails you must first rub your hand up and down their leg and then gently press each individual toe.
 - It may be a good idea to give them lots of treats and praise during this procedure.
 - Within a week or two of daily foot massage, each dog will be better able to tolerate a trim.
- The next thing to do is to spread each of the dog's feet to inspect for dirt and debris.
- Then use sharp, guillotine-type nail clippers to cut off the tip of each nail at a slight angle, just before the point where it begins to curve.
- Be careful to avoid the quick, the vein that runs into the nail.
 - It is a pink area can be seen through the nail.
 - If the dog has black nails, however, the quick will not be as easily discernible, so be extra careful.
 - If you do accidentally cut into the quick, it may bleed, in which case you can apply some styptic powder to stop the bleeding.
- Once the nails have been cut, use an emery board to smooth the rough edges
- Helpful video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bqc4OW_Iz9A (How to clip a dogs nail)

(The proper way to clip a dog's nail is shown in the picture below)



- Special Breeds, Special Needs

- Dogs with loose facial skin or wrinkles will need special attention.
 - You should clean the folds with damp cotton. Always thoroughly dry the areas between the folds.
- If the dog has long or droopy ears, you should check them weekly.
 - you would need to remove wax and dirt from your their ears with a cotton ball moistened with water or a little mineral oil.
 - You may need to remove any excess hair leading into the ear canal.

CATS

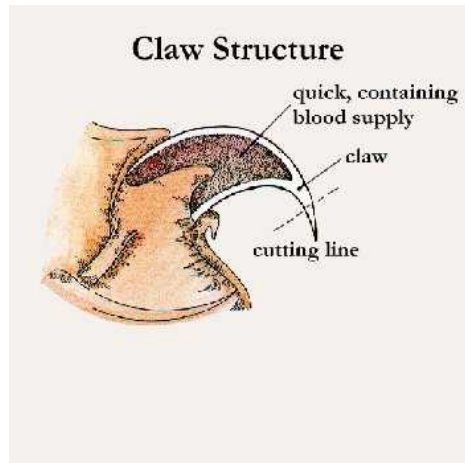
- Brushing
 - For short hair cats you should brush once a week:
 - First, use a metal comb and work through her fur from head to tail.
 - Next, use a bristle or rubber brush to remove dead and loose hair.
 - Be extra-gentle near her chest and belly.



- For long hair, you will need to brush every day:
 - Start by combing her belly and legs; be sure to untangle any knots.
 - Next, brush her fur in an upward motion with a bristle or rubber brush.
 - To brush her tail, make a part down the middle and brush the fur out on either sides.



- Bathing
 - A greasy, oily, sticky or smelly cat coat is very unhealthy. Use a mild shampoo that's safe to use on cats, and follow these easy steps: (very similar to the dogs steps)
 - You must first brush the cats to remove all dead hair and mats.
 - Place a rubber bath mat in a sink or tub to provide secure footing.
 - Put the cat in a tub or sink that has been filled with about 3 to 4 inches of lukewarm water.
 - Use a spray hose to thoroughly wet the cat, Gently massage in shampoo, working from head to tail.
 - Thoroughly rinse with a spray hose or pitcher; again, avoid the ears, eyes and nose
 - Dry the cat with a large towel.
 - Helpful video: <http://youtu.be/PwpGH6-ZQBo> (How to bath the cat)
- Nail Clipping
 - Nail clipping for a cat has the same first steps like the dog.
 - Rub your hand up and down their leg and then gently press each individual toe.
 - Next you should apply gentle pressure to the top of the foot and cushiony pad underneath—this will cause them to extend their claws.
 - Use sharp, high-quality cat nail scissors to cut off the white tip of each nail, just before the point where it begins to curl.
 - Take care to avoid the quick, a vein that runs into the nail. This pink area can be seen through the nail.
 - If you do accidentally cut into this pink area, it may bleed, in which case you can apply some styptic powder to stop the bleeding.
 - Helpful video: <http://youtu.be/5YLDQMvskH8> (How to clip a cats nail)



Sources:

- <http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/>
- http://www.petsmart.com/uc/petarticles_db.jsp?ucCategory=ARTICLE&ucTopic=DOG&ucSubTopic=GROOMING&ucSubTopic2=&ucContent=/articles/content/dog/grooming/Grooming_and_the_New_Puppy.html

Assignment

You are an owner of an animal shelter. Create a poster that you can post in your shelter that shows and explains the proper way to groom cats and dogs. Please cite any sites that you used for your poster.

Quiz

True/False

Dogs

1. Regular grooming with a brush or comb will help keep your pet's hair in good condition. (True/ False)
2. If the dog has a smooth, short coat you only need to brush once a week. (True/False)
3. The ASPCA recommends bathing dogs every year. (True/False)
4. Checking the ears for any foul odors or excessive debris for dogs is not necessary. (True/False)
5. You may need to remove any excess hair leading into the ear canal. (True/False)

Cats

1. If the cat has long hair, you will need to brush every day. (True/False)
2. Before a bath you do not have to give the cat a good brushing to remove all dead hair and mats. (True/False)
3. Use sharp, high-quality cat nail scissors to cut off the white tip of each nail, just before the point where it begins to curl. (True/False)
4. You don't need to place a rubber bath mat in a sink or tub. (True/False)

Short answer

1. What should you do before clipping a dog/cats nails?
-

Week 6

Nutrition (Rebekah)

Dogs & Cats

- Relatively simple digestive tract
 - Stomach – large & expandable
 - Small intestine – short
 - Large intestine – no specializations for fermentation
- Consume highly digestible feeds with high protein content
- Specialty food formulas
 - Obesity – reduced calorie formula (increased fiber, decreased protein/fat)
 - Reduced caloric intake 25-30%
 - Old age – (decreased protein/fat)
 - Reduced caloric intake 5%, lower in sodium & potassium (help kidney function)

Dog

- More omnivorous (fruits & nuts)
 - At maintenance requirements
 - 18% protein, 5% fat
 - At growth & reproduction requirements
 - 22% protein, 8% fat

Cats

- Carnivores
 - Diet must supply:
 - Amino Acids (methionine & taurine)
 - Fatty acids (arachidonic acid)
 - Vitamins A & B-complex
 - At maintenance requirements
 - 26% protein, 9% fat
 - At growth & reproduction requirements
 - 30% protein, 9% fat

Assignment

One of the most common specialty feed formulas is for obesity. Explain how these feeds formulated for obesity help to promote weight loss. Also give examples of three brands/names of specialty feeds formulated for obesity/weight loss.

