SHELTER MEDICINE PROGRAM RECEIVES $1 MILLION

A School of Veterinary Medicine and Center for Companion Animal Health program dedicated to improving the health and well-being of shelter animals received a $1 million grant in July from Koret Foundation Funds of San Francisco.

The UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program—as it will be known during the course of Koret’s five-year funding commitment—is the nation’s first program to emphasize shelter medicine as a veterinary specialty.

“This grant from Koret Foundation Funds will allow us to expand our shelter outreach and consultation services while training veterinary students and residents in this emerging specialty,” says Kate Hurley, director of the program. “Koret’s support comes at a pivotal time. We are training more students and residents than ever, and as shelters from across the country learn of our services and special expertise, their shelter staffs are seeking help with their critical animal health and management issues. This past year we responded to more than 500 consultation requests.”

In addition to preparing veterinarians for careers in shelter medicine, Koret’s support will provide expanded consultation services nationwide and allow shelter medicine specialists to pursue scientific research that will improve the welfare of animals in shelters.

The Koret Foundation and the Koret Fund are private philanthropic organizations run by independent boards of directors. Since 1979, the boards have directed more than $355 million toward projects that reflect a new philanthropic vision for Northern California.

Koret has previously supported the Center for Companion Animal Health to create the Koret Foundation Center for Veterinary Genetics as well as the veterinary student exchange program with the Koret School of Veterinary Medicine at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Israel.