



# Association of Shelter Veterinarians

## Student Surgical Experiences

*Last reviewed: January 2014*

The Association of Shelter Veterinarians encourages veterinary students to take advantage of opportunities to participate in spay-neuter events both within the United States and abroad. Students are cautioned, however, to participate only in those programs that meet “The Association of Shelter Veterinarians Veterinary Medical Care Guidelines for Spay-Neuter Programs,”<sup>1</sup> and only to the extent that is appropriate for their level of education. For example, only students who have participated in surgical skills laboratories and demonstrated basic competencies should actively assist in or perform surgery. Students who have not participated in surgical skills training, including an assessment of their skills, should limit their role to that of a technical assistant. Student surgeons must be directly supervised by designated, responsible veterinarians.

Students should not participate in surgical programs that are not in compliance with local veterinary practice regulations. Pre-veterinary students and veterinary technicians must not perform surgeries.

### References

1. Looney AL, Bohling MW, Bushby PA, et al. (2008) The Association of Shelter veterinarians veterinary medical care guidelines for spay-neuter programs. *J Am Vet Med Assoc*, 233(1), 74-86.