Quiz

1. True/False: Cats & Dogs have relatively simple digestive tracts.
2. True/False: Cats & Dogs have digestive systems specialized for fermentation.
3. What are two of the most common types of specialty food formulas?

4. How do reduced calorie formula feeds reduce caloric intake by 25-30%?
5. What are the protein and fat requirements for a dog at maintenance?
6. What are the protein and fat requirements for a dog at growth or reproduction?
7. True/False: Cats are omnivorous and include fruits and nuts in their diets.
8. It is vital that which amino acids be adequately provided to cats by their diet?
9. What are the protein and fat requirements for a cat at maintenance?
10. What are the protein and fat requirements for a cat at growth or reproduction?

Nutrition Answers

1. True
2. False
3. Obesity & Old Age
4. Increase fiber, decrease protein/fat content
5. 18% protein, 5% fat
6. 22% protein, 8% fat
7. False, cats are true carnivores
8. Methionine and Taurine
9. 26% protein, 9% fat
10. 30% protein, 9% fat

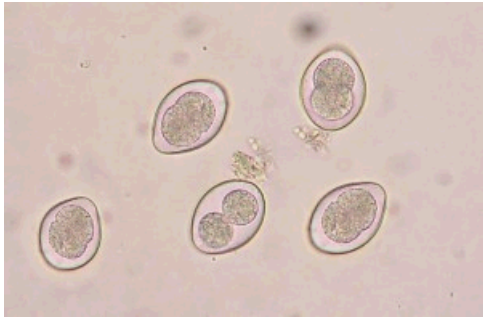
Week 7

Taking Pets In (Danielle)

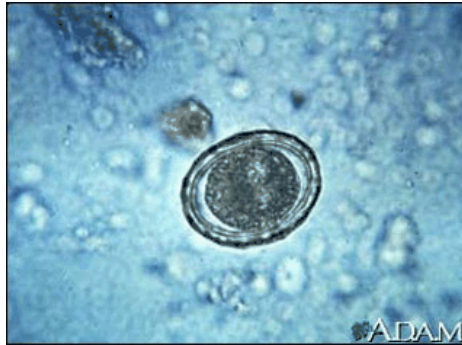
I. Testing for parasites

- Intestinal parasites can be detected by a fecal float. A fecal float can be performed by anyone. Add a small amount of feces to the container. Add fecal flotation solution to the container. This solution can be made of sodium nitrate, a sugar solution, zinc sulfate solution, sodium chloride solution, or potassium iodide solution. Snap on the black cap with the mesh middle. Add more flotation solution until the solution has made a dome over the mesh center. Place a slide cover over the dome and let it sit for no more than 10 minutes.
- If parasite eggs are present in the feces, they will float to the top and attach to the slide cover. When the sample is ready to be read, place the slide cover onto a slide and read it under the microscope on medium power. If eggs are present, you will be able to identify what type of parasite that animal has and give it the proper dewormer.



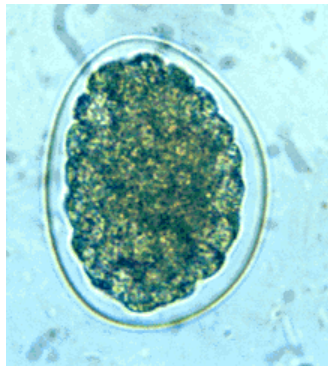


eggs

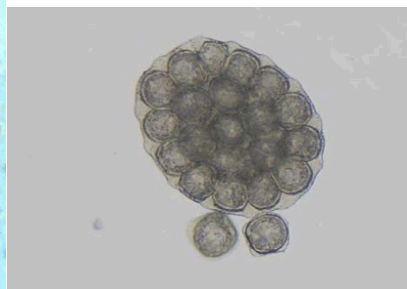


roundworm egg

coccidia



hookworm egg



tapeworm egg



whipworm eggs

II. Deworming

- There are many different types of dewormers that can be used. Each one gets rid of only certain parasites. This is why it is important to determine which parasites an animal has so that they can be properly treated.
- Doses are determined by the weight of the animal.
- Drontal Plus
 - Used for dogs.
 - This dewormer is a mixture of praziquantel, pyrantel pamoate, and febantel.
 - It is a single dose formula which makes it easy to give.
 - It kills hookworms, whipworms, tapeworms, and roundworms.
- Droncit
 - Used for dogs and cats.
 - This dewormer is made of praziquantel.
 - It is a single dose formula which makes it easy to give.
 - It kills tapeworms.
- Strongid T
 - Used for dogs and cats.
 - This dewormer is made of pyrantel pamoate.
 - It is a 2 dose formula. Doses are separated by a 3 week period.
 - It kills hookworms and roundworms.
- Panacur
 - Used for dogs.
 - This dewormer is made of fenbendazole.
 - It is given for 3 to 5 days in a row.

- It kills roundworms, whipworms, hookworms, and giardia.
- Albon
 - Used in dogs and cats
 - This dewormer is made of sulfadimethoxine.
 - It is given for 10 days in a row.
 - It kills coccidia.

III. Precautions

- You should always take proper precautions when handling new animals.
- Vaccine histories are unknown and rabies could potentially be present.
- Temperament and behaviors are not known, so go slow when approaching, lifting, and restraining these animals.

image from <http://www.lambertvetsupply.com/Fecal-Flotation-Device-100-count--pr--014MAI100>

<http://www.pet-informed-veterinary-advice-online.com/fecal-flotation.html>

<http://www.bayerdvm.com/products/drontal/drontal-plus.cfm>

http://www.chow.com/about_5209294_droneit-wormer-cats.html

<http://www.drugs.com/vet/panacur-c-canine-dewormer.html>

Assignment:

Write a paragraph on the importance of deworming animals. Include ways the parasites can be transmitted to other animals and to humans.

