



Session Details & Schedule

Please note that this schedule is subject to change.

Friday, June 12, 2020

The conference day starts at 7:00 p.m. EDT and will end at 8:00 p.m. EDT.

7:00–8:00 p.m. EDT

Friday Night Kick-off with the “Meowvelous” Arden Moore: Keeping Kittens and Kids Safe!

Arden Moore, America’s Pet Health and Safety Coach

Session Description:

Join us Friday night to get the 2020 Online Kitten Conference started off on the right paw! Arden Moore will talk about her new children’s book, *A Kid’s Guide to Cats*, and will discuss how to keep kittens and kids safe, all while Stacy LeBaron and Kristen Petrie work to help audience members familiarize themselves with the GoToWebinar software in preparation for the weekend.

Speaker Bio:

Pet Health and Safety Coach Arden Moore happily wears many “collars” in the pet world as a Fear Free Certified Professional National Speaker, best-selling author, master pet first aid/CPR instructor, and host of the Oh Behave Show on Pet Life Radio, a five-time Podcast Awards finalist. Arden is the founder of Pet First Aid 4U and the director of the Pro Pet Hero Pet First Aid/CPR Instructor program. She often teams up with Pet Safety Dog Kona and Pet Safety Cat Casey to conduct veterinarian-approved pet first aid and pet behavior classes all over the country. Together, they are on a mission to bring out the healthy best in pets...and their people. Learn more by visiting www.ardenmoore.com.

Saturday, June 13, 2020

The conference day starts at 10:00 a.m. EDT and will begin with remarks and announcements from the conference organizers.

Webinar breaks will occur from 11:15–11:30 a.m., 12:30–1:00 p.m., and 3:00–3:15 p.m.

10:15–11:15 a.m. EDT

Kitten Crusaders: Recruiting Private Practice Veterinarians to Save Lives

Nikki Harris, Chief Operating Officer for Jacksonville Humane Society

Session Description:

When the city of Jacksonville, Florida kept seeing an increased number of neonatal and underage kittens entering shelters, the Jacksonville Humane Society (JHS) staged a city-wide intervention. They left no stone unturned in order to tackle the city’s “kitten crisis.” Research and data revealed that while many citizens were willing to keep kittens instead of surrendering them, finances were often a barrier. Enter Kitten Crusaders!, JHS’s innovative program that pairs kitten-finders with local private practice veterinarians in the community to keep kittens out of shelters, while still ensuring they receive proper veterinary care. In its pilot year, Kitten Crusaders kept more than 60 kittens out of the shelter system. In this session, you’ll learn how JHS launched the program, recruited veterinary practices, and counseled kitten-finders. You’ll also learn the basic procedures of this engaging, lifesaving initiative so you can start saving more kittens today!



Session Details & Schedule

Please note that this schedule is subject to change.

Speaker Bio:

Hailing from the great state of Nebraska, Nikki Harris brings more than 20 years of animal welfare education and experience to Jacksonville Humane Society (JHS). Nikki has an associate's degree in veterinary technology, a bachelor's degree in non-profit administration, and two master's degrees from Bellevue University in communications and public administration. Prior to her move to the Sunshine State, Nikki served as the director of placement and behavior for the Nebraska Humane Society. She then moved to Jacksonville in 2012 to serve as the adoptions manager at First Coast No More Homeless Pets, where she oversaw the city's first MEGA Adoption Events, which are now standard practice in many cities. Nikki then moved to Jacksonville Animal Care and Protective Services to serve as shelter manager and later, division chief, where her leadership helped Jacksonville become the largest no-kill city in the nation. Currently, Nikki serves as the chief operating officer for JHS. Nikki enjoys boating and spending time with Jeff and her stepsons Kevin and Justin, and of course has a household of many pets, including dogs Banks, Juicy, and Leon (a.k.a. "P"), and rescue cats Louis, Leah, and Chicken.

