

CommunityCatsPodcast_Ep412_Fern_210713.mp3

Kristen Petrie [00:00:00]

Hey everyone, just a quick message before we get to the show. This week the script is flipped and Stacy is the one being interviewed by Michelle Fern, who hosts the podcast Cattitude on Pet Life Radio. They chat about how Stacy got her start in animal welfare and the origins of The Community Cats Podcast, what they've both seen in animal welfare during Covid-19, how TNR is a grassroots movement, the veterinary shortage in the U.S. and more. We hope you enjoy this special episode. Now, let's get to the show.

Kristen [00:00:29]

You've tuned in to The Community Cats Podcast. Ready? Let's go.

Michelle Fern [00:00:40]

Welcome back, everyone. My guest today has been involved in animal welfare for over twenty years. She currently hosts the podcast Community Cats as well as organizing several virtual conferences. Welcome Stacy LeBaron.

Stacy LeBaron [00:00:56]

Well, thank you so much for having me.

Michelle [00:00:58]

I'm so excited to talk to you. So, I've listened to several of your shows and I want to ask you a question that you ask your guests all the time. What made you become passionate about cats?

Stacy [00:01:14]

Yes. Yeah, that's my tagline for the show is, you know, how to turn your passion for cats into action.

Michelle [00:01:21]

I love that, by the way.

Stacy [00:01:23]

Thank you. Yeah, and I mean, I, you know, the typical line is, I had cats growing up as a kid but I really didn't become passionate about cats until about nineteen ninety-four when I was in Newburyport, Massachusetts, and I really learned about trap

neuter and return. There were three hundred cats on the Newburyport waterfront and they had just started doing a trap neuter return program and I learned so much about how you can create a humane community for cats. And it was like every day I had a new challenge and I just kept on going and going and going, and now we're at twenty-seven years later.

Michelle [00:02:02]

Wow, that's pretty exciting. It's always interesting to hear how someone got started, wherever their area is, how it all began. What about cats? Were you a cat person from way back from childhood?

Stacy [00:02:14]

Yeah. Well, I grew up with a cat. Her name was Duncan. She lived to be twenty years old. When I was born, she was seven. So she was there to raise me, basically, so I learned to respect her. She was kind of what you would call your grumpy cat and so I learned a lot from her. I had one cat growing up and then when I married and got my own house and children, I had certainly more than one cat. But, you know, I'm not the defined cat lady. I feel like it's an underserved population. I feel bad for cats. I feel like we can do more for them as a society and I want to be part of that solution.

Michelle [00:02:51]

I think that's fantastic. And I think cats are kind of coming in their own lately, you know, because it was always about dogs, right? There was always so much dog toys, dog this, dog treats, much more for dogs, but I think cats are slowly getting up there. There are still more dog owners than cat owners, but there's more cats that are owned by pet parents. Since you know this, you know, most people have two or more or three or, if you're like Rita Reimers you have nineteen, which I can't believe that. But I mean I do, but wow, so, I think they're getting their moment especially during Covid.

Stacy [00:03:32]

Yeah. I mean, I agree with you that the status of cats is definitely going up, especially as we live in more apartments or smaller spaces. And so the interest of having a cat over a dog becomes a lot easier or more understandable. And with veterinarians, private practice veterinarians, a bulk of their business revolves around dogs, but I think that the space around cats is growing, from a veterinary economics

perspective, which then makes us sort of pay attention to cats even more. So, there are good things happening for cats out there. There are certainly lots of challenges with the economic challenges we face. So I've gotten very involved in pet food pantries and ensuring that no one has to really worry about giving up their pet if they can't afford pet food for them. So that's been a big topic of mine over the last year or so. I don't know what you've seen happening over Covid with regards to cats from your perspective, Michelle.

