

SHELTER MEDICINE

By: Kathleen Ritzmann, DVM, MPH

A LITTLE ABOUT ME

- *DVM and MPH*
 - *2008 Kansas State University*
- *USDA APHIS NCAHEM 2008*
- *Illinois 2008 – 2017 onsite, 2017-present consulting*
 - *Animal Protective League*
 - *Shelter Veterinarian*
 - *Limited Admission Shelter*
 - *Prioritized sick or injured stray animals*
 - *2500 animals a year – 1200 kittens*
- *Nebraska 2017 - present*
 - *Animal Shelter of Northeast Nebraska*
 - *Board Member*
 - *Limited Admission Shelter*
 - *600 animals a year*



Stay open minded! Where you think you're going may not be where you end up!

WHAT IS SHELTER MEDICINE?

- *Population medicine?*
- *Individual medicine?*
- *BOTH!*

WHAT IS SHELTER MEDICINE?

- *Shelter Management*
- *Prevent Disease*
- *Treat Disease*

SHELTER MANAGEMENT IS SHELTER MEDICINE

- *Decrease Intake*
- *Increase Adoptions*
- *Manage Staff*



DECREASE INTAKE

- Behavioral Support
 - Cat Behavior Specialist
 - HSUS Cat Behavior Counselor Course
 - Local Dog Trainer donates first class to at risk dogs referred by APL
- Pet Food Bank
 - Large scale distribution twice a year
 - Small scale distributions daily



DECREASE INTAKE

- *Spay and Neuter programs*
 - *Spay it Forward*
 - *Free spay/neuter for mom for accidental litters if they surrender all puppies*
- *TNR*
- *Low Cost Vaccine Clinic*
 - *Monthly*
 - *Wellness only*



DECREASE INTAKE

- *Managed Intake*
 - *Allow adopters to rehome animals if they can no longer keep*
 - *Owner to owner section on website*
 - *Foster to Surrender*
 - *Schedule non-emergency intake for when staff has time to intake and space is available*



INCREASE ADOPTIONS

- *Open Adoption*
 - *More about mindset of staff than anything*
- *Barn Cat Program*
 - *Take non-socialized cats from local animal controls for outdoor homes*
- *Fee-waived Adoption*
 - *Targeted populations*
 - *Adult cats/hard to place dogs*



GAME OF HOMES

JOIN US IN
THE BATTLE
TO SAVE LIVES

ADOPT AN
ADULT CAT
FOR FREE
(OVER ONE YEAR OLD)

OFFER VALID
THROUGH MAY 31

ALL CATS ARE SPAYED/NEUTERED,
UP TO DATE ON VACCINES,
AND MICROCHIPPED.
THAT'S OVER A \$395 VALUE

 **ANIMAL
PROTECTIVE LEAGUE**
217 / 544-PETS (7387)

INCREASE ADOPTIONS

- *Pre-Adoption*
 - *Adopters sign contract but ownership is maintained by shelter until animal is fixed*
 - *Kittens can be preadopted at 1#10oz and puppies at 6 weeks*
 - *Have had one kitten not get fixed in 3 years*
 - *Occasionally need manager to “encourage” people to schedule spay/neuter*
- *Mobile Adoption Unit*
 - *Out in the community every weekend – up to an hour away*



INCREASE ADOPTIONS

- *Foster Program*
 - *All kittens and puppies go to foster until they go up for adoption*
- *FeLV/FIV Placement Programs*
 - *Forever foster for FeLV cats*
 - *Grant to pay for pet deposits for seniors that adopt FIV cats or foster FeLV cats*



Want the company of a cat but can't afford one?

APL Can Help!

If you are over 55, APL can help by:

- Paying your pet deposit
- Providing supplies and veterinary care

ANIMAL PROTECTIVE LEAGUE

Become a foster caretaker for the Animal Protective League and choose one of our specially selected cats—providing a home, but not actually owning the cat. Cats available for this program have been selected because their medical or social needs make a home setting ideal for its well-being. APL pays your pet deposit, furnishes supplies, and provides all vet care. You just provide the love!

Studies have shown that living with a pet:

- lowers blood pressure
- reduces cholesterol levels
- eases depression
- combats loneliness and relieves stress
- provides a sense of purpose

If for any reason you become unable or unwilling to continue to care for the cat, it will be returned to APL immediately.

Pets are beneficial to health, especially that of seniors.

For details call APL's Foster Coordinator at 217-801-3298!



