



Saturday, April 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.

Pam Johnson-Bennett

Decoding Litter Box Problems: What Cats Wish You Knew

When cats stop using the litter box, it's frustrating and stressful for both cat and cat parent. Sadly, it's also a reason why a cat may get relinquished to a shelter, abandoned, or euthanized. There are many reasons why a cat may avoid the box and it's important to figure out the true cause. While there are many obvious reasons for litter box avoidance, there are also many not-so-obvious ones that cat parents can easily miss. This presentation covers set-up, maintenance, cat parent pitfalls, multicat households, reasons for litter box aversion, retraining back to the box, and marking behavior.

About Pam Johnson-Bennett

Pam Johnson-Bennett is a certified cat behavior consultant and best-selling author of eight books on cat behavior. Pam is considered a pioneer in the field of cat behavior, having started her career in 1982. Her books have been used as textbooks for behavior courses and she has influenced many practicing in the field today. Her book *Think Like a Cat* is referred to as the "cat bible."

Pam starred in the Animal Planet UK series *Psycho Kitty* and was vice president of the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants, where she founded their cat division. She has served on many advisory boards for animal welfare organizations and lectures internationally on cat behavior. Pam was the spokesperson and host for Friskies Ultimate Cat Habitat, which focused on environmental enrichment for cats. She was also the resident behavior expert for Friskies and spokesperson for their national shelter grant program.

This year and last year, Pam has served as the spokesperson and behavior expert for Arm & Hammer Cat Litter's Purrfectly Impurrfect Campaign to help raise awareness of shelter cats often overlooked for adoption due to age, physical appearance, or behavior.

Pam is also an award-winning behavior columnist for numerous magazines and online sites. She owns Cat Behavior Associates, located in Nashville, Tennessee.

11:45–1:15 p.m.

Tabitha Kucera, RVT, CCBC, KPA-CTP

Thinking Outside the Cage: Shelter Enrichment for Cats

Enrichment in shelter settings is incredibly important for cats. Keeping cats stimulated mentally is as necessary as caring for their physical needs. Providing enrichment for cats and kittens in shelters can help decrease stress and unwanted behaviors that result from stress. It can also help to decrease illness. Happy and healthy cats are more likely to become adopted and stay in long term homes. Topics covered will include: What is socialization and enrichment and why is it needed?; Benefits of socialization and enrichment to animals, the shelter, and staff; Practical application of shelter enrichment and enrichment; and Feline-friendly handling.

About Tabitha Kucera

Tabitha Kucera is an Elite Fear Free– and Low Stress Handling®–certified registered veterinary technician (RVT), a Certified Cat Behavior Consultant (CCBC) through the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants, and a Karen Pryor Academy–Certified Training Partner (KPA-CTP). She is the owner of Chirrup and Chatter Cat and Dog Behavior Consulting and Training in Cleveland, Ohio.

Tabitha has been working with cats and dogs for over twelve years, and in that time has worked with a number of rescue organizations and small animal practices, where she dedicated herself to learning about the prevention, root causes, and solutions to feline and canine behavioral concerns. She helps people better understand and relate to their animal companions, which leads to a stronger bond and a more gratifying relationship between animal and human.

Tabitha loves educating others through writing, behavior consulting, and lecturing on all things cats and dogs. She is a Fear Free-certified speaker, a trainer-mentor for Cat Pawsitive Pro, is the co-chair of Pet Professional Guild's Cat Committee, the president-elect of the Society of Veterinary Behavior Technicians, and the vice president of the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants. She also serves on the board of The Together Initiative for Ohio's Community Cats.

1:15–1:45 p.m.

Lunch break

1:45–3:15 p.m.

Dr. Rachel Geller

I Know How You Feel . . . Setting Up a Cat Behavior and Retention Program with Empathy and Education

Does your shelter or rescue need a cat behavior and retention program for surrender prevention? Has your shelter dealt with difficult clients with difficult cats? Cats who behave in ways that are not as cute as the videos we see? Most of these problems are fixable and, with the proper intervention, these cats can be kept in their homes. Dr. Rachel Geller will help you set up a cat behavior and retention program and teach you how to empathize with your clients as they struggle with their cats. She will share real examples, with proven results, setting the shelter, client, and cat on the road to happy relationships together.

About Dr. Rachel Geller

Dr. Rachel Geller is a certified Cat Behavior & Retention Specialist. She is also a certified Humane Education Specialist through the Academy of Prosocial Learning and a certified Pet Chaplain® through the Association of Veterinary Pastoral Education. She is also Fear Free certified. She provides cat behavior help both locally and throughout the country to her clients, who include cat owners, shelters, rescues, and animal welfare organizations.

Rachel has given or participated in presentations for the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), the Massachusetts Animal Coalition, and the New England Federation of Humane Societies on topics involving cat behavior, cat behavior and retention programs, and surrender prevention. She was a presenter for the inaugural Online Behavior Day sponsored by the Community Cats Podcast, and enjoyed it so much that she is back again! Rachel's cat behavior program has been recognized by HSUS as a model program.

Rachel's book, [*Saving the World, One Cat at a Time*](#), was written to help with resolving cats' behavioral and emotional problems with the goal of creating harmonious relationships between cats and their owners. All of the proceeds from book sales go to cat shelters.

Rachel was a behavioral specialist for grades K–8 in the Waltham (Massachusetts) Public Schools for over 20 years. She has lived in Newton since 1992 with her husband and two cats. An avid runner, she has run (and finished!) eleven Boston Marathons.

3:15–3:30 p.m.

Break, cat trivia

3:30–5:00p.m.

Arden Moore

I Hear You, Kitty: Really Listening and Responding to What Your Cat Is Telling You

Cats would make lousy poker players because they never bluff. They are always candid in their actions and vocalizations. The challenge is for us hoo-mans to accurately translate feline actions and sounds. In this talk, Arden will hone your Cat Detective skills so you can look and listen for feline communication

clues and sidestep common misinterpretations. The result is a win-win for you and your cat—and a stronger bond of trust and friendship.

About Arden Moore

Arden Moore happily wears many “collars” in the pet world: host of the award-winning “Oh Behave” show on Pet Life Radio, host of Meowy Hour presented by the CFA, best-selling author (more than two dozen and counting), master certified pet first aid instructor, Catster Magazine columnist, Fear Free Pets-certified professional, in-demand speaker, and proud pet parent to the Furry Brady Bunch that includes Pet Safety Cat Casey. She has been a feline advocate since childhood, when her first cat Corky happily swam with her in the backyard lake.

5:00 p.m.

Closing remarks