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EDT

Kitten Health Scorer

Marthina (Marty) Greer, DVM, JD

Director of Veterinary Services for Revival Animal Health and Veterinary Village

Session Description:

This is a newly developed and still-evolving system by which experienced and inexperienced kitten foster homes can standardize their assessment of neonatal kittens. Using this system, caregivers can provide early intervention for kittens who may be failing to thrive. By giving owners and foster caregivers this tool, we can all speak the same language, and veterinarians can use this to assess the urgency of offering care. The goal is to keep more kittens growing and developing before they are in such trouble that they require hospitalization or are lost to illness and disorders that can be rapidly fatal. With a few inexpensive tools and some practice, veterinary professionals can teach caregivers skills that allow for better kitten outcomes.

Speaker Bio:

Dr. Marty Greer received her bachelor's degree in 1978, her DVM in 1981 from Iowa State University, and her JD in 2010 from Marquette Law School.

Dr. Greer and her husband, Dr. Dan Griffiths, own Veterinary Village and International Canine Semen Bank WI-IL. Dr. Greer has a special interest in pediatrics, small animal reproduction, and behavior. Drs. Greer and Griffiths have two married grown children, Katy (spouse: Tim Anderson) and Karl (spouse: Kelly) and one grandson, Jorin. In addition, they raise and show Pembroke Welsh Corgis and Danish-Swedish Farmdogs. In the past, they have raised and shown Bengal cats as well. Dr. Greer's family has raised six puppies for Canine Companions for Independence, a service dog organization. She is the director of veterinary services at Revival Animal Health, a catalog company. She practices law part-time with her law partner Sheila Kessler at Animal Legal Resources, LLC. Her passion is educating clients and keeping puppies and kittens healthy.

Dr. Greer is a serious foodie and loves beer, cooking, knitting, and photography. She has recently published the book *Canine Reproduction and Neonatology – for Veterinarians, Veterinary Staff, and Breeders*.



Session Details & Schedule

Please note that this schedule is subject to change.

1:00–2:00 p.m. EDT

Destination Adoption: Planning Adoption Events that Broaden Your Reach

Taylor Lefebvre, Programs Manager for Baltimore Animal Rescue & Care Shelter (BARCS)

Session Description:

In the modern world, where consumers want and expect everything to be made easily available, how can animal welfare keep up with the times? While most shelters and rescues are not able to provide delivery service (yet!), there are ways to make your adoptable animals reach audiences on a more accessible level.

Most organizations have seen or participated in adoption events that the public walks right by without noticing. This can be incredibly frustrating for everyone working hard to get animals adopted. By planning higher-impact events, rescues and shelters can see a bigger return on their time investment, as well as more adoptions.

One way to reach adopters is through adoption events—not the typical stand outside of a pet store events, but rather setting up collaborative, marketable destinations that reach a broader audience and make adopters and visitors excited to attend. In this presentation, several topics will be explored, including where and how to set up an adoption event, the pre-planning processes, and crafting an attractive adoption space. We will also delve into adoption marketing, how to choose the right animals for events, and how to collaborate with other rescue groups and shelters.

Speaker Bio:

Taylor Lefebvre is the current programs manager of the Baltimore Animal Rescue & Care Shelter (BARCS), Maryland's largest open-admission shelter. At BARCS, Taylor leads the foster, rescue, resource, and alternative placements, and also leads the offsite adoptions teams, touching the lives of over 20,000 animals annually. Taylor is a hands-on leader with extensive experience in animal welfare and management. She is dedicated to developing, implementing, and measuring programs designed to raise live release rates and better support both animals and humans. She is committed to using a community-based approach of offered whole health resources to help pet owners keep animals out of the shelter system, as well as using welcoming, open processes for adopters, fosters, and volunteers.

Taylor graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a bachelor's degree in integrated social sciences, and from the University of the Pacific's shelter management program.

