



Shelter Medicine Veterinary Certificate

The Shelter Medicine Veterinary Certificate (SMVC) program is offered for current Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) students. The goal of the SMVC is to prepare DVM students for long term success in the field of shelter medicine by incorporating skills that include shelter animal care, shelter animal behavior and well-being, high-quality high-volume sterilization surgery and shelter management consultation. Attaining this certificate will provide DVM graduates with a well-rounded foundation for a career in Shelter Medicine.

Benefits

- 1) SMVC students will have a well-defined pathway to successful training through the completion of complementary coursework and experiential learning to develop a wide array of skills and aptitudes for veterinary practice in a shelter setting.
- 2) Completion of the certificate program will provide a concise and transparent mechanism for new graduates to communicate their training and skills to prospective employers and allow employers to identify students with skills needed for best practice success. SMVC students will have an advantage when communicating with future employers as completion of the program illustrates interest, commitment to the process and a specific level of education.

To complete the certificate program, students must:

1. Complete the required number of core and elective courses with a minimum grade of "C" in each course.
2. Fear Free® Shelter Program during their time at K-State.

Core courses (9 credits):

Pre-Clinical

VCS 891A Shelter Basics: Medicine & Management (1cr)

VAP 891B Animal Care & Welfare (1cr)
or VCS 891C Topics in Applied Animal Behavior (1cr)

VCS 892G Disaster Response – ICS Deployment Certification (1)

Clinical (Fourth year)

VCS 901 Externship – Shelter Medicine Emphasis (2cr)

VCS 937 Shelter Medicine Rotation (2cr)

VCS 946 Shelter Operations Consultation (1cr)

VCS 949 Shelter Medicine Community Outreach (1 cr)

Elective courses (must take at least 6 credits from the list below)

Pre-clinical

VAP 891B Animal Care & Welfare (1cr)
or VCS 891C Topics in Applied Animal Behavior (1cr)

VCS 891K Topics in IVM – Shelter Systems (3)

VCS 891T Surgical Skills (1)

VCS 892B Pre-Clinical Mentorship – Shelter Medicine Emphasis (1cr)

Clinical (Fourth year)

VCS 901 Externship – Spay/Neuter Emphasis (1-2cr)

VCS 942 Advanced Surgical Experience (2cr)

VCS 945 Supplemental Dentistry for Small Animals (1cr)

Contact Academic Programs at the College of Veterinary Medicine

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