



January 29–31, 2021

All times listed are Eastern Time.

Friday, January 29

7:00–7:15 p.m.

Stacy LeBaron, Community Cats Podcast

Opening Remarks

7:15–8:30 p.m.

Pat Dames, TNR Texas

Bryan Kortis, Neighborhood Cats

How to Start a TNR Group

Learn how to start your own TNR group with advice from two seasoned TNR professionals.

About Pat Dames

Pat lives in Austin, TX and is the founder and manager of TNR Texas. She is also a trapper with the City of Austin and Shadow Cats and has a long history of volunteering with many cat rescue groups around the country. Most of Pat's professional work has been in nonprofit management, with a focus on building relationships, marketing, and program development in the areas of public health, women's cancer support, equine therapy, and even the management of a nonprofit animal shelter. Pat lives with three cats, all rescues.

About Bryan Kortis

Bryan is co-founder and national programs director for Neighborhood Cats, a leading community cat advocacy group with hands-on programs in New York City, New Jersey, and Maui. Currently, he and his wife Susan Richmond live in Hawaii and can usually be found trapping cats or releasing them after they've been neutered. In between stints with Neighborhood Cats, Bryan served as a grants manager for PetSmart Charities, overseeing more than \$21 million in TNR and spay/neuter projects. He has produced many of the leading educational materials on TNR, including award-winning books and videos; has assisted numerous communities in setting up large-scale TNR programs, and is a frequent presenter on community cat issues. Bryan has a BA from Cornell University and a JD from the University of California, Berkeley.

Saturday, January 30

10:00–10:15 a.m.

Stacy LeBaron

Welcome

10:15–11:15 a.m.

James Evans, Companions and Animals for Reform and Equity (CARE)

CARE Centers: Community Owned, Community Run

James will be addressing the importance of community in animal welfare. He will talk in detail about CARE's vision of CARE Centers and how they will support community cats and cats in general, as well as the community they live in. James will also talk about the pilot city of Atlanta, and what is taking place in Georgia.

About James Evans

James is a multi-award-winning creative strategist and leader with 25+ years of experience developing relationships between organizations and their constituents. His expertise has been utilized across a diverse group of brands, both nonprofit and for profit.

James has played an integral part in animal welfare projects such as the Humane Society's Pets for Life, Adopters Welcome, Outdoor Cats Research, Stop Puppy Mills, Spayathon, as well as Best Friends Animal Society's Outreach Action Team, Maddie's Fund, and the Let's Fix This Campaign from the SPCA of Texas.

James is the founder and current CEO of CARE, a nonprofit that is using unique tools to help change the animal welfare field by addressing implicit bias, expanding research, and creating narratives to help save more lives. James sits on the board of directors for the National Animal Care & Control Association (NACA) and is a husband and father of three children.

11:15 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Danielle Bays, Humane Society of the United States

The D.C. Cat Count

Demonstrating how well community cat programs "work" can be instrumental in building support among community members, government officials, and other stakeholders. Hear about how the DC Cat Count, a three-year integrated study into cat population dynamics, is developing data-based tools to help us better plan and evaluate the impact of our community cat programs and help us reach our goals. The DC Cat Count is a collaboration between the Humane Rescue Alliance, PetSmart Charities, ASPCA, the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), and a team of academic researchers.

About Danielle Bays

As the senior analyst for cat protection and policy, Danielle works to clear policy pathways, broaden support, and increase the impact of community cat management efforts nationwide as part of the companion animal policy team at the HSUS. Danielle has spent her 20+ year career in animal welfare advocating for the humane treatment of animals, both wild and domestic, and promoting the

human-animal bond. Originally from Western New York, Danielle holds a BS in animal science from Cornell University and an MS in animals and public policy from Tufts University. Just prior to joining the HSUS in 2015, she managed the community cat program in Washington DC. Danielle has TNRed more cats than she can count. She lives with five cats and a catio in Washington DC.

12–12:30 p.m.

Lunch break

12:30–1:30 p.m.

Sterling Davis, The Trap King

Dr. Josh Fisher, Animal Care and Control, Charlotte, North Carolina

Scott Giacoppo, Best Friends Animal Society

Panel: Community Cats and Masculinity (moderated by James Evans, CARE)

A discussion about community cats, masculinity, and the false expectation of toxic masculinity that exists inside animal welfare.