Michelle [00:04:33]

What I've seen, well I've had a lot of shows recently that were, you know, we focused a lot on, you know, Covid and mostly with adoption and I think the best thing that has been going on recently is the increase of cat adoption and how the amount of cats being euthanized is going down. It's not nearly as low as we would like it but what we both do in podcasts and other ways of getting the word out to just even the general population, besides all our cat listeners and so forth. Even, you know, as other people tell other people and so forth. People learned that okay, it's not okay, to just feed the little cat in the street forever. You have to practice TNR. Otherwise, there's going to be from that one cat there's going to be so many other cats that end up dead and we need to stop that. So Cattitude's about anything and everything cat but I have a passion for TNR. I lived it. That's how my cat crew grew was just, you know, they just happened. They found me and, you know, unlike you I wasn't a cat person from way back. I was, I had dogs when I was younger and my first cat was Dennis. He literally opened the door and walked in. That's how I found Dennis and we figured someone abandoned him and he's a great cat. And the funny thing about this is that he's kind of dog-like. He's part Maine Coone. So it was a good intro for me because I didn't know a lot about cat behaviors. Then I moved, had some TNR rescuing with cats and learned about cat behaviors, and learned that Dennis is unique among the world of cats. He's just different, you know, and so it's been, I guess an interesting ride. And so that's basically, you know, what's been going on. A lot of talk about TNR, a lot of talk about what to do with certain things with issues that come up for pet parents. Ways to, oh, gosh, just ways to make life with cats or life, if you want to get a cat or are thinking about a cat, better for you and your feline friend.

Stacy [00:06:51]

One of the things Michelle, that I've been really focused on over the last six months or so is I do these trapper certification workshops in partnership with Neighborhood Cats. So the first Saturday of every month, we offer a training, two and a half hour online training, about the beginnings of how to learn how to trap community cats and people take a little test at the end and they get a certificate. If you live in New York, you actually will get access to free spay/neuter through the ASPCA if you have one of these certificates so that's got some tremendous value and it's really been incredible. The people that have taken these courses, the classes that we offer, over sixty percent of the people that attend are not affiliated with an organization and they pay the price for the spay/neuter for the cats, take care of the cats, do the trapping. They do it all on their own. They're not involved with any organization. And I think that's really tremendous in really understanding that trap neuter return is a movement of individuals, not a movement of organizations.

Michelle [00:07:56]

Very true. In fact, one of my favorite shows was about a, I call her a TNR expert. You probably have heard about her Sassy Walker.

Stacy [00:08:05]

Actually. No, I have not

Michelle [00:08:07]

No? She was featured on the....

Stacy [00:08:09]

Oh, Sassy. I do know her. Yep. Okay. Yep, I do. Yep. Worked with Flatbush Cats some.

Michelle [00:08:15]

Yes, and you know, very grassroots. She just started out in getting traps and she works in areas that are not the safest. And I'm getting goosebumps as I talk about interviewing her because I just think the world of her. And I loved hearing her escapades as she went out there. And she's so bold, and she, I mean, she's in areas where it's just a really bad part of, I think it's Brooklyn. So that was just I think one of my most favorite episodes. And I think what you do as far as the virtual online

classes is amazing for the world of TNR because a lot of people don't know where to start.

Stacy [00:08:54]

That's true. That's true. They really don't, they don't know that there's a lot of research that has to be done ahead of time with regards to the cats, you know ensuring that you're not trapping somebody's owned cat. So I say, you know, you have to be a cat detective before you embark on, either trap neuter return or, in some cases, people feel like they should just be trapped and they really don't need to exist in the backyard anymore. So, really being able to identify what's the plan for the cats and really ensuring that you're not scooping up a potentially owned cat.

Michelle [00:09:25]

You know, that's a good question. How do you know?

Stacy [00:09:28]