2:00–3:00 p.m. EDT

Best Practices for Best Outcomes in Kitten Spay/Neuter

Cynthia (Cindi) Delany, DVM, KPA-CTP

Supervising Shelter Veterinarian for the UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program

Session Description:

Our goal is to save more kittens' lives. One of the best ways we can do that is to get them ready for and into their new homes as soon as it's in their best interest. Remember, early-age spay/neuter saves more lives (and resources), with fewer kittens needing foster care and less time spent in foster care for those who do need it!

Let's discuss when kittens should be spayed or neutered to maximize community lifesaving. By safely spaying and neutering kittens when they are old enough, big enough, and healthy enough to have this procedure, we can get them out of foster homes or shelters and into their permanent homes sooner. This gives us the capacity to save even more!



Session Details & Schedule

Please note that this schedule is subject to change.

What age or weight is the “right” age or weight to perform surgery? What other factors are important? (Spoiler alert! We want them to be at least 1.5 lbs. and robustly healthy.) We’ll cover these topics, plus some other important things to do before, during, and after surgery to help kittens do well and recover quickly. Using these techniques, most are up, eating, running around, and playing less than an hour after surgery!

We’ll cover the when, how, and why of it all so that attendees understand these important considerations. We’ll also discuss how to bring this information to other key stakeholders in the process, including management, adopters, veterinarians, and support staff. Join us to learn all of this important and lifesaving information.

Speaker Bio:

Dr. Delany graduated from UCLA with a degree in business/economics and from UC Davis with her DVM in 2000. She has worked as an animal shelter, high-volume spay/neuter, and emergency veterinarian for the past 20 years. She worked for the UC Davis Shelter Medicine Program [initially based out of the Sacramento County shelter and then based out of Yolo County Animal Services (YCAS)] for 8 years. At YCAS, Dr. Delany implemented many lifesaving programs to help increase the live release rate from 50% to over 90%. In addition to her work at YCAS, Dr. Delany has helped other shelters with population management, implementing new lifesaving programs, shelter software use, data analysis, reporting, and statistics. She also runs a private, non-profit rescue group that rescues sick, injured and newborn animals.

Dr. Delany enjoys training and competing with her dogs in agility and other dog sports. She is also a Karen Pryor Academy Certified Animal Trainer and an advocate of positive reinforcement-based training for all animals. She uses these techniques successfully with her own dogs, cats, draft horse, miniature donkeys, and Bactrian camels.

3:15–4:15 p.m. EDT

Understanding and Leveraging Your Transport Options

Chris Roy, Chief Executive Officer of Doobert.com

Session Description:

You may never have thought you’d see the day when cat transport was a thing, but it is. This session will teach you how to start your cat transport program and will explain what you need to know to engage volunteers, find partners, and get your cats safely to their destinations. We will cover everything from the rules and regulations around transport to how to manage the different types of transport (local ride, rescue relay, high-volume, etc.). We’ll even discuss how to get pilots involved. (Yes, the speaker is a pilot!) In this session, you’ll learn:

- How to start your transport program, step by step
- Options for transport (local rides, high-volume, rescue relay)
- Tech options for transport—including using Doobert!
- Keeping up with the laws and rules and how to stay current on them
- What you need to know about pilots and flying animals
- Ten steps to successful rescue relay transports

Speaker Bio:

Chris Roy is an IT professional in his “day job,” managing a global portfolio of IT projects. Nights and weekends, he’s “The Doobert Guy,” having created Doobert.com—the only custom-built software for animal rescue transport. Doobert supports over 1,200 organizations and 26,000 volunteers and does everything from local rides to high-volume transport management. Chris is a technology disrupter in the animal



Session Details & Schedule

Please note that this schedule is subject to change.

welfare world and is constantly looking for ways to streamline the most difficult processes. Chris is also a multi-engine, commercially rated pilot who loves using his flying skills to transport animals. He's supported by his amazing wife Daphne and their five animal children: four cats (Mina, Gracie, Ash, and Ember) and one dog (Maddy).

4:15–5:00 p.m. EDT

Research Panel: Studies Advancing Kitten Care Part 1

Stress Responses and Cross-sucking Behaviors in Orphaned Neonatal Kittens; Famciclovir as a Treatment for Kittens with Ocular Herpesvirus Infection: A Triple Masked, Placebo-Controlled Trial

Mikel Maria Delgado, Ph.D.

