

Shelters, Humane Societies, Rescue Groups and CVMs

May 2, 2013
VSPA Spring Meeting



History:

Humane Societies/Shelters

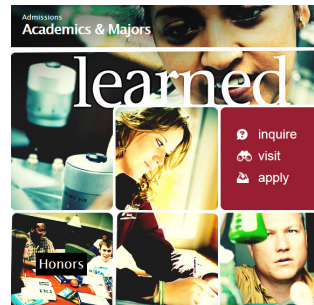
Low income clients

- ✓ Low cost spays and neuters
- ✓ Low cost vaccinations
- ✓ Micro chipping
- ✓ Medical care for shelter-owned animals

History:

College of Veterinary Medicine

- ✓ Clinical case load
- ✓ Surgical opportunities for students
- ✓ Accreditation
- ✓ Financial hardships



Situation:

Seattle Humane Society & WSU-CVM Partnership

- 60,000 sq. ft. facility in Bellevue, WA "90210"
- CVM rent space for shelter medicine and surgery block for students
- CVM work on shelter-owned animals only
- Branding of CVM with Human Society

Potential Problems:

- Low cost spays and neuters devalue veterinary medicine (RDVM and lifetime transactions)
- Shelters have more time to offer general and/or specialized procedures to their own/fostered animals...then to the public?
- Shelters competing with general practices may cause RDVMs to keep cases longer to increase revenues impacting referral hospitals
- Subsidized state institutions competing in the private sector
- What is low income?

Potential Problems:

- Investigation is a low priority with legislative bodies
- RDVMs and referral hospitals don't want to be the bad guys (PR)
- Beachhead for CVMs to compete in the private sector
- Shelters in 501C groups don't get it
- Limited dollars for animal care

Discussion of Possible Solutions

Do we fight them?

- Media
- Legislative
 - Shelter
 - CVM

Do we join them?

- Boards
- Volunteer
- Be of Service
- Donations
- Sponsorship

Befriend them....hold your enemies close?

RDVM versus shelter support by referral hospitals?

a very fine line