I love this question. It's my favorite question. So when you're determining whether or not this is a cat that you should be doing trap neuter return with, or is it a cat that needs, you know it's actually, it's a lost cat or it's a stray cat. The cats aren't going to tell you this but they will tell you to a certain degree. So obviously, if the cats have an ear tip, which is a little sliced cut on the ear, on the tip of the ear, it is identifying that cat as a cat that's been trapped, neutered and returned back to the colony. So we can assume as long as that cat appears healthy, you know, has a good body type and good coat means that somebody's caring for that cat and so you can assume that, you know, you don't have to worry about that cat. So there's one off the list. If you have a cat that's in distress. It's limping. It's emaciated. It's sickly. Obviously, that's a cat that needs assistance and would need to be trapped and brought in. If you have kittens running across the road then those are, that's a situation where you need to respond and rescue. If you have you know a cat that is skittish but looks good but has no ear tip, you want to check with your neighbors to see if they know this cat in any way, shape, or form. Try and put the word out and and start feeding that cat regularly, at a regular time, just to get it on a routine in case you are going to need to trap that cat. If you have a friendly cat, that's friendly. It's rubbing up around your legs and is just really appreciating the tuna you happen to be putting out but the cat looks good, its most likely owned and it will go back to its house. If it stays

around for a long period of time, you can put a temporary collar on that cat. Write on it and say, you know, please call me to let me know if someone owns me and you can do that for several days. There's a great flow chart on the website Mass Animal Fund, I think it's massanimalfund.com. You just Google Mass Animal Fund. Click on their resources page. They have this wonderful flow chart to tell you, like, how to respond in certain situations with cats in your backyard.

Michelle [00:11:32]

I love your responses and I do know about the ear tip, but it's tricky sometimes, finding out if it's a neighbor's cat or it's just a recently abandoned cat. Those can be tricky because we were feeding a cat and I come to find out it's my neighbor's cat and I didn't know for months. So it was just interesting. And what is your thought about indoor/outdoor cats?

Stacy [00:11:57]

So, it's a gray area.

Michelle [00:12:00]

Very gray.

Stacy [00:12:01]

My, you know, the adoption program that I ran for so many years has an encouragement guideline of having people have their cats as indoor only cats, that's sort of their ideal. However, we have a barn relocation program for very at-risk feral cats that need to be relocated because where they are, they're not safe. And so we do take the chance and we do a limited number but we do barn relocations or working cat programs for those cats that would otherwise have no other options. So if you're going from one extreme to the other, you should be able to be kind of appreciative of the middle area and there certainly are cats out there that would prefer to be an indoor/outdoor cat. Obviously, you don't want that situation to happen on a very busy road. So there's really this gray area match that has to go on with a certain household and a certain cat. And I think in those times it's possible to have them as an indoor/outdoor cat. Obviously I'm also a big fan of microchipping and identification, if you don't believe in the collars because they get hung up and that kind of stuff. I mean, obviously breakaway collars are important but making sure that a cat is microchipped is really important also.

Michelle [00:13:17]

You're definitely right about indoor/outdoor cats being a gray area. I'm fortunate to live in a warm climate. So we have a screened-in patio. So the cats get to be outside without really being outside, you know, they get that sense of it but they're not roaming through the area which, you know, we're in South Florida and there's raccoons, there's possum, there's coyotes. Alligators are rare so I wouldn't say alligators. So there's all these, you know, other animals out there and I have concerns if my cats were indoor/outdoor. I would be very concerned but there's neighbors of mine that are fine with that. So I'm not judging, you know, if you have an indoor/outdoor cat and it works fine for you in your area, that's great.

Stacy [00:14:05]

I've interviewed a couple of guests from England and it's the opposite. If you live in a place where you can't have your cat indoor/outdoor, they limit your ability to adopt.

Michelle [00:14:15]

Interesting.

Stacy [00:14:17]

So different mindset.

Michelle [00:14:18]

Definitely. Okay, let's talk about your workshops a little bit. How do they work? Because, and I just want to ask this ahead of time. A lot of people, you know are new to the world of virtual learning. Not so much during Covid but there is still a population of people that are not on Zoom meetings and are not that familiar with how a virtual home education process would work. So can you give just a little, you know, kind of nuts and bolts on how your workshop would work?