Postdoctoral Researcher at University of California, Davis

Karen Vernau, DVM, MAS, DACVIM (Neurology)

Clinical Professor of Neurology/Neurosurgery at the University of California, Davis

Session Description:

Stress Responses and Cross-sucking Behaviors in Orphaned Neonatal Kittens

Dr. Delgado works with rescue groups and foster caretakers to better understand the effects of early life experience on the health and behavior of neonatal kittens. She will present some of her recent research on how maternal separation impacts the stress-responses of neonatal kittens and on cross-sucking behavior and possible interventions.

Famciclovir as a Treatment for Kittens with Ocular Herpesvirus Infection: A Triple Masked, Placebo-Controlled Trial

Famciclovir is an antiviral drug that reduces the duration and severity of upper respiratory infections and associated ocular diseases caused by feline herpesvirus (FHV-1). Although famciclovir is safe and effective in cats, its use in kittens has not been broadly and objectively assessed. As a result, famciclovir is uncommonly prescribed in kittens. Neonatal and juvenile kittens housed within shelters and rescue groups are most at risk of developing the serious infectious upper respiratory disease (IURD) due to FHV-1 because the virus is prevalent in shelters and rescue groups due to high turnover, large populations, variable vaccination history, and stress-related to housing or other diseases. FHV-1 also causes serious eye disease in kittens, including painful corneal ulcers, which may progress to cause rupture of the eye with loss of vision, sometimes necessitating eye removal. As a result, IURD-associated eye diseases in kittens prolongs the length of their stay in foster prior to medical clearance for adoption, especially if surgery such as eye removal is required. Eye removal places kittens at increased risk of death under anesthesia or from blood loss due to their small size. Kittens with severe IURD-associated eye disease are more likely to be humanely euthanized due to the severity of the disease, the intensity of required medical and husbandry care, and concern for a poor prognosis for vision. We believe that famciclovir will dramatically reduce the severity and duration of IURD-associated ocular disease in kittens, thereby revolutionizing their management, improving their welfare, and increasing their adoptability in shelters and rescue groups worldwide.

In this session, Dr. Vernau will discuss the ongoing study "Famciclovir as a Treatment for Kittens with Ocular Herpesvirus Infection: A Triple-Masked, Placebo-Controlled Trial."

Speaker Bio:

Dr. Mikel Maria Delgado



Session Details & Schedule

Please note that this schedule is subject to change.

Dr. Mikel Maria Delgado is a postdoctoral fellow at the School of Veterinary Medicine at UC Davis, where her research explores the behavior of cats in multi-cat households and the health and development of orphaned neonatal kittens. Mikel received her Ph.D. from UC Berkeley, where she studied animal behavior and the human-animal relationship. Mikel has worked professionally with cats for almost 20 years, starting at the Cat Behavior Program of the San Francisco SPCA, and more recently through her cat behavior consulting partnership, Feline Minds. She offers consultations for cat guardians and rescue organizations on preventing and solving behavior problems. Mikel is co-author of the 2017 book *Total Cat Mojo: The Ultimate Guide to Life with Your Cat*, with Jackson Galaxy, and she has published her research in several academic journals, including the *Journal of Comparative Psychology*, the *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, and *Anthrozoös: A Multidisciplinary Journal of the Interactions of People and Animals*. Learn more at mikeldelgado.com.

Karen Vernau

Karen Vernau received her DVM in 1991 from the Ontario Veterinary College. She practiced in Canada and then in Australia before completing a residency at UC Davis and becoming ACVIM board-certified in neurology in 1997. Dr. Vernau is a professor of clinical neurology/neurosurgery at UC Davis, where she also serves as the faculty mentor for the Fracture Club and the Orphan Kitten Project. Her research interests include the husbandry, medical care, and assessment of kittens; inflammatory brain disease, neurogenetics, and metabolic brain disease. In addition to one husband and two children, Dr. Vernau has two dogs and six cats, and she always has a house full of foster kittens.