About Sterling Davis

Sterling “TrapKing” Davis is a well traveled, ex-military music and cat enthusiast who has always loved entertaining and interacting with people. Since childhood, he was also the only guy in his neighborhood that loved cats. One day, while taking a break from the rap group he was performing with, Sterling saw a posting for a job cleaning litter boxes at his local shelter. He needed something to do to pass the time, so he applied for the job.

He started cleaning litter boxes and loved working with cats so much that he was promoted to an outreach position where he could focus on TNR, the only way to humanely control cat overpopulation. It was at that point that he decided to give up his successful music career and focus on his passion for cats.

In 2017, Sterling started his own nonprofit, Trapking Humane Cat Solutions, where he focuses on educating, assisting, and doing TNR and community cat management. Sterling’s mission is not only to change the stereotypes of men in cat rescue, but also to bridge the gap in communication between black communities and predominantly white animal welfare organizations. Sterling lives and breathes his motto: *You don’t lose cool points for compassion.*

Today Sterling is a sought-after speaker all over the world, speaking at events like Cat Con, Cat Camp, and Meow DC, as well as fundraising events for small rescues and shelters across the United States. Sterling is planning to travel the country in his brand-new recreational vehicle soon, teaching animal advocates in communities of all sizes how to care for their community cats.

About Dr. Josh Fisher

Dr. Fisher has an educational background in population management/medicine, public health, veterinary sciences, informatics, and healthcare administration. He has been working in the veterinary medical/ animal welfare field for over 15 years, holding management roles in private practices, corporate practices, the North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine, county government, and now as the Animal Services Director for the City of Charlotte/Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department. A strong advocate for professional development and growth in the animal welfare industry, Dr. Fisher seeks to involve staff in continued education and training opportunities, as well as in cutting edge industry

research. His professional interests focus on disease reduction/prevention, advanced marketing/placement and intake reduction tactics, strategic planning, and staff career development in the area of animal welfare. His projects include increasing veterinary/veterinary technician students' interest in the animal welfare industry, as well as working with community veterinarians to break down barriers, develop relationships, and increase involvement in community-focused animal welfare (animal control and sheltering) practices. It is a passion of Dr. Fisher's to bring a level of awareness to the animal welfare industry in such a way that young adults and college students make the decision to pursue animal welfare as a profession, rather than falling into it by chance.

About Scott Giacoppo

Scott is the director of municipal and shelter support for Best Friends and oversees the development of lifesaving efficacy and sustainability for animal welfare partners across the US.

Through Best Friends' shelter outreach program, Scott provides leadership and hands-on training for strategic shelter partners, conducts professional shelter operations and field assessments, and leads progressive, humane training for animal control agencies and officers. In his current role, Scott champions a collaborative approach to partnership and believes that each animal welfare organization, along with the community it serves, is unique and deserving of support that speaks to its individual needs.

Prior to joining Best Friends, Scott was chief of animal field services for the District of Columbia for 10 years, overseeing all animal control and cruelty investigations team members for the Humane Rescue Alliance. In this role, he designed and implemented a number of successful community-based programs, helped draft and secure critical animal protection legislation, and represented the organization as a speaker at various regional and national events. He also established a TNR program that garnered citywide support and helped reduce the percentage of stray cats killed from 85 percent to 12 percent.

Scott has been involved in animal protection since 1989, when he became an animal caregiver in Minneapolis. He soon returned to his hometown of Boston, Massachusetts, where he began his career with the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals as a special state police officer for cruelty investigations. During this time, he received the Boston Police Commissioner's Citation for work with dangerous dogs and street gangs, as well as certificates of excellence for promoting and providing community policing education from the New England Crime Prevention Partnership, and a certificate of appreciation from the Rockingham County (NH) Attorney's Office for assistance in investigation and prosecution of precedent-setting animal fighting cases.

1:30–2:15 p.m.

Monica Frenden, American Pets Alive!

Bobby Mann, Human Animal Support Services (HASS)

How Human and Animal Support Services Benefit Community Cats

Learn about the HASS model and how it helps support community cat programs.

About Monica Frenden

Monica 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 (TX) animal advisory commissioner. Before teaching the Austin No Kill Model to students, Monica founded a TNR 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, led her team to an 88 percent growth in cat adoptions, and helped 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.