Stacy [00:14:51]

Sure. Yeah. So we use an online platform called Go To Webinar, which is very easy. You basically click on a link and you're in, it's similar to Zoom. I've been doing online education since two thousand and eighteen, so I was really committed to this format well before Covid. I did organize an in-person conference once many years ago and I did it, once was enough to know it was something I didn't want to do again. So I'm a firm believer in virtual education. I feel like there are so many folks out there that

have a lot of cats in their houses or they're fostering kittens and they don't feel like they can leave to go to a conference because it's expensive. You have to arrange for pet sitters and all of that kind of stuff. So I really wanted education to be accessible to everybody and anyone. I have no idea who's signing up for our conferences. It's open, we're transparent. So it's very easy to do. Our conferences are affordable, our weekend conferences are around seventy-five dollars. We have one day conferences that are twenty-five and then the Trapper Certification Program is ten dollars a person. And you know, you get plenty of reminders, people have my own personal cell phone if they can't get on. So I've coached many people on how to get onto Go To Webinar and you know, follow the prompts and get them all set up into the classes. And everything is recorded so the recordings are available. Our topics range from, we have Behavior Day, Feline Leukemia Day, Fundraising Day. We have The Online Kitten Conference, The Online Cat Conference and the United Spay Alliance's online conference, which is like all things spay/neuter for a whole weekend. It's really mind-blowing. So we have an incredible lineup of different educational programs, partnering with Neighborhood Cats as well as The National Kitten Coalition. And it's just really exciting, you get in there with a group of people, they're chatting, they're excited. Oh, and everybody loves cat trivia. So I do cat trivia with prizes at all of my events and I do a lot of polls. So it's very interactive and it's fun, and it's enjoyable and we just have a good time.

Michelle [00:16:58]

Sounds like a lot of fun and a great education as well.

– *Start mid-roll advertising*–

Stacy [00:17:05]

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Kristen [00:17:10]

Use offer code COMMUNITYCATS at checkout for a total of thirty percent off your first order at Smalls.com.

Stacy [00:17:17]

Are you ready to be part of the solution for feral and stray cats in your neighborhood? If so, then make sure to sign up for our next Neighborhood Cats TNR Certification Workshop. A new workshop is held online each month, generally on the first Saturday of the month, but please check our website for exact dates. For just ten dollars, expert instructors will teach you best practices for trap-neuter and return, TNR. Learn what TNR is and why it works. We'll cover getting along with neighbors, preparations for trapping, trapping itself, including entire colonies at once, feeding, providing winter shelter and more. Take advantage of the interactive format, extensive handouts, and video footage of actual projects. Attendees will receive a certificate of attendance and gain access to an ongoing Facebook group, for networking with other TNR activists. The two-and-a-half-hour workshop is led by Susan Richmond, the executive director of Neighborhood Cats, and Brian Kortis, Neighborhood Cats National Programs Director. To find out the date of the next workshop and sign up, just visit communitycatspodcast.com.

Stacy [00:18:29]

As we emerge from the global pandemic of COVID, fostering is emerging as the new normal in the animal welfare industry, but shelter management software doesn't provide the tools or the workflows for communicating with fosters at scale. So many organizations struggle to maintain hundreds of animals in foster homes. If only there was a system that was custom built specifically to solve this problem. Introducing Fosterspace, powered by our friends at Doobert. Fosterspace was custom built to allow you to manage hundreds of foster relationships and to communicate with them via text, email, and even Facebook Messenger. Your fosters have a portal where

they can upload videos and photos and updates on their animals and organizations can schedule fosters for meet-and-greets, adoption days, or anything else they need. There's so much more to check out. Sign up for free at www.doobert.com and go to the Fosterspace tab to get started.

-End mid-roll advertising-

Michelle [00:19:28]

Welcome back everyone. We're talking to Stacy LeBaron about her podcast and virtual classes. She hosts the podcast Community Cats. So Stacy, let's talk about podcasts. When did you start Community Cats?