Quiz

1. What simple test would you perform on a pet to determine if it has intestinal parasites?
2. How long do you let the test sit before reading the results?
3. What is the solution that is mixed with the stool to perform this test?
4. What are some common intestinal parasites that can be found?
5. Are intestinal parasites contagious? If yes, who can get them and how are they transmitted?
6. What are some well-known deworming medications?
7. For the above medications, how often do they need to be given?
8. If your cat is given strongid, what intestinal parasites might it have?
9. In you perform a fecal float and you see coccidia eggs, what dewormer(s) would you use?
10. What precautions would you take so that you do not infect yourself?

Week 8

Diseases (Danielle)

There are many diseases that can spread through a shelter. It is important to be aware of these diseases so the proper precautions can be taken.

1. Transmitted from animal to animal
 - a. Dog to Dog
 - i. Distemper
 1. Also known as virus of Carre
 2. caused by an airborne virus

3. can also be transmitted by direct connect with affected dog's saliva, nasal discharge, or excrements
4. affects very young pups or old dogs with health issues
5. incidence is seasonal
 - a. usually early spring, fall winter
 - b. warm weather causes it to be dormant
6. "Basically, distemper is a disease of the epithelial tissues. All of the visible mucous membranes—mouth, gums, nostrils, etc.—become inflamed as the virus intrenches itself. The distemper virus is the vanguard for secondary bacterial invaders. After the virus has set the stage, bacteria move in and cause such symptoms as tonsilitis, diarrhea, pneumonia and skin eruptions. The chief bacterial invaders are members of the staphylococci, streptococci and brucella groups. It is this combination of bacteria and virus that makes distemper so difficult to treat."

<http://www.dogtrainingsite.net/dogdiseases/distemper.htm>

7. Symptoms
 - a. running nose
 - b. sneezing
 - c. hacking cough
 - d. weepy eyes
 - e. diarrhea
 - f. temperature around 103-104 (101-102 being normal)
 - g. "As the virus and bacteria continue their devastation, the dog becomes more and more emaciated and dehydrated. The discharge from the eyes and nose changes from a colorless fluid to a thick, ropery and often bloody discharge. When the discharge dries on the nose or eyes, it cakes and interferes with breathing and vision. The dog has an increased thirst and will try to drink great quantities of water. His bowel movement changes from a soft stool to a watery or bloody movement, with a highly objectionable odor. He may vomit and go into fits or convulsions, with muscular twitching or champing of the jaws."
 - h. results in death if not treated or treated too late

<http://www.dogtrainingsite.net/dogdiseases/distemper.htm/>

ii. Kennel Cough

1. caused by a mixture of viruses and bacteria
2. an airborne disease transmitted from dog to dog
3. causes inflammation of voice box and windpipe
4. symptoms
 - a. dry, hacking cough
 - b. cough up phlegm
 - c. otherwise seems completely normal
 - d. should isolate from other dogs until healthy again
5. prevention

- a. keep dog away from dogs you do not know the vaccine history or health of
 - b. get an annual Bordetella vaccine
 - b. Cat to cat
 - i. Distemper
 - 1. Transmitted through direct contact with an infected cat or its belongings (bed, water bowl, etc.)
 - 2. Occurs in warmer months
 - 3. Kittens are more at risk since they have low immunity
 - 4. Symptoms
 - a. show up about 10 days after infection
 - b. v+
 - c. d+
 - d. poor appetite
 - e. lack of energy
 - 5. vaccines available
 - ii. leukemia (FeLV)
 - 1. retrovirus
 - 2. “Cats persistently infected with FeLV serve as sources of infection. Virus is shed in very high quantities in saliva and nasal secretions, but also in urine, feces, and milk from infected cats. Cat-to-cat transfer of virus may occur from a bite wound, during mutual grooming, and (though rarely) through the shared use of litter boxes and feeding dishes. Transmission can also take place from an infected mother cat to her kittens, either before they are born or while they are nursing. FeLV doesn't survive long outside a cat's body—probably less than a few hours under normal household conditions.” <http://www.vet.cornell.edu/fhc/brochures/felv.html>
 - 3. cats at risk:
 - a. cats the live outdoors
 - b. kittens of infected moms
 - c. cats living with infected cats
 - 4. can cause cancer, blood disorders
 - 5. symptoms
 - a. Loss of appetite
 - b. Slow but progressive weight loss, followed by severe wasting late in the disease process
 - c. Poor coat condition
 - d. Enlarged lymph nodes
 - e. Persistent fever
 - f. Pale gums and other mucus membranes
 - g. Inflammation of the gums (gingivitis) and mouth (stomatitis)
 - h. Infections of the skin, urinary bladder, and upper respiratory tract
 - i. Persistent diarrhea

- j. Seizures, behavior changes, and other neurological disorders
 - k. A variety of eye conditions
 - l. In unsprayed female cats, abortion of kittens or other reproductive failures
 - 6. vaccines available
- c. Feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV)
 - i. Retrovirus
 - ii. Attacks the immune system
 - iii. Virus is shed in saliva.
 - 1. Transmission is usually associated with bite wounds.
 - iv. It is not transmitted in utero or through milk.
 - v. Has 3 stages, similar to human HIV
 - 1. Acute stage
 - a. 4 to 6 weeks after being infected.
 - b. The cat will have a fever and swollen lymph nodes.
 - c. It will be more likely to get skin and intestinal infections.
 - 2. Latent stage
 - a. This stage can last for many years.
 - b. The cat will show no signs of the disease.
 - c. During this time, the immune system is being destroyed.
 - 3. AIDS-like Stage
 - a. The immune system is completely destroyed.
 - b. The cat is more susceptible to infection since the body can no longer fight anything else.
 - c. Most common infections are respiratory and intestinal infections, anemia, cancer, etc.
 - vi. There are numerous antiviral medications that can be given.
 - vii. There is also a vaccine for FIV.
- 2. Contagious to both animals and people
 - a. Rabies
 - i. virus that attacks the CNS
 - ii. found in saliva of infected animal
 - 1. transmission is through a bite wound.
 - iii. average incubation period 3-6 months for an animal suspected of having rabies.
 - 1. This means the animal is kept away from other animals and people (except for the person taking care of it).
 - 2. They must be monitored closely for any neurological signs.
 - iv. “Generally, the symptoms of rabies are complex and only a close observation of a suspected animal can determine if the animal is rabid. The only positive test is a microscopic examination of the dog's brain. When the rabies virus attacks the brain it causes the formation of what are known as "Negri" bodies. These are visible under a microscope and are positive signs of rabies.”

