



July 17, 2021

All times listed are Eastern Time.

10:00–10:15 a.m.

Stacy LeBaron, Community Cats Podcast

Opening Remarks

10:15–11:45 a.m.

Dr. Julie Levy, Fran Marino Professor of Shelter Medicine Education, Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program

New FeLV Testing Breakthroughs for Diagnostic Confirmation and Predicting Long-Term Survival

The FeLV Project is a research initiative of the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine and the Austin Pets Alive! animal shelter designed to unlock the secrets of practical FeLV diagnosis and long-term outcomes of infected cats. By following a cohort of 130 infected shelter cats over their lifetime (four years since diagnosis so far), the team discovered the most reliable testing strategies for confirming diagnosis and predicting outcomes of infected cats. Attendees will learn how to use valuable testing resources for the best overall support of feline lifesaving programs and how to interpret test results in challenging cases.

About Dr. Julie Levy

Julie's work at the University of Florida focuses on the health and welfare of animals in shelters, feline infectious diseases, and humane alternatives for cat population control. She founded Operation Catnip, a nonprofit, university-based community cat trap-neuter-return (TNR) program that has spayed, neutered, and vaccinated more than 65,000 cats in Gainesville, Florida since 1998. In 2008, she joined Dr. Cynda Crawford to found Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program at the College of Veterinary Medicine, an educational and discovery initiative with a global impact on the care of homeless animals. In 2014, she joined Dr. Kate Hurley to launch the Million Cat Challenge, a shelter-based campaign that has saved more than three million cats in shelters across North America.

11:45-12:00 p.m.

Break, cat trivia

12:00–1:30 p.m.

Dr. Heather Kennedy, Director of Feline Operations, Kansas City Pet Project

De-escalating FeLV

When we treat FeLV kitties like little ticking time bombs that are dangerous to other cats, that's how people think of them. We create unnecessary fear and make it more difficult to adopt them out. We actually increase their risk of death by making it more difficult for them to leave the shelter. FeLV is transmissible, but not easily so, and while FeLV+ kitties may live a shorter life, they can still have a good quality of life. We need to overcome our own fear of the disease and learn to talk frankly to adopters about adopting a cat with a shorter life span.

About Dr. Heather Kennedy

Heather is the director of feline operations at 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. She went on to attend 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, Heather decided to focus on the welfare of shelter cats. She is recognized as an expert on the humane care of feral cats and currently sits on the AAFP Committee on Free-Roaming Cats and speaks at national conferences on her work in sheltering. She was mentored by Dr. Niels Pedersen, a nationally recognized expert on feline infectious peritonitis, and she often provides consults to other veterinarians on the diagnosis of the disease. She managed the Alley Cat Allies emergency shelter after Hurricane Katrina and was instrumental in helping Santa Barbara County (CA) become no-kill through TNR and RTF (Return to Field). She started and managed a feral cat clinic in Yolo County (CA), where she mentored students on TNR and the humane care of feral cats.

1:30–2:00 p.m.

Lunch break

2:00–3:30 p.m.

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

The Four Stages of FeLV: Making Sense of the Latest Test Results

New research has brought us four distinct stages of FeLV infection: abortive, focal, regressive, and progressive. Learn what each stage means, gain technical understanding and practical advice on how to manage each, and find out what studies are showing the prognosis is for cats in each stage.

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 animal advisory commissioner. Before teaching the Austin No Kill Model to students, she 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.

3:30-3:45 p.m.

Break, cat trivia

3:45-4:45 p.m.

Midge Grinstead, Kansas State Director, Humane Society of the United States

Adoptions for FeLV+ Cats in Kansas

Kansas is one of the only states that does not allow adoption or transfer of feline leukemia-positive cats/kittens. We have a law meant for livestock that includes cats and dogs and is very archaic. Advocates were able to get the Kansas Dept of Agriculture to allow adoption or transfer of non-symptomatic FIV+ cats two years ago, after years of working toward that goal. I'm going to talk about the journey, grassroots, laws in Kansas prohibiting FeLV+ cat adoptions, and how we can work to change it all.

About Midge Grinstead

Midge has been in the animal welfare field for 25 years, including over 14 years as the executive director of Lawrence Humane Society and 10 years as the Kansas state director for the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). Midge has worked in Kansas to support animal welfare legislation, fight animal cruelty in all forms, and engage citizens to promote the protection of all animals. She offers training for law enforcement, shelters, and county animal response teams. She helped to overturn or block breed-specific legislation in multiple counties and worked on the passage of the state's cockfighting legislation. She co-founded Humane Kansas Legislative Network, a group that was instrumental in passing Kansas's felony animal cruelty bill into law, and served on the Governor's Board for Companion Animal Legislation. Midge also helped the Kansas Animal Health Department in the seizure and housing of animals from hoarders, substandard kennels, and other situations involving animal welfare violations. She was instrumental in helping to form the Kansas State Animal Response Team, Douglas County Animal Response Team, NE Kansas Regional Response Team, Pet Animal Coalition of Kansas, and Kansas Horse Education Advocacy Resource Team. Midge is currently a board member of the Kansas Animal Control Association. She has been married to Mark Grinstead for 34 years and has a son, step-daughter, nine grandchildren, and a wonderful puppy mill rescue dog named Cooper.

4:45 p.m.

Closing remarks