

# Toronto Humane Society Shelter Medicine Rotation Information Package

## General Information

### Instructors

- Dr. Laura Balanoff (Staff Veterinarian)
- Dr. Danielle Boes (Staff Veterinarian, Shelter Medicine Rotation Curriculum Organizer)
- Dr. Gary Gall (Staff Veterinarian)
- Dr. Megan Haines (Staff Veterinarian)
- Dr. Linda Jacobson (Senior Manager, Shelter Medicine Advancement)
- Dr. Zaki Jafry (Staff Veterinarian)
- Dr. Shalini Ramsubeik (Staff Veterinarian)
- Dr. Rob Rock (Staff Veterinarian)
- Dr. Kyla Townsend (Staff Veterinarian)
- Dr. Karen Ward (Chief Veterinary Officer)

### Main contacts for rotation information

Dr. Danielle Boes, Rotation Curriculum Organizer, [dboes@torontohumanesociety.com](mailto:dboes@torontohumanesociety.com)

Rachel Fortin, Rotation Scheduler, [rfortin@torontohumanesociety.com](mailto:rfortin@torontohumanesociety.com)

Dr. Karen Ward, Chief Veterinary Officer, [kward@torontohumanesociety.com](mailto:kward@torontohumanesociety.com)

### Rotation description

Open to all veterinary students along with veterinary interns who would like to gain more exposure to and are interested in animal welfare, shelter medicine and community veterinary practice.

### Rotation goals:

1. Broad overview of shelter medicine, its challenges and rewards
2. Exposure to a busy, well-resourced shelter with capacity for extensive surgical and medical case management
3. Understanding how sheltering best practices improve health, welfare, length of stay and life-saving capacity
4. Exposure to population management and pathway planning in shelters
5. Exposure to common medical and behavioural reasons for relinquishment and how to manage them in an animal shelter
6. Understanding the roles of both shelter veterinarians and private practice veterinarians in creating a humane society
7. Exposure to accessible public veterinary care

### Rotation duration

Varies from 1 day to 2-week placements depending on the availability and needs of the student and shelter capacity.

### Student numbers

Ideal to have 2 students at a time per rotation. Exceptions will be considered for single student placement on a case-by-case basis.



**Dates available**

January to April and September to December. During the summer months with kitten season, the shelter gets extremely busy. Rotations scheduled outside of May-August are best to allow time to properly mentor students.

**Rotation Components****1. Intake**

All animals arriving at the shelter receive a complete physical exam, assessment, intake procedures and pathway plan b. Includes foster exams, newly adopted, strays, emergencies, surrenders and transfers

**2. Feline Medicine**

All medicine shifts include:

- Rounds
- Case work up and management
- Full in-house lab including fungal culture lab, digital radiography, ultrasound
- Assessment and interpretation of diagnostics
- Infectious disease prevention and management
- Population management

**3. Special Species Medicine****4. Canine Medicine****5. High-Volume-High-Quality Spay-Neuter Surgery**

- Based on the Humane Alliance model
- Services a combination of owned animals, rescue and shelter animals
- 5,600 spay/neuter surgeries performed in 2018

**6. Shelter Surgery**

- A wide variety of surgical procedures, including but not limited to
- Rabbit spays/neuters and dentals
- Dentistry including digital dental radiography
- Gastrotomy, enterotomy
- Cystotomy v. Mass removals
- Amputations
- FHO
- Enucleation, cherry eye repair, entropion/ectropion correction

**7. Public Veterinary Services**

Vaccinations, wellness exams and blood work, pre-surgical and pre-dental consultations, owner-requested euthanasias, post-operative concerns, amongst other

**8. Canine Training Department**

- Public training classes, shelter training classes, behaviour modification plans
- In-shelter enrichment plans
- Most of our trainers are CPDT-KA certified, or tracking towards certification



## 9. Feline Training Department

- In-shelter and foster home training and enrichment plans, behaviour modification
- Department led by Dr. Jacklyn Ellis, Animal Behaviour Scientist
- Managing litterbox concerns, including inappropriate urination & defecation

## 10. Laboratory

Exposure to our in-house IDEXX lab with dedicated RVT; CBC, Chemistries, cytology, fecals, urinalysis, fungal cultures 11.