<http://www.dogtrainingsite.net/dogdiseases/rabies.htm>

- v. symptoms
 - 1. change in behavior
 - 2. restless and easily excited
 - 3. death
 - 4. “fallen jaw” in dogs
 - a. dog’s mouth hangs open
- vi. The only way to test for rabies in an animal is by testing its brain tissue.
- vii. Rabies treatment for humans involves a series of painful injections
- viii. Death will occur if not immediately treated.
- b. Leptosporosis
 - i. “a bacterial disease of dogs, human beings and other animals. It occurs in two forms: 1) canicola fever, and 2) Weil's disease. Both types are transmissible from animals to man. The organisms causing leptospirosis belong to the spirochete group of bacteria.”<http://www.dogtrainingsite.net/dogdiseases/leptospirosis.htm>
 - ii. affects kidneys and liver
 - iii. Symptoms
 - 1. cold like symptoms at first
 - 2. yellowish ting to skin, urine, mucus membranes
 - 3. muscular stiffness, especially the hind legs
 - 4. a heavy, dark urine
 - 5. abdominal pain
 - 6. a watery and bloody bowel movement
 - iv. get it from drinking water that has contaminated urine in it
 - v. vaccines available
- c. intestinal parasites
 - i. Symptoms
 - 1. Bloating
 - 2. abdominal pain
 - 3. gas
 - 4. passing worms in stool
 - ii. treated with medication

<http://www.starbreezes.com/11/fdistemper.html>
<http://www.dogtrainingsite.net/dogdiseases/distemper.htm>
<http://www.peteducation.com/article.cfm?c=1+1316&aid=213>
<http://www.dogtrainingsite.net/dogdiseases/rabies.htm>

Assignment

Pick one of the above diseases and write a paragraph on where the disease is most commonly found within the United States, who the disease is transmitted to, and if there is a treatment. Include all outside sources you may use.

Quiz

1. What diseases are just contagious to dogs?
2. What are the symptoms of canine distemper?

3. Compare and contrast canine and feline distemper.
4. Who is more at risk for canine influenza?
5. Who is more at risk for FIV?
6. What part of the body does the rabies virus attack?
7. What are some of the symptoms for rabies?
8. How is rabies diagnosed in animals?
9. If a person comes into contact with a rabies infected animal, how would they contract it and how will they be treated?
10. Pick one of the diseases we discussed and explain who gets it, what the symptoms are, and how it can be avoided.

Week 9

Restraint (Danielle)

Restraining an animal isn't a set technique that you can apply to every cat and dog. You may have to adjust your technique depending on the size of the animal or the fractiousness of the pet. The easiest way to restrain a dog is to let the dog sit and hold it close to your body. Wrap one arm around the dog's neck. This will allow you to have control of the head. Wrap your other arm over the dog's back and place your hand on its stomach. This will give you control of the back half of the dog so that it cannot stand up or move. See the image below.



If the underside or a paw needs to be examined, the best way to restrain a dog is to place it on its side and hold it close to your body. With one arm, hold the front paws and rest your arm on the dog's neck. This still allows it not to lift its head. With the other arm, hold the back paws and rest your arm on the dog. This will allow you to have full control of the dog. See the image below.



The best way to restrain a cat is by scruffing it. This involved holding the cat by the excess skin on the back of the neck and just let it sit on the table. Sometimes you may need to place the cat on its side using one hand to scruff the neck and the other to hold the back legs. See image below.



For fractious cats, or just to be extra cautious, a cat bag can be used. The cat is placed into the bag and there are zippers where you can pull out the extremity needed for examination. See image below.



Muzzles are always useful when the temperament and vaccine history of an animal are unknown. Muzzles can be metal, plastic, or cloth. They simply slide over the nose and mouth of

the pet so that it cannot open its mouth to bite. The animal can still breath perfectly with the muzzle on. See images below for examples.



Assignment

Using either your own pets or a friend's, practice restraining both a cat and a dog.
Which was easier to restrain?
Did you have any difficulties?
What could you improve on for next time?
How would you properly use a muzzle on both a cat and a dog?

Quiz

1. Explain the proper way to restrain a dog while it is sitting and while it is laying on its side. Include where the technician should place their hands and why each technique is the most beneficial.

2. Explain the proper way to restrain a cat. Include where the technician should place their hands and why each technique is the most beneficial.

3. What is a muzzle and how is it used.

Dog pictures from <http://www.petalert.com.au/faid/faa4.php>

Cat pictures from <http://mydogvet.com/wp-threads/?tag=Scruff-of-a-cat>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/olatheanimalhospital/4050514493/>

Muzzle picture <http://www.spoilurpets.com/pet-training-aids-c-13.html>

[http://www.siberian-husky-dog-breed-](http://www.siberian-husky-dog-breed-store.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&products_id=398)

[store.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&products_id=398](http://www.siberian-husky-dog-breed-store.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&products_id=398)