Sunday, June 14, 2020

The conference day starts at 10:00 a.m. EDT and webinar breaks will occur from 12:00–12:30 p.m., 1:30–1:45 p.m., and 2:45–3:00 p.m.

10:00–11:00 a.m. EDT

Kitten Behavioral Training: How to Raise a Well-Adjusted Cat

Emily Carl, CPDT-KA, Cat and Dog Trainer for the Humane Animal Welfare Society

Session Description:

This session directly addresses common behavioral problems that arise when raising kittens and how to proactively resolve those issues. Ankle biting, night attacks, excessive hiding, and inappropriate scratching can all be prevented through positive reinforcement, redirection, and desensitization techniques. Whether a kitten is already showing signs of problematic behavior, or the caregiver simply wants to set their cat up for success, there are behavioral techniques the average kitten caregiver should know. Even the most unruly kitten can become a behaviorally sound and well-adjusted adult cat—with the proper guidance.

Speaker Bio:

Emily Carl has over a decade of animal care experience and over five years of experience working in animal welfare at a variety of levels. She provides both cat and dog behavior consultations and teaches kitten and dog training classes. She recently earned her professional dog trainer certification and is working towards her cat behavior consultant certification. Some of Emily's most rewarding experiences include raising foster kittens and socializing fractious cats. Emily credits her "foster failure" Otto with sparking her passion for misunderstood cats.



Session Details & Schedule

Please note that this schedule is subject to change.

11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. EDT

How to Host a Mega Kitten Adoption Event: 100 Kitten Adoptions in a Day? Yes, You Can!

Heather Svoboda, Communications & Development Manager for Cat Adoption Team of Sherwood, Oregon
Michelle Lynch, Shelter Manager for Cat Adoption Team

Session Description:

Is your shelter overrun with kittens? Are your foster homes full? For more than 10 years, Cat Adoption Team (CAT) has been finding homes for 100 or more kittens during a popular one-day adoption event: Kitten Palooza. Get the scoop on everything from planning kitten intake to keeping your crowd of adopters entertained. Learn how to engage foster families, get press for your event, and save more lives!

- In this session, you will learn how to:
- Plan and schedule intake and foster care for kittens before the big day
- Market the event successfully for the best possible turnout
- Maximize staff, volunteer, and foster family involvement
- Make sure kittens are prepared to put their best paw forward

Speaker Bio:

Heather J. Svoboda

Heather is the communications and development manager at Cat Adoption Team (CAT). She has over 15 years of communications experience and a decade of experience in fundraising. She started in animal welfare work as a volunteer at PAWS Chicago before moving to the Pacific Northwest. In 2011, Heather joined CAT as a shelter associate, and she was hired into her current role in 2013. In this position, Heather manages CAT's marketing, public relations, and fundraising efforts, including initiatives and events that support the foster and adoption programs.

Heather holds a master's degree in anthrozoology from Canisius College and a professional certificate in nonprofit fundraising from Portland State University. She is a member of the Willamette Valley Development Officers and The Association for Animal Welfare Advancement.

In her free time, Heather enjoys yoga, hiking, and trying to impress her cats with parody songs and comedy routines!

Michelle Lynch

Michelle is the shelter manager at Cat Adoption Team (CAT). She got her start in animal welfare over 15 years ago as a youth volunteer at the Humane Society of Arizona. During her high school and college years, Michelle volunteered and interned at several animal welfare-focused organizations, serving both wildlife and domesticated animals. CAT hired Michelle as a shelter associate in 2013. She later worked as CAT's foster coordinator before being promoted into her current role in 2015. As a shelter manager, Michelle is responsible for supervising a team of shelter associates and caregivers, managing customer service operations, and overseeing CAT's adoption program.

Michelle holds a bachelor's degree in animal sciences. When not at work, she enjoys hanging out with her husband and their three cats, as well as board gaming, kayaking, and cooking.



