**Dr. Kate Hurley**

Kate Hurley DVM, MPVM began her career as an animal control officer in 1989 at the Santa Cruz SPCA, a private shelter providing field and sheltering services to the community in Santa Cruz, CA. She enjoyed the job more than she ever could have imagined, especially the feeling that she was able to help people take better care of their pets as well as protecting animals every day.

Becoming a veterinarian seemed a logical way to continue serving both pets and people, and after six years she left the Santa Cruz SPCA to attend the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine.

Hurley soon found she couldn’t tear herself away from shelter work, however, and after graduation from veterinary school in 1999, went immediately to work as a shelter veterinarian. Hurley loved that job, too, but in 2001 couldn’t resist the opportunity to return to UC Davis to become the first in the world to undertake residency in shelter medicine.

During her three year residency, Hurley investigated and characterized one of the first documented outbreaks of virulent systemic feline calicivirus. Hurley has built on this experience with extensive research on feline upper respiratory infection in the multi-cat environment. Following completion of the residency, Hurley became the director of the UC Davis Koret shelter medicine program.

Two of Hurley’s proudest achievements are co-authoring the *Association of Shelter Veterinarians’ Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters*, and co-editing the textbook *Infectious Disease Management in Animal Shelters*. She also co-authored the first-ever vaccine guidelines specifically for shelter dogs and cats.

Hurley co-chaired the organizing committee for a specialty in shelter medicine, an 8-year process that culminated in 2014 with approval by the AVMA of a shelter medicine specialty within the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners.

Hurley’s research interests include welfare of confined dogs and cats, humane and effective strategies to manage community cats, and infectious disease (especially strategies for prevention). She will always love shelter work because it has the potential to improve the lives of so many animals and the people who work so hard to care for them.

**Selected publications**

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