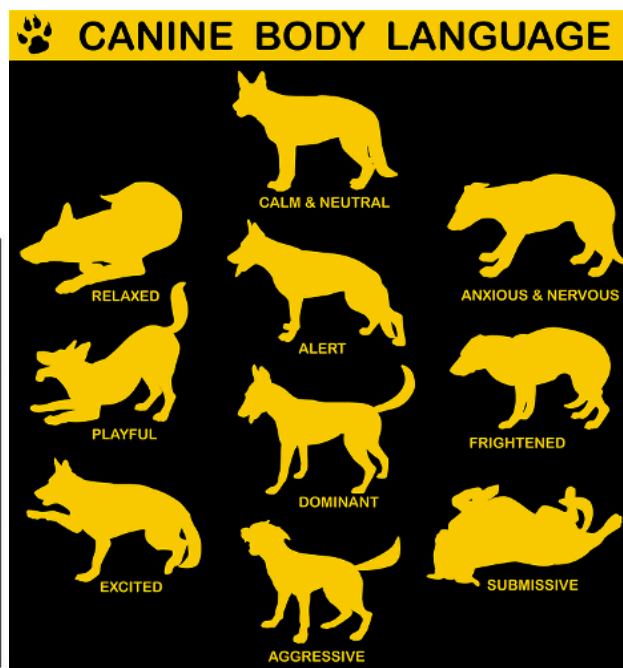
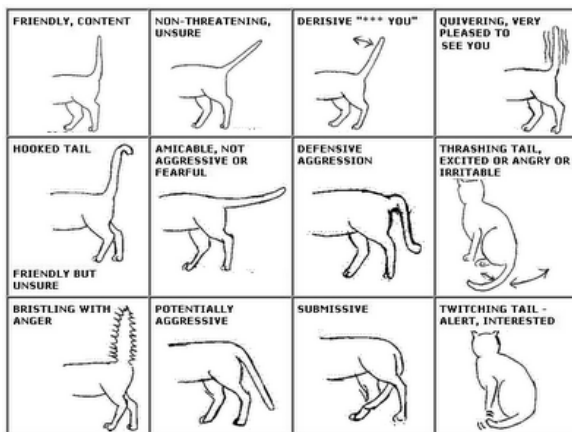
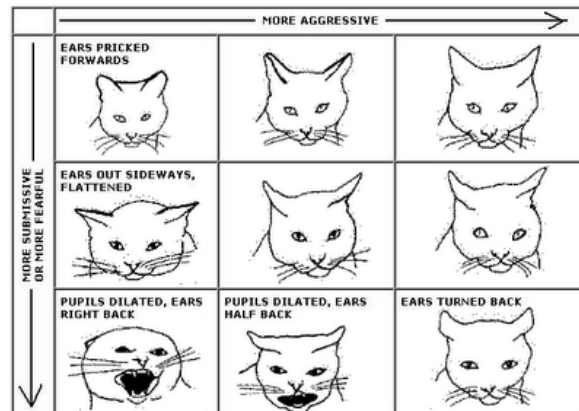
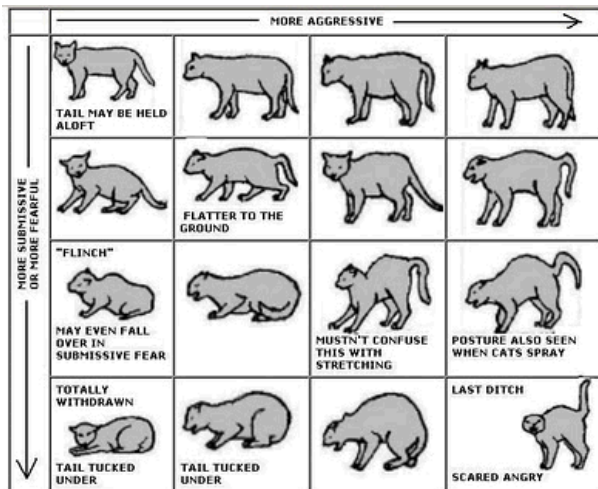
<http://www.shopping.com/muzzles-for-chihuahuas-dogs/products/>

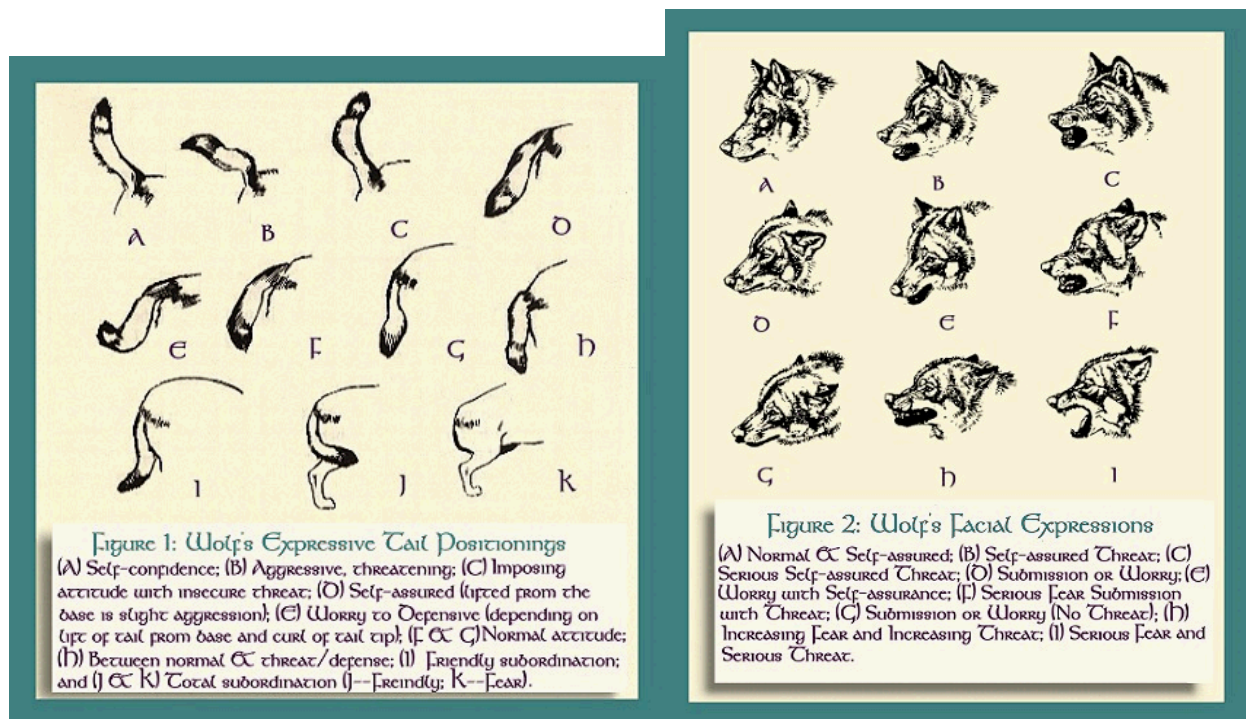
Week 10

Behavior (Rebekah Verdieck)