Session Details & Schedule

Please note that this schedule is subject to change.

12:30–1:30 p.m. EDT

Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP): Updates in Our Knowledge and Approach

Erin Doyle, DVM, Senior Director, Shelter Medicine for the ASPCA

Session Description:

Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) is a devastating and frustrating disease that can affect shelter cats and kittens. Join us as we review our knowledge of this complex condition and discuss practical approaches when faced with FIP in our shelters or in our adopters' homes. Learn about how new research can help in our understanding of why FIP develops and how we can apply this information to FIP diagnosis and, hopefully, treatment.

Speaker Bio:

Dr. Erin Doyle is a senior director of shelter medicine on the shelter medicine services team within the ASPCA's Shelter Outreach Division and is board certified in shelter medicine practice through the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners. Dr. Doyle received her DVM from Tufts University in 2004. After several years in private practice, she joined the shelter medicine team at the Animal Rescue League of Boston, where she worked for over 10 years before joining the ASPCA in June 2018. Dr. Doyle also completed a fellowship with the Koret Shelter Medicine Program at UC Davis in 2012. She is the immediate past president of the Association of Shelter Veterinarians and is an adjunct faculty member in shelter medicine at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University.

1:45–2:45 p.m. EDT

Research Panel: Studies Advancing Kitten Care Part 2 Mortality Risk Factors in a Kitten Nursery; Diagnosing Feline Panleukopenia in Shelter Kittens; Screening Shelter Cats for FeLV: Balancing Disease Control and Lifesaving

Erin Doyle, DVM, Senior Director, Shelter Medicine for the ASPCA

Linda Jacobson, Senior Manager, Shelter Medicine Advancement for Toronto Humane Society

Kyrsten Janke, Research Assistant for Toronto Humane Society

Monica Frenden, Maddie's Director of Feline Lifesaving, American Pets Alive!

Session Description:

Research Abstract: Mortality Risk Factors in a Kitten Nursery

Data was collected on all kittens entering the ASPCA's New York City-based kitten nursery in 2017 to assess for clinical signs and intake characteristics associated with a higher risk of mortality. These mortality risk factors can be used to fine-tune protocols to quickly identify and more closely intervene for the highest risk kittens.

Diagnosing Feline Panleukopenia in Shelter Kittens: New Study Findings

Feline parvovirus/feline panleukopenia virus (FPV) is a highly contagious pathogen that can affect cats of all ages, with the highest mortality occurring in kittens. In shelters, FPV is a leading cause of severe illness, mortality, outbreaks, and closures.

Until recently, the only "go-to" test was a point-of-care test designed for dogs, with poor sensitivity for feline panleukopenia. As a result, it



Session Details & Schedule

Please note that this schedule is subject to change.

has been difficult to know how to appropriately manage kittens that show clinical signs of panleukopenia but have negative test results. There is limited information about post-infection virus shedding. This is important because it affects isolation times and recommendations for foster parents and adopters. Post-vaccinal shedding has not been investigated in shelter kittens, where modified live vaccines are given frequently, and co-infections are common. A false positive result from a vaccine could lead to unnecessary isolation, increased length of stay, and even euthanasia, so it is important to distinguish between true infections and vaccine positives.

The study compared fecal samples, anal/rectal swabs, and vomit from 151 kittens with suspected panleukopenia to determine whether alternative sample types can be used for earlier diagnosis. The IDEXX SNAP® Canine Parvo test was compared with the Real-Time panleukopenia PCR test, which was used as the gold standard. Kittens with clinical panleukopenia were followed for five weeks to measure post-infection virus shedding. The study also followed 50 healthy cats and kittens for five weeks after vaccination to assess the frequency and duration of post-vaccine positives.

The talk will present the main study findings and their implications for the diagnosis of panleukopenia in shelter kittens and cats.

