

Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Program
College of Veterinary Medicine

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Dear Veterinary Students:

The Humane Alliance of Western North Carolina has announced the opening of its veterinary student externship program in High-Quality High-Volume Spay/Neuter.

In my opinion, the Humane Alliance has set a gold standard for delivery of spay/neuter services. Not only is the founding clinic in Asheville, North Carolina a huge success, but the Humane Alliance model has been used to start more than 40 other clinics around the country. Gainesville's first spay/neuter clinic will open this spring using the Humane Alliance system.

Humane Alliance veterinarians took a leadership role in the development of the Association of Shelter Veterinarians guidelines for spay/neuter programs recently published in JAVMA. They are also frequent speakers at national continuing education meetings such as NAVC.

Humane Alliance's leadership in this area has been recognized by national animal welfare funding agencies, which underwrote the construction of a new state-of-the-art training center in Asheville to provide hands-on continuing education in spay/neuter techniques for veterinarians and veterinary students. Complete with housing units for participants, this is the site for the externship program. Students who complete this program are expected to develop a high degree of competence and confidence in sterilization surgery.

I wish that this kind of opportunity to polish surgical skills while providing surgeries that benefitted the animal participants was available when I was a veterinary student. I encourage every veterinary student to give serious consideration to participation.

Sincerely,



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