Funding for this program is provided through a generous grant from



MANAGE STAFF

- *Combat compassion fatigue*
 - *Prevent, Recognize, Aid*
- *Hire for passion*
 - *Can't train commitment*
- *Educate*
 - *Utilize grants*
 - *Be open to teaching staff what they want to know*
- *Promote from within*



PREVENTING DISEASE

- *Vaccination*
- *Cleaning*
- *Biosecurity*
- *Reduce Stress*



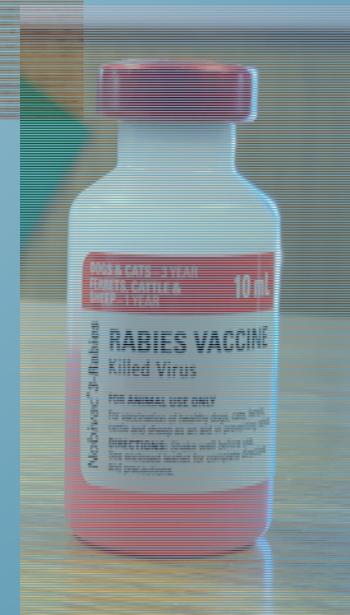
VACCINATION

- *MOST important practice to prevent disease*
- *Worth the investment!*
- *Ideally at or before intake*
 - *At minimum within one hour of intake*
- *Vaccinate everyone*
 - *Regardless of “adoptability”*



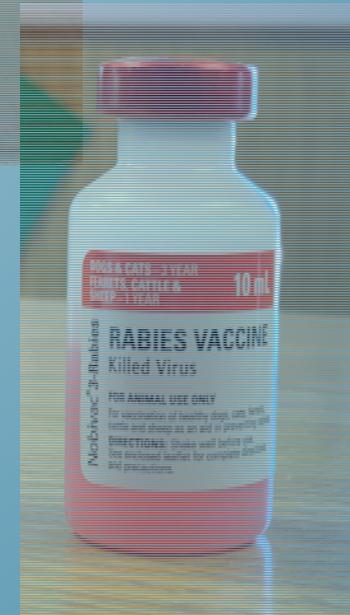
FELINE VACCINATIONS

- FVRCP (Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, Panleukopenia)
 - Under 5 months old
 - Start series at 4 weeks old
 - Every 2 weeks until 5 months old
 - A series can be 6,7 or more vaccines
 - Then due yearly
 - Over 5 months old
 - 2 vaccines 3 weeks apart
 - Then due yearly
 - If history of complete series ever due yearly
- Rabies
 - Under 4 months old
 - No vaccine – give at 4 months old
 - Over 4 months old
 - 1 vaccine yearly
 - Know your state/local laws



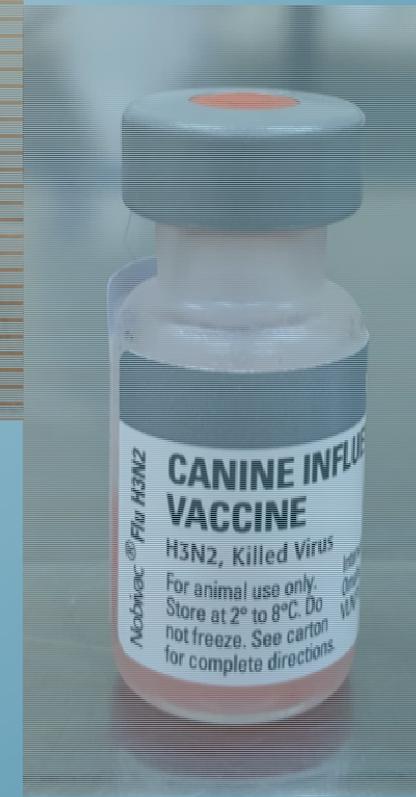
CANINE VACCINATIONS

- DHPP (Distemper, Adenovirus, Parvovirus, Parainfluenza)
 - Under 5 months old
 - Start series at 4 weeks old
 - Every 2 weeks until 5 months old
 - A series can be 6,7 or more vaccines
 - Then due yearly
 - Over 5 months old
 - 2 vaccines 3 weeks apart
 - Then due yearly
 - If history of complete series ever due yearly
- Rabies
 - Under 4 months old
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CANINE VACCINATIONS

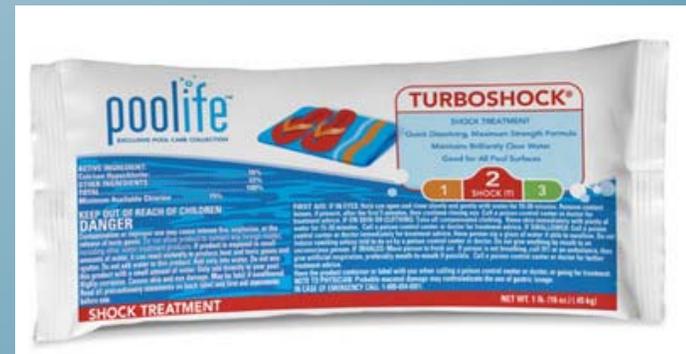
- Bordatella Intranasal
 - Under 4 weeks old
 - No vaccine – give at 4 weeks old
 - Over 4 weeks old
 - 1 vaccine yearly
- Influenza
 - Under 6 weeks old
 - No vaccine – due at 6 weeks old
 - Over 6 weeks old
 - 2 vaccines 3 weeks apart
 - The due yearly



Know the diseases and prevalence in your area!!

CLEANING

- *Cages*
 - *Degrease*
 - *Dawn and water*
 - *Disinfect*
 - *Pool Shock*
 - *Calcium Hypochlorite*
 - *1/8 tsp per gallon water*
 - *Make daily*
 - *10 min contact time*
 - *Not for ringworm*
 - *Use what works for you but use correctly!*



CLEANING

- *Spot Clean*
 - *Do not remove animals from the cage*
- *Fomites*
 - *Can also spread disease*
- *Laundry*
 - *Normal wash cycle*
 - *½ cup bleach*
 - *Routine drying*



WHAT IS BIOSECURITY?