- Potential Behavior Problems Associated with Shelter Animals:
 - separation anxiety
 - aggression
 - food aggression
 - aggression towards other animals
 - territorial
 - socialization issues
 - may not be good with children
 - may not be good in public
 - may be fearful of new situations or new people
 - may not do well with other pets
- Fear/Anxiety
 - May lead to behaviors typical of aggression
 - May be unsure of surroundings/people

- May feel cornered
- Dominant/Submissive
 - Due to lack of socialization or fearfulness, may exhibit overly dominant or extremely submissive behavior
- Socialization
 - People
 - Many animals that end up in shelters have not been properly socialized with people, or have only received negative attention from people such as abuse or neglect
 - Other animals
 - Many shelter animals have not been properly socialized with other animals or may be accustomed to having to compete with other animals in order to survive
 - For food or survival (dog fighting)
- Body language
 - Positions of the animal's body parts can give significant insight into animal behavior
 - Ears
 - Pinned, pricked
 - Tail
 - Tucked, raised, wagging
 - Lips
 - Taut, relaxed, baring teeth
 - Head
 - Raised, lowered, relaxed
 - Legs
 - Stiff, tense, relaxed
 - Hackles
 - Raised
 - Posture
 - Sitting
 - Standing
 - Crouched
 - Lying down
 - Exposing weak area/underside
 - Submissive, vulnerability
- Animals typically provide clues via their body language as to how they may react
 - Being able to properly read an animal's body language can prevent serious injury
- Understand what YOUR body language means to the animal
 - An animal can read your body language as well and may react accordingly
 - Standing upright vs. kneeling at their level
 - Eye contact





Assignment

A dog is brought to the shelter. He is in his kennel, with his ears pinned back, tail between his legs, and his head held low. What is his body language suggesting and what is the appropriate way to handle him safely?

Quiz

1. What are some of the potential behavior problems associated with shelter animals?
2. What are some of the different types of dog aggression?
3. What are the two main types of socialization?
4. Why is socialization with people such a common issue with many shelter dogs?
5. Why is socialization with other animals such a common issue with many shelter dogs?
6. True/False: Positions of the animal's body or posture can provide significant insight into animal behavior.
7. What are some of the body parts that provide easy clues to how an animal might behave?
8. What might it mean if an animal is in a lying down posture?
9. True/False: Being able to properly read an animal's body language can prevent serious injury.
10. True/False: Animals are unable to read a person's body language, and therefore will not react to body language cues given by people.

Behavior Answers

1. Separation anxiety, aggression, socialization issues, etc.
2. Food aggression, aggression towards other animals, territorial, etc.
3. Socialization with people and socialization with other animals
4. Many dogs that end up in shelters have only previously received negative attention from people such as abuse or neglect.

5. Many dogs that end up in shelters may be accustomed to having to compete with other animals for survival (food, dog fighting, etc.).
6. True
7. Ears, tail, lips, hackles, etc.
8. Submissive, exposing weak area/underside, vulnerability
9. True
10. False: Animals can read your body language as well and may react accordingly.

Sources

<http://neofeline.blogspot.com/2008/02/your-cat-body-language.html>

http://www.petsnpartners.vestabel.com/pet_tips.html

<http://www.wolfdancer.org/blanguage/>

Week 11

Training (Rebekah Verdieck)

- Various methods of training
 - Positive reinforcement training
 - Clicker training
 - Treat training
- Also many types of training tools
 - Training collars
 - Head collars
 - Martingales
 - Harness
- Training can be used to address many common behavior issues
 - Biting
 - Barking
 - Jumping
 - Leash pulling
 - Crate training
 - House breaking
- Many shelters have an animal behaviorist on staff who is responsible for evaluating the behavior and temperament of any animals that enter the shelter. It is then decided if the animal is adoptable as is, will require training and socialization before being reevaluated for adoption, or is unsuitable for adoption and will need to be humanely euthanized.
 - Information about Current Training Programs in Shelters:
 - Assessing Shelter Dogs and Temperament Testing
 - http://www.paw-rescue.org/PAW/PETTIPS/DogTip_Temperament.php
- Properly assessing an animal's temperament and behavior is necessary for a successful adoption
 - Better able to match the animal with the right adoptive family

- Provide the knowledge of the animal's temperament and any potential behavior issues to the adoptive family to ensure they are aware and understand the proper training that may be necessary
- By providing training to the animals within a shelter, the animals can become more adoptable
 - The animal will be able to make a better first impression on any families interested in adopting if it is well behaved
 - The animal will also be less stressed if it has been taught what behavior is acceptable

Assignment

An underweight dog is brought to the shelter. Upon evaluating his temperament, it is discovered that he is slightly possessive of his food however he is not overly aggressive when food is not present. What might be the reasoning for his food aggression and how adoptable will he be? What are some possible socialization/training methods that could help him overcome his behavior issues?

Quiz

1. What are some of the various methods of training?
2. What are some of the types of training tools used for dogs?
3. What are some of the common behavior issues that training may address?
4. Who is responsible for evaluating the temperament of animals that enter the shelter?
5. True/False: Some animals may require training/socialization before being adopted.
6. True/False: If an animal is determined to be unsuitable for adoption, it may be humanely euthanized.
7. Why is it necessary to properly assess an animal's temperament and behavior in order to have a successful adoption?
8. True/False: By providing training to the animals within a shelter, the animals can become more adoptable.
9. How can training help an animal find an adoptive family?
10. True/False: Training can help reduce stress in animals living in shelters.