Stacy [00:19:44]

So I started The Community Cats Podcast back in two thousand sixteen. June of two thousand sixteen was when I launched it so I'm almost at my four hundredth episode and I actually have my son to thank for the suggestion. After I stopped working in animal welfare with the Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society, I moved out of state and I was kind of wondering what was I going to do with myself? I had all these great connections in animal welfare. I'd run a mentoring program and I had helped eighty groups start trap neuter return programs, all across the country, but I had four hundred groups on my waiting list, and I'm never one to let a group go by. Basically, I just, I can't not help. So, but I also realized I wasn't going to be able to do one-on-one mentoring with four hundred groups and so I was talking about it with my son. We were driving back and forth from Massachusetts to Vermont a lot and we started listening to podcasts. And my son had started taking up, he was twelve at the time, he was learning how to play the electric guitar and he started recording. And he said, Mom, it would be super easy to set up a podcast. I'll help you with it. I'll get it set up for you, get the recording and stuff done. And so, he made it seem easy and he did, he got my microphone, he got everything set up on the software side of things. And then I got a few other people involved and started out with five shows a week and went down to three and now I'm down to one a week. As I built up my sort of online education presence that's taking up more of my time but I still I love the podcast and I firmly believe that's my way of reaching out to those four hundred groups as well as others who want to turn their passion for cats into action at the Community Cats Podcast.

Michelle [00:21:25]

Five shows a week is a lot.

Stacy [00:21:27]

Yeah, people thought I was a little crazy.

Michelle [00:21:29]

Yes, because you know people don't realize how much research goes in on the back end and even just besides the research just prepping and organizing times and so forth. I'm impressed. Five a week. I do one a week but I host two shows.

Stacy [00:21:46]

Yeah, that's a lot. That's a lot of work.

Michelle [00:21:48]

Yeah, Cattitude is part of the Pet Life Radio Network and Pet Life Radio started with maybe seven shows and now has over seventy-five.

Stacy [00:21:58]

Fantastic.

Michelle [00:22:00]

How I got started was first with Best Bets for Pets which is our product show because, you know, we got a lot of inquiries about different products but nobody really to talk about them. So, ta-da, that was born and I've been hosting that since two thousand ten. When I started, there were two shows per episode of non-competing products. So, I think I've done over three hundred of Best Bets for Pets and that's still going strong. Cattitude, I was not the original host. The original host was Tom Dock. And for a while, even though there wasn't a host the show still remained so popular, and my producer came to me and said, you know, would you like to host Cattitude? And my concern and I'm honest, totally honest, and with everything that I do, you know, I don't have a super strong cat background but my perspective on Cattitude is very different from Community Cats. I look at it from the cat parents' point of view, the cat person who wants a cat, thinking about a cat, has cats, just considering cats, anything about cats. And I have just a wealth of different

types of, you know, people I've had on the show. Everything from TNR rescuers to experts in various fields, to a lot of behavior, but my favorite is TNR because we should come down to, in the U.S., the number of cats euthanized is just still way too high. So that's just one of my passions because I don't do TNR. I've done TNR with my little feral colony I had, you know, around my area, but I'm not a TNR person. I don't have the time for that. You can only extend yourself so much, but I promote it and talk about it as much as I can. So that's where I come from.

Stacy [00:24:00]

I think that's fantastic, that's excellent. Thank you for all that you're doing with the show.

Michelle [00:24:05]

And, you know, I just want to mention since we're talking about everything about, you know, podcasts and so forth. I just want people to know that Cattitude is part of Pet Life Radio but Pet Life Radio has a wealth of information. And actually you're familiar with some of our show hosts because Arden Moore hosts Oh Behave, and a good friend of mine. I just did a show with her matter of fact, and she is going to be on your behavior conference, correct?

Stacy [00:24:35]

That's right, on April seventeenth. She's going to be presenting at Behavior Day. Yes.

Michelle [00:24:40]

Yep. She's like the pet whisperer because I've met her in person. She came over, she happened to be in my area, came over and she was educating my dog. And he was crazy because he was still a puppy and she just basically did a couple things and I was in awe. I thought how do you do that? How do you, but obviously there's been a lot of training and she does, you know, a lot of dog and cat first aid, so a lot of great information. And then we have Ask a Vet with Dr. Jeff which is a live call-in show. Have you heard of Dr. Jeff before? He's also known as Doc Hollywood?

Stacy [00:25:14]

Yes, I have.