Screening Shelter Cats for FeLV: Balancing Disease Control and Lifesaving

Approximately 3% of cats are infected with the Feline Leukemia virus (FeLV) nationwide. An FeLV diagnosis impacts 60,000 cats in animal shelters each year and 2.7 million cats in private homes. FeLV is a contagious retrovirus associated with disease and premature death in some infected cats. Study findings have given researchers new insights and further questions about the disease, and Monica will discuss some of these as they relate to neonatal kittens.

Speaker Bio:

Dr. Erin Doyle

Dr. Erin Doyle is a senior director of shelter medicine on the shelter medicine services team within the ASPCA's Shelter Outreach Division and is board certified in shelter medicine practice through the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners. Dr. Doyle received her DVM from Tufts University in 2004. After several years in private practice, she joined the shelter medicine team at the Animal Rescue League of Boston, where she worked for over 10 years before joining the ASPCA in June 2018. Dr. Doyle also completed a fellowship with the Koret Shelter Medicine Program at UC Davis in 2012. She is the immediate past president of the Association of Shelter Veterinarians and is an adjunct faculty member in shelter medicine at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University.

Dr. Linda Jacobson

Dr. Linda Jacobson obtained her veterinary degree in Pretoria, South Africa, and went on to specialize in companion animal internal medicine. She completed a graduate certificate in shelter medicine through the University of Florida in 2013. Her clinical experience includes 10 years at a veterinary academic teaching hospital as part of a multi-disciplinary team, and 10 years as a full-time shelter veterinarian at Toronto Humane Society (THS). She has been a senior manager of shelter medicine advancement at THS since late 2018.

Clinical research has been a highly rewarding part of Linda's career. Her current research focuses on projects with the potential to help increase lifesaving capacity in shelters. She has published 38 articles in peer-reviewed journals, most recently a study comparing PCR with fungal culture for the diagnosis of dermatophytosis, and one on medical conditions and outcomes in hoarded cats. Her passions and interests include shelter medicine, humane sheltering, infectious diseases, animal hoarding, and evidence-based medicine.

Kyrsten Janke

Kyrsten Janke obtained her undergraduate degree in animal biology from the University of Alberta. While there, she pursued an early interest in research by assisting on several projects, including Ferruginous hawk behavior, Canadian Lynx habitat use, and a Bighorn sheep



Session Details & Schedule

Please note that this schedule is subject to change.

microsatellite project. Kyrsten has been a research assistant at Toronto Humane Society since mid-2019. Kyrsten is passionate about the collaborative nature of shelter research. She is particularly interested in population health metrics and humane, fear-free sheltering/research.

Monica Frenden

Monica Frenden is the director of feline lifesaving at American Pets Alive!, an instructor for the American Pets Alive!'s Maddie's® Lifesaving Academy and a City of Austin animal advisory commissioner. Before she started teaching the Austin No Kill Model to students, Monica founded a trap-neuter-return organization in rural Illinois and pioneered one of the nation's first and largest working cat programs. In 2012, she joined Austin Pets Alive!, where she served as the cat program manager, leading her team to an 88 percent growth in cat adoptions, and helping the city of Austin achieve a citywide 98 percent live release rate for cats. Monica is a frequent speaker and advisor on innovative ways to save every cat, including cats with feline leukemia, community cats, and shelter cats in need of medical care.

3:00–4:00 p.m. EDT

Fearless Fungus Fighting: How to (Realistically!) Start a Ringworm Treatment Program

Kara Ludke, Program Coordinator for Best Friends Animal Society, Los Angeles, California

Session Description:

Does the word “ringworm” make your stomach drop with fear and dread? Let's change that! Ringworm is not fatal, and it is completely treatable, but the length of treatment can seem overwhelming to many. With the right tools, though, it can be manageable in ANY rescue, shelter, or foster home. This session will focus on how to start or re-vamp a ringworm treatment program using realistic action items that won't break the bank. Every organization has a different set of resources, and ringworm programs can be customized to fit the logistics of each shelter or rescue. What works for a small foster-based rescue may not work for a large open-admission municipal shelter, but there are things each can do to treat ringworm and prevent it from spreading. By breaking down common misconceptions about the disease and looking more closely at the science of how ringworm operates and grows, this presentation will clarify which aspects of treatment are more important than others and how they can be implemented in different types of facilities. Fighting ringworm is a collaborative community effort, and it becomes far less scary when more rescues are able to play a part in the battle and relieve the burden.