Training Answers

1. Positive reinforcement training, clicker training, treat training
 2. Training collars, head collars, martingales, harness
 3. Biting, barking, jumping, leash pulling, crate training, house breaking, etc.
 4. Animal behaviorist
 5. True
 6. True
 7. Better able to match the animal with the right adoptive family & ensure they understand the proper training that may be necessary for the animal
 8. True
 9. The animal will be able to make a better first impression on any families interest in adopting if it is well behaved.
 10. True
-

Week 12

Adoption Process (Haynes)

- Preadoption
- make sure the animals have the proper vaccinations
 - making animals better adoption candidates
 - behavior programs that reduces stress for animals
- regular contact with humans
 - consistently reward them for good behavior, positive reinforcement
 - pet them, give them attention
 - stimulate them physically and mentally
 - use of toys and comfort items
 - keep them active
 - cats like to watch movement
- i.e. fishtanks, bird feeders, prisms of light
- Cats
 - enrichment program
 - space for new cats to adapt to their environment (outside of cage)
 - give them a place to hide when they want to
 - keep their scent around so they are comfortable
 - allow them to have a scratching post
- make the shelter a pleasant place for potential adopters
 - ads for the shelter
 - an appealing cage card
 - colorful
 - good photo of the animal (possibly outside)
 - attractive animal name

Assignment

Visit a local animal shelter. Ask them to explain their procedure on the adoption process and compare and contrast that with the information you have learned from the lesson on adoption.

Quiz

- 1) What are 2 ways an animal can become more likely to be adopted?
- 2) What does a cat enrichment program accomplish?
- 3) What do the adoption fees cover?
- 4) What is the purpose of a survey form?
- 5) What are behavior programs for animals?
- 6) What makes an appealing cage card?
- 7) Why are the prices of adopting animals different?
- 8) What are some things a potential adopter must have in order to begin the adoption process?
- 9) What are some ways you can make the shelter more attractive for pet adoption?
- 10) What are some characteristics of a dog or cat that makes them attractive?

Source:

http://www.animalsheltering.org/resource_library/magazine_articles/may_jun_2009/feline_good.pdf

http://www.animalsheltering.org/resource_library/magazine_articles/jan_feb_2000/teaching_manners_for_life.html

-Adoption process

-allow plenty of bonding time between animal and potential adopters

-two forms of ID

-1 government issued

-1 proof of address

-possibly a reference

-fees

-higher price for purebreeds or smaller/younger/rarer breeds

-should at least cover expenses

-all previous vaccinations

-neutering/spaying

-microchip

-registration fee

-survey to see what type of animal matches your lifestyle

-sample for cat: <http://www.aspca.org/aspca-nyc/adoption-center/~media/files/aspca-nyc/adoption-center/catadoptersurvey.pdf>

-sample for dog: <http://www.aspca.org/aspca-nyc/adoption-center/~media/files/aspca-nyc/adoption-center/dogadoptersurvey.pdf>

-follow up for at least a couple of weeks after the animal has been adopted

-encourage adopters to contact you with any behavioral problems

Source:

<http://www.aspca.org/aspca-nyc/adoption-center/adoption-steps.aspx>

http://www.animalsheltering.org/resource_library/magazine_articles/mar_apr_2004/shelterspeak_adoption_fees.html

Week 13

Routine Vaccines (Danielle and Rebekah)

Distemper (DHPP)

- yearly

Distemper (DHLPP)

- yearly

Distemper (FVCP)

- yearly

Leukemia (FIV)

- yearly

Rabies

- first vaccine good for one year
- boosters every 3 years to follow
- will receive certificate from vet verifying vaccination

Lyme

- yearly
- optional for dogs that come into contact with wooded areas often

Bordetella

- yearly
- optional for dogs who go to dog parks, the groomers, or stay in a kennel

Heartworm test/monthly preventative

- blood test that determines if a dog has heartworm disease
- contracted from mosquitos
- cats are rarely affected by heartworm
- dogs should be kept on a monthly preventative that will protect them from contracting this disease

Influenza

- yearly
- optional for dogs who also get bordetella vaccine

Assignment

Research what the most common reactions to vaccines are. Which vaccine causes the most reactions?

Quiz

1. Which vaccines are given yearly?
2. Which is the only vaccine that lasts for 3 years?
3. What vaccines should a pet get if they go to a groomer or dog park?
4. What is the name for the feline distemper vaccine?
5. If a dog often goes hunting in the woods with its owner, what may be a good vaccine for the dog to get?
6. In a few sentences describe the importance of the rabies vaccine.

Week 14

How to start a Shelter



- Look at New Jersey State Laws in regards to sheltering animals
 - New Jersey law specifies that local municipalities hire and train animal-control personnel.
- Plan the type of shelter you would like to start
 - Visit existing shelters within the area and assess what works and what doesn't
- Develop management, accounting skills, and community contacts.
 - It's important to have the needed skills and knowledge to run an animal shelter.
- Assess Community Needs
 - It is a good idea to investigate to see if there are existing animal shelters within your community to avoid duplication.
- Get Experience
 - Work or volunteer within an animal shelter to gain experience.
- Form an expert team with same goals
 - Find like-minded helpers, supporters, activists, neighbors and others who want to help the new shelter succeed.
- Research foundations in NJ that can help provide funding for your animal shelter
 - Obtain a license for the shelter from the animal-control authorities of the New Jersey municipality or county where the shelter will operate. Make sure that the local zoning board approves the shelter plan.
- Market your shelter, start advertising, and possibly a small fundraiser.
 - Set up a website
 - start raising funds
 - when its time for a grand opening make it a grand event (newspapers, flyers...)
- Research the possibilities of incorporating the animal shelter as a New Jersey nonprofit organization
 - Many donors prefer to donate to recognized non-profit organizations because they can write the donations off as tax deductions on their taxes
 - The Center for Nonprofit Corporations in North Brunswick, New Jersey, (njnonprofits.org/) assists New Jersey nonprofit organizations to incorporate as a recognized nonprofit organization.
- Devise a clear mission statement. This will help define what your shelter does and what makes it stand out from the rest.