## 11. Adoptions

New hire presentation on “Adopters Welcome”

*NOTE: Participation in some of the above components will be based on time allowance and shelter capacity. Longer placements will allow for exposure to more of the components.*

### Resources to review prior to the rotation

- The first 60 minutes [webinar by Dr. Brian DiGangi](#)
- Flow through [planning webinar by Dr. Elizabeth Berliner](#)
- Making the case for [a paradigm shift in community cat management by Dr. Kate Hurley](#)
- ASPCA Humane Alliance YouTube
  - [Pedicle ties](#)
  - [Puppy scrotal neuter](#)
  - [Modified miller's knot](#) (aka “strangle knot” per ASPCA)
  - [Incision placement](#)

### It would be beneficially to be familiar with the following (don't need to study/ memorize these documents!)

- The Association of Shelter Veterinarians (ASV) [Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters](#)
- The Association of Shelter Veterinarians (ASV) [Spay – Neuter Guidelines](#)
- Toronto Humane Society Protocols on Dropbox. Students will be given access given email to Toronto Humane Society Dropbox files. Please browse/be familiar with the following protocols in order of importance:
  - Vaccination protocols
  - URI o Kennel cough
  - Diarrhea (acute)
  - Kitten protocols
  - Ringworm
  - FeLV and FIV
  - Inappropriate urination
  - Inappropriate defecation
  - Parvovirus (feline and canine)
  - GI parasites generally (i.e. coccidia, roundworms, hookworms, etc.)

### Please visit these websites for more information

[Ontario Shelter Medicine Association](#) (OSMA), [Maddie's Fund](#), [ASPCA Spay and Neuter](#), [Alliance](#) (formally Humane Alliance), [Association of Shelter Veterinarians](#) (ASV), [University of Florida Shelter Medicine Online Courses](#)



### Talent LMS Toronto Humane Society online training needed prior to rotation

- WHIMIS (this is the main course that must be completed prior to the rotation, the other courses would be more for interest)
- Risk injury prevention
- Rabies observation
- Hazard identification
- Infectious disease control
- Radiation

### Tentative Student Scheduling

#### One day student placements

Time	Service
7:00am – 7:30am	Shelter Tour
7:30am – 10:30am	Main clinic shelter surgery service
10:30am – 2:00pm	Feline medicine service
2:00pm – 3:00pm	Late lunch – please bring snacks for throughout the day prior to this
3:00pm – 6:00pm	Intake service

#### One week student rotation

- Monday-Friday placement typically (exceptions could be made on a case by case basis)
- Shelter tour on the first day
- Two sets of rounds as detailed below (case-based and ASV Shelter Guidelines)
- One day of:
  - Intake service
  - Feline medicine service
  - Canine medicine service
  - Main clinic shelter surgery service
  - Spay and neuter clinic service

#### Two week student rotation

- Monday-Friday placement typically (exceptions could be made on a case by case basis)
- Shelter tour on the first day
- Rounds as scheduled below (case-based, ASV Shelter Guidelines and ASV Spay and Neuter Guidelines)
- Two days (ideally in a row) of:
  - Intake service
  - Feline and canine medicine service
- One day of:
  - Main clinic shelter surgery service
  - Spay and neuter clinic service
  - +/- Public veterinary services appointments or surgery (when program is fully running)
  - Canine and feline training departments with certified trainers or Dr. Jacklyn Ellis
- Half day of:
  - Laboratory training with Laboratory and Pharmacy RVT Lauren McIntyre
  - Will be scheduled on either a Monday, Tuesday or Thursday
- Approximately 2 hours of presentation on “Adopters Welcome” by Greg Ratelle, Senior Manager, Client Care



### Intern schedule

Monday	Tuesday - Friday
9:00am: shelter tour 9:30am – 2:00pm: Feline medicine 2:00pm – 3:00pm: Lunch 3:00pm – 6:00pm: Intake	1 day in SNC and 3 days in MC surgery

### Rounds Schedule and Info

There will be ideally 2-3 sets of rounds as outlined below which will take place during the rotation week. The student will be advised ahead of the rotation as to the dates of the rounds which will vary depending on the student's schedule. The rounds will be held with the veterinarian you are on service with that day. Time of rounds may vary based on the shelter schedule and service needs that day (i.e. in the morning, over lunch time, at the end of the day etc). The length of the rounds will be ~30 - 60mins. The rounds will be an informal discussion that the student will lead (Powerpoint presentations not required!).

The type of rounds are outlined as below.

#### 1. Case-based rounds

The student will pick a specific shelter-focused case or topic that they have encountered or are interested in learning more about.

Examples could include: shelter flow, intake procedures and recommendations, outbreak management, hemoabdomen, ringworm, upper respiratory infection and canine infectious respiratory disease complex, FELV/FIV etc.

#### 2. Association of Shelter Veterinarian (ASV) Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters

The student will read the introduction and one topic of their choice (i.e. Population Management, Medical Healthy and Physical Well-being, Euthanasia etc) from the document. The student will then relay the interesting and important info they learned from their sections

For 2-week rotation students there will be an additional third set of rounds as below. For veterinary interns, whose focus of the rotation is more surgical in nature, there will be one set of rounds as below. This rounds topic will be scheduled in the same manner as the rounds details above.

#### 3. Association of Shelter Veterinarian (ASV) Veterinary Medical Care Guidelines for Spay-Neuter Programs (for veterinary interns on rotation)

The student will read the document and will discuss ~10 interesting and/or important pieces of information that they learned.