Michelle [00:25:16]

He doesn't like being called Doc Hollywood, by the way, but he knows a ton of information. He's very big on telemedicine. That's his something, his new passion. We have Rappaport To The Rescue, hosted by Jill Rappaport and she was on The Today Show so she has a lot of access to celebrities so that's an interesting take. And again for vets, we have ER Vet with Dr. Justine Lee. I've done shows with her. She's incredible. So much knowledge. We have, how could I forget this, The Pet Doctor, Dr. Bernadine Cruz. She was one of our first shows, I think along with Arden and just there's just a wealth of information. And I think with podcasts, that's the most important thing is that we are able to communicate all over the world, all this information to people.

Stacy [00:26:07]

Yeah, Michelle, you bring up a really great point there because you just said all over the world and that's one of the things that I had hoped for with podcasting, that the reach would be beyond the United States. And I really didn't realize how truly impactful we could be outside the United States, but I have so many listeners all around the world and it's just really exciting to hear about some of the trap-neuter-return programs that are going on. And that is never going to change, Covid or no Covid. You know, we are global and that's what podcasting is all about in this animal welfare space.

Michelle [00:26:45]

Exactly, you know, inform, communicate and then, once they're informed then communicate the steps from there. It's a great way to communicate as we said to the world. Did you ever look at a list? Or, I don't know if you have access to it. I had access, this is years ago, a list of all your listeners from by country?

Stacy [00:27:05]

Yep. Yeah, I do have that information through the host, the show host. So we have, I mean, a large portion, like eighty percent of our listeners are in the United States, but we have a lot of folks listening from Australia and quite a few in Europe. South America has gotten very popular. Mexico, we have a following there. We also have an affiliate program. The Community Cats Podcast has an affiliate program so that if

they're individuals who are just trying to raise a couple extra bucks to help pay for their trap neuter return, or spay/neuter appointments, they can sign up to be an affiliate. And we had someone from Ecuador just sign up.

Michelle [00:27:43]

What I think is fascinating and I've looked at a country list and of course, we too have the most amount of listeners in North America, which is, you know, U.S. and Canada, but a lot of people in Europe and even some of these tiny small countries, there might not be many listeners but it's kind of amazing. You think wow, you know, here I am in my studio doing this show and there's somebody that's going to be listening all the way around the world and they live on a tiny island someplace. So kind of mind-blowing.

Stacy [00:28:16]

Yeah, that's great. I love it.

Michelle [00:28:18]

All right. So what has been, I mentioned my favorite show earlier. What, if you can nail it down to one since you've done so many shows. What was your favorite podcast show?

Stacy [00:28:29]

That's always a tough one. I, this is a question I struggle with. If you ask me how do I determine whether a cat needs assistance, I can answer that question. This is the tougher question because I enjoy all of my shows. I really, every one of them I feel like I'm in the moment. I'm listening. I'm learning so much in every show. Earlier this year, in January, I did launch a show with Dr. Michael Blackwell. He is at the University of Tennessee. He has an incredible background and he's sort of the leading voice for a movement around aligned care, which is about access to veterinary care for all. So creating these community, working with organizations in place, to develop community outreach and resources. So that really every person who has a pet is going to be able to get access to affordable veterinary care and whatever they need to be able to take care of the members in their family. And it's sort of like universal healthcare but including your pets. So he's really a big thinker and he's got some great ideas and interesting support and he's just a wonderful

person. Everybody that I interview is a wonderful person but I think I walked away from that interview thinking pensively for a while afterwards.

Michelle [00:29:47]

My favorite interview, I really love the interview with Sassy Walker but I have to tell you, I just did one, a show with Dr. Jeff. He hosts Ask the Vet with Dr. Jeff which is live on Sundays, twelve o'clock Eastern time, and we were talking about telemedicine and that has come so far. And that has the potential to make people's lives so much less stressful when your pet is ill at an inopportune time. And it was just fascinating learning all about that.