Speaker Bio:

In her current role as a program coordinator, Kara is a member of the cat leadership team at Best Friends Animal Society in Los Angeles. She oversees operations at the Jefferson Park facility, which works with treating and socializing ringworm and working cat populations. Kara has played a dynamic role in creating and leading the successful and recently updated ringworm program, significantly decreasing the length of treatment and reducing ringworm-related euthanasia in Los Angeles shelters. Although she specializes in ringworm treatment, Kara has a definite interest in all things cat care. She's a true cat lady, constantly researching and finding new ways to better understand and care for the feline species, particularly within shelter environments. But don't worry, she loves dogs too, and has her own special pup at home named Taco.



Session Details & Schedule

Please note that this schedule is subject to change.

4:00–5:00 p.m. EDT

Saving Kittens In Partnership (SKIP)

Simone Kelham, Founder of Newborn Kitten Rescue

Melissa Thompson, DVM, Vice President of Medical Operations for the Arizona Humane Society

Session Description:

Through the SKIP program, Newborn Kitten Rescue (NKR) and Arizona Humane Society (AHS) work together to save the lives of critical care neonates. AHS currently runs the only shelter-based 24/7 neonatal nursery in Phoenix, AZ. The unit has a capacity of 56 kittens and is staffed by technicians and volunteers. The volume of kittens being surrendered far outweighs the capacity of the unit, however, and AHS struggles to accommodate the smallest neonates and those suffering from illness and injury. NKR assists by providing specialist care for these most critical neonates, utilizing a small nursery and a team of trained, highly skilled fosters.

The session will explore why working together makes sense, how it can be mutually beneficial to both organizations and, more importantly, how it can increase lifesaving.

- We will outline how SKIP operates and discuss how to implement a similar program by:
- Identifying your strengths and recognizing areas where you need help
- Structuring the partnership and channels of communication
- Setting goals and preparing to be flexible
- Using your partnership to leverage resources

Speaker Bio:

Simone Kelham

Simone Kelham is the founder and president of Newborn Kitten Rescue, a 501(c)3 dedicated to rescuing orphaned kittens that would otherwise die or be euthanized due to lack of care, knowledge, or resources. Simone, a law school graduate, previously worked in professional services and nonprofit marketing until moving to Arizona in 2016, when she began fostering and volunteering with Arizona Humane Society (AHS). Simone quickly became focused on saving the lives of critical care neonates and joined the employees of the bottle baby team at AHS, later progressing to the role of kitten counselor, training and coordinating the bottle baby admissions and fosters.

Simone's experience at AHS led her to realize the overwhelming need for more organizations to become involved in the mission. Simone believed collaboration with AHS was key to saving more lives and this led to her devise the SKIP (Saving Kittens in Partnership) program, which in its first year saved 140 kittens and gained grant support from Best Friends and Orphan Kitten Club, among others.

Dr. Melissa Thompson

Dr. Melissa Thompson started practicing veterinary medicine in 2008 in private practice. While she enjoyed her work, the challenges of shelter medicine spoke to her and in 2011, she started working at the Arizona Humane Society (AHS). Since starting shelter work, Dr. Thompson has seen significant change not only in shelter medicine as a whole but also specifically in programs at AHS. During her time at AHS, she has helped develop protocols for their "Special Projects," including the addition of a Parvo ward, kitten nursery, bottle baby nursery, and "Mutterernity" ward. Being able to help animals that would often be considered "unhealthy" in other shelters is a goal shared by both Dr. Thompson and by AHS as it continues to grow. When not at work, Dr. Thompson spends her time with her own menagerie, including six dogs, two cats, three horses, two pot-bellied pigs, and a sulcata tortoise.