About Bobby Mann

Bobby is the pilot director of the Human Animal Support Services project and project implementation director for American Pets Alive! His background focus has primarily been within municipal animal sheltering, specifically at the City of Sacramento's Front Street Animal Shelter. With a people-first mindset, Bobby has continually focused on creating inclusive cultures, in addition to emphasizing the use of social media and communications to help change public perception of the animal welfare industry. Bobby previously operated a human education animal welfare nonprofit that focused on empowering youth from underserved communities through literacy and vocational programs.

2:15–2:30 p.m.

Break, cat trivia

2:30–3:30 p.m.

Sterling Davis, TrapKing

Having Tough Conversations: Dealing with Feral Humans

Let's dive into a topic that's uncomfortable to talk about: race and TNR. We all know TNR and community cat care are dominated by white women. So how do you rescue a colony when the people in the area don't look like you? The "TrapKing" has the tips, tricks, and insight to help you bridge the racial divide.

3:30–5:00 p.m.

Marla Browne, Best Friends Animal Society

Alyssa Dazza, The Animal Foundation

Charlotte Fox, Humane Rescue Alliance

Sam Wilson, Iowa Humane Alliance

Community Cat Coordinator Panel

Four community cats coordinators share their experiences creating impactful programs.

About Marla Browne

Marla is the manager of the National Embed Program at Best Friends Animal Society. She has been involved with animal sheltering since 2008. She holds an MA in Spanish translation from the University of Puerto Rico and is a provisionally licensed wild bird rehabilitator. In her role with Best Friends, Marla works with her team to support shelters across the country with the implementation of programs. She is particularly focused on programs that increase cat lifesaving, including community cat programming, complaint mitigation, customer service, kitten programming, and community engagement.

About Alyssa Dazza

Alyssa is the feline programs manager at The Animal Foundation in Las Vegas, where she has spent the last several years developing and expanding successful community cat, working cat, and neonatal care programs. Before moving west, Alyssa served as a lead veterinary technician with the Humane Society of Greater Miami, as well as an animal care specialist, veterinary technician, and neonatal foster coordinator with Miami-Dade Animal Services. A lifelong learner, Alyssa has completed a graduate certificate in shelter medicine with the University of Florida and looks forward to completing a master's degree in this area, as well as to continuing to develop best practices in feline lifesaving.

About Charlotte Fox

Having spent the last 25 years in Washington DC trapping cats, Charlotte has encountered almost every trapping situation imaginable—until the next one comes along. Born with what she describes as the "cat gene," Charlotte has worked to balance the challenges of protecting cats living outdoors with her other interests in protecting our natural environment as a lifelong Audubon Society member and former staff person. Charlotte finds that working with the people who care for their community cats is the most rewarding part of her commitment to TNR.

About Sam Wilson

Sam loves all animals: feathered, scaled, and furry, and was taught to respect all life at a very young age. Growing up, the family pets were her companions and best friends. She knew early on that she wanted to spend her life helping the creatures she loved. Like many other children, she was going to grow up to be a veterinarian. That direction changed gradually through her education and experience, which led her to Iowa Humane Alliance (IHA).

IHA's mission, vision, and core values align with Sam's own personal ethics and outlook on life. Animal welfare advocacy is simply in her nature and she feels extremely honored to work with a group of people who are as excited about and as dedicated to making a positive impact as she is! Hands down, Sam's favorite part of her job is being part of the solution to pet overpopulation and helping people take care of their pets. In her position, Sam has the ability to be the voice for those who have none, including community cats and families with pets living in under-served areas.

Being an optimistic idealist, Sam has big dreams of helping to fulfill IHA's vision to create a state where all companion animals have safe long-term homes, where feral cats are valued and protected, and where euthanasia is no longer used as a form of population control.

Sam's work experience covers a wide range of fields, from vet assistant and adoption counselor to after-school enrichment for children and caring for rhinos and sea lions at the Henry Doorly Zoo. Her educational path has covered a broad spectrum as well; she has earned an AS in pre-veterinary medicine, a BS in animal ecology, and an MA in philanthropy and non-profit development.

5:00 p.m.

