

DACUM Research Chart for Shelter Medicine Specialist

DACUM Panel

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January 17-18, 2007

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Duties

Tasks*

A	Optimize Shelter Animal Physical Health	A-1 Design sanitation & disinfection protocols for animal shelters	A-2 Design biosecurity procedures for animal shelters (e.g., quarantine, segregation, traffic patterns)	A-3 Maintain optimal environmental conditions in animal shelters (e.g., temperature, air, humidity, light)	
		A-10 Design nutrition programs for shelter animals	A-11 Design protocols for individual patient care in the shelter	A-12 Recommend husbandry standards for animal shelters	A-13 Create medical & surgical protocols for animal shelters
		A-18 Design safe field triage/capture/handling/transport protocols for animal shelters			
B	Optimize Shelter Animal Behavioral Health	B-1 Establish behavioral selection criteria for shelter animals (e.g., adoption, treatment, euthanasia)	B-2 Develop behavioral assessment protocols for shelter animals (e.g., intake, testing)	B-3 Advise on adopter/ animal compatibility	
		B-8 Design stress management programs for shelter animals (e.g., individual & population)	B-9 Promote acceptable quality of life for shelter animals		
C	Protect Community & Public Health	C-1 Design zoonoses control programs in animal shelters for immunocompromised and healthy people		C-2 Consult on zoonoses control programs in communities for immunocompromised and healthy people	C-3 Consult on rabies control
		C-8 Consult on disaster relief & preparedness for animals	C-9 Collaborate with external agencies regarding animals & public health	C-10 Advise on animal shelter environmental impact	
D	Alleviate Companion Animal Homelessness	D-1 Serve as resource on epidemiology of companion animal homelessness	D-2 Design high-quality spay/neuter programs (e.g., high-volume, mobile, feral cat, targeted, pediatric)		D-3 Advance non-surgical sterilization of companion animals
E	Address Animal Cruelty/Abuse/Neglect (CAN)	E-1 Educate multiple constituents on animal CAN recognition & reporting	E-2 Provide forensic expertise for animal CAN investigation	E-3 Serve as an expert witness for animal CAN cases	E-4 Provide humane animal capture, transport, & housing in animal CAN cases
F	Facilitate Animal Shelter Management	F-1 Advise on resource allocation in animal shelters (e.g. personnel, budget)	F-2 Design animal identification tracking & data analysis systems for animal shelters		F-3 Advise on legal medical record keeping in animal shelters
G	Serve as a Resource on Animals & Public Policy	G-1 Provide expertise on legislative items & policies related to animals	G-2 Serve as a resource on animal regulatory issues & agencies (e.g., CDC, USDA, Fish & Wildlife)		G-3 Provide expertise regarding community animal programs
H	Advance Animal Shelter Medicine	H-1 Promote development of shelter medicine education curricula	H-2 Contribute to research in shelter medicine	H-3 Educate veterinary & shelter community regarding shelter medicine	

A-4 Consult on facility/housing design & management	A-5 Design vaccination protocols for shelter animals	A-6 Design infectious disease protocols for shelter animals (e.g., parasitic, bacterial, viral)	A-7 Diagnose disease outbreaks in shelter animals	A-8 Manage disease outbreaks in shelter animals	A-9 Design disease surveillance programs in animal shelters
A-14 Advise on population management/density in animal shelters	A-15 Develop medical record-keeping systems for animal shelters	A-16 Advise on medical selection criteria within animal shelters (e.g., adoption, treatment, foster)		A-17 Design euthanasia protocols for animal shelters (e.g., technical training, body disposal)	
B-4 Advise on diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment of common behavioral problems for shelter animals		B-5 Design preventive behavioral programs for shelter animals (e.g., environmental enrichment & socialization)		B-6 Provide recommendations for companion animal training	B-7 Develop protocols for safe animal handling
C-4 Provide recommendations for dog bite prevention		C-5 Advise on dangerous animal issues (e.g., wildlife, exotics, domestic)		C-6 Participate in emerging, reportable & foreign animal disease surveillance	
D-4 Advise on humane education programs	D-5 Provide for companion animal surrender intervention programs	D-6 Design animal-owner reunification programs		D-7 Design shelter animal transfer programs	
E-5 Manage animal CAN victim rehabilitation					
F-4 Consult on animal shelter regulations (e.g., OSHA, DEA)	F-5 Advise on compassion fatigue in animal shelters				
G-4 Provide information on animal shelter history, trends, & programs	G-5 Provide expertise on animal shelter ethical issues		* The panel members represented at least three major positions within the specialty of Shelter Medicine. These included persons who are employed as shelter administrators, shelter consultants, and shelter educators/researchers. While one “best” verb was selected for each duty and task, different verbs may better reflect what an administrator does (e.g., provide or implement) vs. a consultant (e.g., advise or recommend) vs. an educator/researcher (e.g., teach or advance).		
H-4 Communicate with the public as an expert on shelter medicine issues	H-5 Pursue professional development in shelter medicine				

General Knowledge and Skills

Population medicine/health
Small animal medicine
Small animal surgery
HVHQ surgical proficiency
Animal behavior
Infectious disease
Emergency and critical care
Anesthesia/analgesia
Pain management
Preventive medicine
Pharmacology
Vaccination & immunology
Theriogenology
Pediatrics
Pathology
Epidemiology
Statistics
Ethics

Recognition of CAN
Forensics
Shelter facility design
Standards of care
Diagnostic testing
Crisis management
Legislative process
Maintenance skills
Animal husbandry
Stress management
Problem-solving skills
Risk management
Leadership skills
Training skills
Time management
Disaster response

Communication skills
Conflict negotiation
Multi-tasking
Management skills
Humane restraint and capture
Regulatory agencies and policies
Legal & policy issues in shelter medicine
Shelter definitions, management, & philosophy
Shelter support & advocacy groups

Worker Behaviors

Compassionate
Dedicated
Detail-oriented
Skilled leader
Emotional stability
Maturity
Professionalism
Inquisitive
Team builder
Open-minded
Flexible
Analytical
Ethical
Politically savvy
Persistent
Resilient
Visionary
Self-motivated
Creative

Tools, Equipment, Supplies and Materials

Animal shelter
Reference reading list
Restraint/capture equipment
Behavior/training equipment
Medical/surgical equipment

Acronyms

ASV Association of Shelter Veterinarians
CAAB Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist
CAN Cruelty, Abuse, and Neglect
CDC Center for Disease Control
DACVIM Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine
DEA Drug Enforcement Administration
DVM Doctor of Veterinary Medicine
HVHQ High Volume, High Quality
MPVM Master of Preventative Veterinary Medicine
MSPCA Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
OSHA Occupational Safety & Health Administration
USDA United States Department of Agriculture
VMD Veterinary Medical Doctor

Future Trends and Concerns

Increase awareness of CAN
Longer shelter stays
Animal overpopulation
Improved shelter pet health
Increase veterinary involvement and education in shelters
Veterinary involvement in public policy
Increased availability of sterilization
Academic shelter medicine programs
Improved public perception of animal shelters
Higher public expectation of animal shelters
Shift in species admitted to shelters-cat to dog ratio-entering shelters
International expansion of shelter medicine
Increased involvement in animal welfare
Increased involvement in public health
Increased management of feral cat population
Expanded shelter resources and facilities
Increased prosecution of animal abuse
Increased collaboration among animal stakeholders