- The mission statement provides large donors with an overview of the shelter's philosophy and plan of action.
- If you are thinking about creating an animal shelter please follow this website for assistance. http://www.ehow.com/how_6136546_start-animal-shelter-new-jersey.html
- It is always important to consult New Jersey State laws before anything else, this will tell you what you can or cannot.
http://www.animallaw.info/statutes/stusnj4_19_15_1_29.htm

Sources;

- http://www.ehow.com/how_6136546_start-animal-shelter-new-jersey.html
- <http://www.asPCA.org/adoption/start-a-shelter.aspx>
- <http://www.njSPCA.org/>
- http://www.humanesociety.org/animal_community/resources/qa/common_questions_on_shelters.html

Assignment

- Pick a local shelter and observe it:
 - look at how its being run
 - the treatment of the animals
 - how the workers/ volunteers do their job
 - the quality of the shelter
 - does it follow NJ state laws
- The purpose of the assignment is for you to see what we have been learning in class in action.
- Write a 3 page paper (double-spaced, 12pt font) on your observations, and possible recommendations for improvement.
 - You must keep a journal log of time spent at the shelter and it must be signed by a shelter manger.
 - You must complete a total of 10 hours of observation.

Quiz

True/False

1. New Jersey law specifies that local municipalities hire and train animal-control personnel. (True/False)
2. Visit existing shelters within the area and asses what works and what doesn't is not required to start a shelter. (True/False)
3. A clear mission statement will help define what your shelter does and what makes it stand out from the rest. (True/False).
4. It is not important to consult New Jersey State laws before creating a shelter. (True/False)
5. The Center for Nonprofit Corporations in North Brunswick, NJ assists NJ nonprofit organizations to incorporate as a recognized nonprofit organization. (True/False)

Short Answers

1. Why is it important to have needed skills and knowledge to run an animal shelter?
2. Write a sample mission statement for a animal shelter that you will have at Rutgers University.
3. List 3 Nonprofits that can help in funding animal shelters in NJ.

4. How would you obtain a license for the shelter from the animal-control authorities of the New Jersey municipality or county where the shelter will operate?
 5. Have you volunteered at an animal shelter before and how will you use that experience to help you create an animal shelter. If you haven't volunteer at an animal shelter explain the benefits of doing so.
-

Editorials

Rebekah Verdieck - sent to *Best Friends Magazine* (editor@bestfriends.org) on 3/22/11

Currently, it is not required for personnel working in an animal shelter to participate in a formal training program or be officially certified. Often times, the staff working in animal shelters are simply animal lovers and they may have little to no formal training pertaining to various aspects of animal health. By encouraging shelter personnel to participate in an online course that offers certification in shelter management, shelters can ensure they have a more knowledgeable staff.

A course in animal shelter management would provide the necessary training to educate shelter personnel on the proper way to run a shelter program as well as the proper way to care for the animals within the shelter. The knowledge that could be obtained through this course will enable animal shelters to run more efficiently, and therefore be able to help more animals in need. It would also ensure proper safety of the staff who maintain the shelter. It is important when working in a shelter environment to be aware of all the potential health hazards to both humans and animals alike, in order to prevent illness or injury. By encouraging shelter staff to become certified through this course, the quality of care that the shelter animals receive will most likely improve. The course will educate shelter personnel on several important topics including the laws and regulations shelters must abide by, proper animal nutrition, recognizing signs of illness, prevention of the spread of disease, as well as animal behavior and training techniques.

Haynes (Animal Wellness Magazine)

To Whom It May Concern,

A few classmates and I have begun to brainstorm for a potential online course at Rutgers University regarding an animal shelter management. We are all animal lovers, some of us work at local animal shelters, and I am an owner of four cats myself. With so many pets already in households in the United States, and many more households that are looking to add an addition to their family, one possibility would be adopting animals from shelters.

This course would be a great class to have as part of the curriculum for students who also care about animals and want to enter this field of work in the future. It will offer a foundation of knowledge, covering a variety of different topics associated with animal care and animal management. It will be a 2 credit course, held once a week for 14 weeks. Being an online course, it will be convenient for many students to squeeze into their busy schedules.

We would just like to put the word out about this course and hope it garners some interest and positive feedback from potential students. Thanks for your time.

Sabrina Persaud

Editorial (Sent to the Targum via e-mail to: oped@dailytargum.com)

Animal cruelty and abuse can occur in places where animals are supposed to be safe. There is a great need to have animal shelters; however, there is a greater need to have qualified individuals in them. Within many New Jersey shelters there are no requirements that an individual must have in order to work there. An Animal Shelter Management course here at Rutgers would be a way to help combat animal abuse within shelters. This program will allow potential shelter workers to become certified to properly handle animals, obtain knowledge of the laws and regulations for shelters and pet owners. Hopefully, with this course implemented more shelters would make it a requirement in order to handle animals.

Another positive aspect of this course is that it is not only for potential shelter workers. Are all pet owners aware of local laws and regulations that are already implemented that they must abide by? Many pet owners are not aware that they may be causing harm to their pets or themselves nor are they aware of proper licensing and shot requirements. The law in regards to animal welfare, and proper grooming needs to be made clear to not only shelter workers but pet owners as well.

The purpose of this course is to educate individuals on the state laws in regards to animal welfare, proper grooming and care of animals, diseases of domestic animals, public health, and how to create your own shelter. This course is not only suitable for individuals who would like to work in a shelter but is also useful for individuals who would like to educate themselves on the care, treatment, and proper licensing of their pets. Upon successful completion of the course individuals would be knowledgeable in New Jersey's laws regarding animal welfare and proper licensing, diseases that are common in domestic animals, proper grooming and care for these animals, and how to create a shelter. This course will be the first in serving to prevent animal abuse in shelters, provide proper knowledge in animal care and control, and produce suitable individuals who can protect public health. Please support the Animal Shelter Management course when it becomes available.

Danielle Ciulla

Editorial submitted 3/13/11 to mycentraljersey.com

Rutgers course on Animal Shelter Management

Everyday hundreds of animals are brought into shelters. Most have been abused and abandoned. Others have lived their whole life on the streets. When these animals are brought into shelters, there are many things that need to be taken into consideration for the health of the animal and the staff of the shelter. There are many diseases that people can contract from animals such as rabies, leptosporosis, and toxoplasmosis, just to name a few. Diseases are not the only hazards of working in a shelter. Bite and Scratch wounds can also be dangerous. This is why it is important for the staff at shelters to be trained properly and correctly to minimize these hazards. An online certificate course that provide background information on shelters, precautions to take, and other means to properly manage a shelter would benefit both the shelter and the animals housed there.

A course like this would benefit the community by helping to provide healthy and happy pets to deserving families.