Deborah Cribbs, Joanie Bernard Foundation and The Ten Movement

Bonus segment: The Ten Movement

Deborah Cribbs, chairperson of the Ten Movement in Cincinnati, discusses the viral TV spot "Scooter the Neutered Cat" and how Ten recently shifted focus away from owned cats and toward community cats with

a new breakthrough campaign, “Mild Kingdom.” Find out whether the campaign is working, what the community thinks, and how it has impacted operations in local shelters.

About Deborah Cribbs

Deborah is the chair of the board of trustees for the Joanie Bernard Foundation and the Ten Movement—the parent organizations of Scooter the Neutered Cat. Deborah considers herself Scooter’s “mother” and has committed herself to improving the (nine) lives of cats.

Deborah’s personal experience has deepened her connection to the work of the movement she leads. She has a colony of community cats in her backyard and is an admitted “failed” foster parent. She has overseen every Scooter campaign and encouraged her creative team to keep pushing the boundaries to spread awareness for spay/neuter, community cat education, and adoption and fostering efforts—all supporting the mission to make Cincinnati a no-kill cat community.

In addition to having played a role in dramatically raising the live-release rate to unprecedented heights in the region, Deborah has guided the Ten Movement to provide support and forge partnerships with Greater Cincinnati shelters, adoption, and foster organizations and spay/neuter clinics.

Deborah believes there is still plenty of work to be done. The Ten Movement continues to fund creative public service campaigns spearheaded by Scooter the Neutered Cat, including the recent “Mild Kingdom” initiative for community cat awareness and past promotions like “Cat Math” and “Talk to Your Cat About Sex” that have sparked viral interest across the country for their fun, cheeky takes on life-saving resources for cats.

A devout animal lover, Deborah is a vegetarian who enjoys trying new foods and an occasional glass of red wine. She also loves books, Star Trek, and international travel, which sparks new opportunities to learn and appreciate cultural differences. She lives in Cincinnati with her husband and pets. Deborah and Scooter have no plans to slow down. They will continue educating the public until there is a 100% no-kill nation for cats.

Sunday, January 31

10:00–10:15 a.m.

Stacy LeBaron

Welcome

10:15–11:00 a.m.

Aimee St. Arnaud, Open Door Veterinary Support

Opening the Door to Access to Veterinary Care

Mounting financial insecurity is likely to make access to veterinary care a growing challenge for millions of Americans. Fifty-nine million pets live in families making less than \$20,000 annually and one in four households have experienced a barrier to veterinary care in the last two years. What can we do to help keep pets and families together and ensure that pets don't go without care or that they aren't surrendered to a shelter simply due to finances?

Hear how your organization can create a future where all pets have access to quality veterinary care in your community by offering a variety of financial support tools to clients and building collaborative programs between private veterinary practices, nonprofits, and human social services to meet the need.

About Aimee St. Arnaud

Aimee is a business partner in two full-service veterinary clinics (Community Pet Care Clinic in Ohio and Open Door Veterinary Care in North Carolina) that have built a financially sustainable business model for providing access to veterinary care and removing barriers. She offers a mentorship program for nonprofit organizations and private veterinary practices that want to replicate this business model in their own communities.

11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Chris Roy, Doobert.com

Foster Care, COVID-19, and Technology

We will discuss innovative technologies to help you scale your foster program and engage with your fosters more effectively. Amazing foster programs know the importance of communicating regularly with your fosters and making them a part of the adoption process. This has been especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic. We'll share tools and tech to help.

About Chris Roy

Chris Roy is an IT Executive in his "day" job and founder of Doobert.com during his nights and weekends. Chris has a passion for cats and dogs and continues to build out the Doobert functionality to solve animal rescue's most difficult problems. Doobert is powerful software and the only platform that allows you to manage a foster program at scale, as well as the only software that manages local, regional, and national transports for animals. Chris is supported by his amazing wife Daphne and together, they have four cats and one dog.

12–12:30 p.m.

Lunch break

12:30–1:15 p.m.

Holly Ganz, Chief Science Officer, Animal Biome

KittyBiome: Learnings from a Cat-izen Science Project

KittyBiome is a citizen science project that was started by researchers at UC Davis and collaborators at several other academic institutions. The aim was to describe the microbiome of pet cats and to see how the composition of gut bacteria might vary with health, age, and lifestyle. Buoyed by support from the cat community, the project was launched on Kickstarter. Holly will present some of the key findings the KittyBiome project uncovered about cat health and the gut microbiome.