Procedures intended to protect
humans or animals against disease
or harmful biological agents



Do you want these
kittens to die???

BIOSECURITY

- *Gloves for staff*
 - *Worth the investment*
- *Hand sanitizer for the public*
- *Cardboard litterboxes*
- *Metal bowls*
- *Don't pick up more than one animal/litter*
 - *Use towels to transport animals*
- *Don't kiss the kitties!*



BIOSECURITY

- *Isolate*
 - *Parvo/Panleuk*
 - *Ringworm*
 - *URI*
 - *Yes to calici*
 - *Maybe no herpes?*
- *Do not isolate healthy, available animals with a known history*



REDUCE STRESS

- *Enrichment*
 - *For both dogs and cats*
 - *Utilize volunteers*
- *Foster care*
- *Group housing for cats*
- *Play groups for dogs*
- *Spot clean*



TREAT DISEASE

- *Parvo*
- *Panleukopenia*
- *Ringworm*



PARVOVIRUS

- *Actively took in parvo puppies/dogs*
- *90% survival rate*
- *Isolated*
- *Treated supportively with:*
 - *Fluids – SQ*
 - *Antibiotics*
 - *Antiemetics*
 - *Force feeding from day 1!*
- *Cleared 5 days after first formed stool and a negative test*
 - *3 baths*
 - *Nail trim*
 - *General population*
- *Taught staff to test and treat*



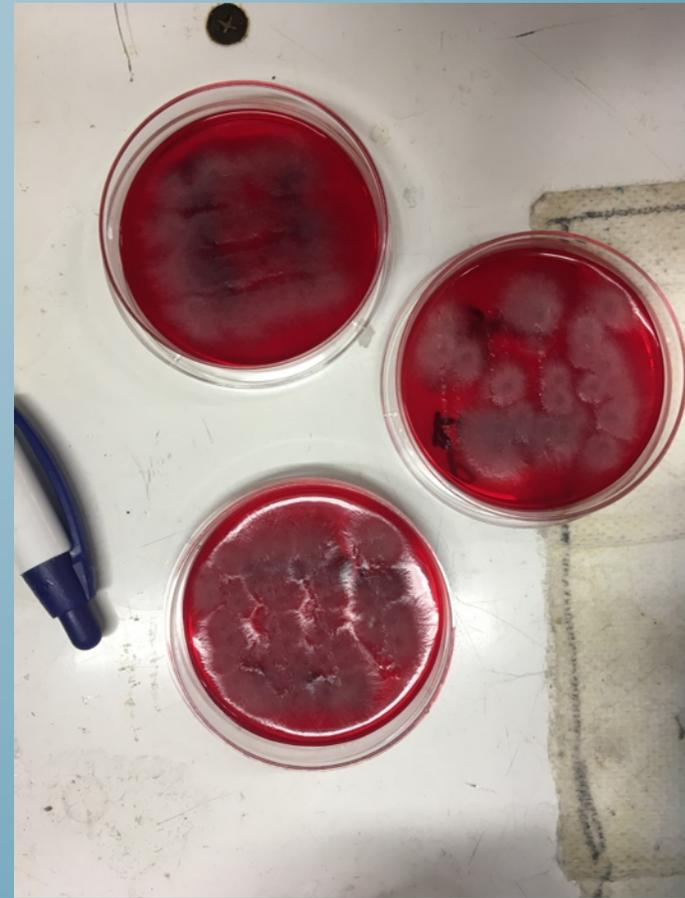
PANLEUKOPENIA

- *Have had multiple outbreaks*
- *50% survival rate – greater in adults and vaccinated kittens*
- *Isolated*
- *Treated supportively with:*
 - *Fluids – SQ*
 - *Antibiotics*
 - *Antiemetics*
 - *Nutrical*
- *Cleared 5 days after first formed stool and a negative test*
 - *3 baths*
 - *Nail trim*
 - *General population*
- *Taught staff to test and treat*



RINGWORM

- Program to take cats from local animal controls to save them from euthanasia
- Relatively easy to treat with trained staff
- Screening
 - All animals should get an intake exam by trained staff
- Culture
 - Super easy to do in house
 - Toothbrush culture
 - Buy toothbrushes and DTM plates online in bulk
 - Incubate
 - Most test positive in 7-10 days



RINGWORM

- Isolate
 - Use full biosecurity protocol
 - All equipment contained within the room
- Treatment
 - Topical – Lyme sulfur dip
 - Oral –
Terbinafine/Itraconazole
- Clearing
 - 2 negative cultures one week apart
- Environment
 - Clean and disinfect
 - Culture



WORK TOGETHER!

- Rounds
 - By trained staff every day!
- Collaborate
 - Work with other groups for each niche
 - Work with other vets for things you can't do
- *Be brave!*
 - *Remember you're saving lives!*



THANK YOU!

Feel free to email me with questions:

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