About Holly Ganz

Holly Ganz, PhD, is the chief science officer and co-founder of AnimalBiome, a biotech company that provides microbiome assessments and oral fecal transplant capsules to restore key beneficial microbes in cats (and dogs). Holly received her PhD from the University of California, Davis and was a postdoctoral scholar at UC Berkeley. Her efforts to translate academic research into solutions for companion animals began five years ago when she launched KittyBiome, a citizen science project, which revealed that imbalances in the gut microbiome are common in pet cats and that there is a pressing need for better approaches to maintain and restore gut health. After learning about the medical merry-go-round for cats with chronic gastrointestinal issues from participants in the KittyBiome project, she started AnimalBiome in order to develop new solutions to help these kitties.

1:15–1:30 p.m.

Kierianne Hansen, The National Kitten Coalition

What's Coming Up at the 2021 Online Kitten Conference

1:30–2:15 p.m.

Dr. Heather Kennedy, KC Pet Project

All About FIP

Dr. Kennedy will share information all about Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP), including new research that has uncovered the possibility of new treatments for this mysterious disease.

About Dr. Heather Kennedy

Dr. Kennedy is the director of feline operations at the KC Pet Project. Her role encompasses all aspects of feline operations, including animal care, health and enrichment, behavior, and feline fostering. Her career helping cats started as an experienced cat trapper, colony caregiver, and foster caregiver before attending U.C. Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, where her singular commitment to cats earned her numerous scholarships, as well as the AAFP Outstanding Scholar Award. In 2017, after four years in feline-only private practice, Dr. Kennedy decided to focus on the welfare of shelter cats by working first at FieldHaven Feline Center in Lincoln, California, and now at KC Pet Project.

Dr. Kennedy is recognized as an expert on the humane care of feral cats and currently sits on the AAFP Committee on Free-Roaming Cats. She speaks at national conferences on her sheltering work. She was mentored by Dr. Niels Pedersen, a nationally-recognized expert on FIP, and she often provides consults to other veterinarians on diagnosing the disease. She managed the Alley Cat Allies emergency shelter after Hurricane Katrina and was instrumental in helping Santa Barbara County become no-kill through TNR and RTF. She started and managed a feral cat clinic in Yolo County, California, where she mentored students on TNR and the humane care of feral cats.

Dr. Kennedy graduated summa cum laude with a degree in Philosophy from Wellesley College. She also has an MBA from Mississippi State University, and is proud to have served as a Supply Corps officer in the United States Navy (Reserve Component).

This session is sponsored by Margaret Tompkins, Tompkins Foundation for FeLV Advocacy.

2:15–2:30 p.m.

Stacy LeBaron, Community Cats Podcast

Margaret Tompkins, Tompkins Foundation for FeLV Advocacy

What's Coming Up at the 2021 CCP Online Behavior Day and Online Feline Leukemia Day

2:30–3:00 p.m.

Break, cat trivia

3:00–4:00 p.m.

Dr. Angie Krause, Boulder Holistic Vet

Feline Nutrition

Cats are not small dogs. Unfortunately, we have been feeding them as such for years. Cats have different nutritional requirements that differ greatly from their canine counterparts. So what does this mean? Nutrition is the cornerstone to health! Join Dr. Angie to discuss ALL things "feline nutrition!"

About Dr. Angie Krause

Dr. Angie is a holistic veterinarian in Boulder, Colorado. She empowers pet parents to become medical advocates for their pets. Her practice combines both traditional and alternative therapies to make her patients as happy and healthy as possible.

Dr. Angie's journey to become a veterinarian started over 35 years ago when her mother brought home a black kitten. In 2007, she graduated from Texas A&M University with a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine. She combines traditional and alternative therapies in her practice, including acupuncture, herbal therapy, myofascial release, and physical medicine.

4:00–4:45 p.m.

Sterling "TrapKing" Davis

TNRing with the TrapKing: Teaching Kids Compassion

We've just heard lots about TNR and by now it's clear: anyone can do it in their communities with some determination, minimal resources, and a network of caring animal lovers. But how do we pass that knowledge on to future cat advocates and rescuers? The Trapking's got you covered with some tips and tricks to working with kids.

This session is sponsored by Dawn White, blogger and author about Lola the Cat.

4:45 p.m.

Stacy LeBaron

Closing remarks, cat trivia