Stacy [00:30:18]

Well, so that is actually an incredible option for solving a huge problem that we have right now in the United States, which is an incredible veterinary shortage. Getting an appointment in some parts of the country for spay/neuter or just even standard veterinary care can be months out. And in some parts of Massachusetts, there are waiting lists eight hundred cats and dogs long, waiting to get in to get appointments with veterinarians. And some of the Urgent Care facilities have had to go on diversion because they're just so backed up that they say we just can't help you. You have to find someplace else to go in an emergency situation. So there's some incredible challenges for with regards to accessing veterinary care. So if you go to a telemedicine model, then you're streamlining your appointments. You don't have to worry about, you know, checking in and checking out. I had a great conversation with a person last week who does TNR in Barcelona, and he said he knew of a program in Israel where the TNR caretakers will take pictures of the cats that they're worried about and they use veterinary students to diagnose what the situation might be for those community cats, to try and get them assistance without having to trap them. And the veterinary students are getting trained on suggesting potential diagnosis and it's supervised but it's in the veterinary school. So they're getting an understanding of community cats and that kind of thing and then that's taking that whole population sort of out of the private practice place too. So it's a really interesting solution. So this version of telemedicine in the veterinary space could be really exciting.

Michelle [00:31:53]

There's another show to listen to, my show with Dr. Jeff. It's really fascinating and go listen because it's not only the thing about the telemedicine is, it's not only helpful for the pet parent, it's good for the veterinarian. It's good for the pet. It's win, win, win all around. The price is so reasonable and it doesn't poach on other vets, how their system is set up, Airvet, but I think that is the future. You know, we're already doing everything virtual, so much virtual with Covid than we ever did before, that telemedicine I think is definitely the next step because it's just so accessible and it's twenty-four seven.

Stacy [00:32:36]

Michelle, can I ask you a quick question?

Michelle [00:32:37]

Sure.

Stacy [00:32:38]

So, you know, you've devoted so much of your time to podcasting and getting the word out you know, what's your hope for animals all across the United States, or, and the world?

Michelle [00:32:49]

I would like to see the population of animals euthanized drop down to such a small, small number that, I don't even know if I'll see that number in my lifetime and I'm not that old. But it's I think there's so much senseless and it's becoming less so, but so much senseless euthanizing of animals and mostly it's dogs and cats. And there's a lot of things that could be avoided, you know, just even the basic of taking on the responsibility. When you're a pet parent, you're a pet parent for ten to twenty years. That's how it is. It's not, you know, oh, take your pet home and then return it because you know, you don't like when the cute little kitten grew up to be a cat. So I would like to see that number just really drop to where, it's unfortunate if you know, a cat is found and or dog is found and they're beyond able to be taken care of, medically taken care of by a veterinarian. So that's what I would like to see.

Stacy [00:34:30]

Sounds great, great solution.

Michelle [00:34:32]

So Stacy, where can people find Community Cats, your podcast?

Stacy [00:34:39]

Yep. For folks that want to find out all that we offer, the communitycatspodcast.com is our website. Of course, we're on Facebook which is also Community Cats Podcast. We're on Instagram, Community Cats Podcast. Twitter, CommunityCatsP1. Folks can find us on LinkedIn. They can find me at LinkedIn, that's Stacy LeBaron but communitycatspodcast.com has the most up-to-date information. We love to hear from folks. Emails come to me and happy to respond and answer any questions. What about you, Michelle? Where can folks find out more about Cattitude?

Michelle [00:35:19]

Well, Cattitude is part of the Pet Life Radio Network so people can go to petliferadio.com. You can also just do a search. Cattitude Podcast, and it comes up and, I'm grateful for this, comes up right in the top of searches. We're on a lot of different networks. Stitcher and iTunes and Spotify. IHeartRadio we're on live stream but there's a ton of different locations. You can also, if you like the idea of downloading the episodes and listening to them on a jump drive in your car, you can download them right from the Pet Life Radio site. Just go to petliferadio.com, go to the show page, look for Cattitude, download the episode, put it on your drive, there you go. And you also find a ton of other shows that have a wealth of information. We have a lot of veterinarians hosting shows and they are brilliant at what they do. So just a ton of information.

Stacy [00:36:16]

That's great. We just recently got up on Amazon music.

Michelle [00:36:20]

Oh, that's wonderful. I, you know, we are in so many different locations. I am not even sure if we're on Amazon music. We might be.

Stacy [00:36:29]

And we're on YouTube also. But it is, it's a long, long list. So it's wherever you enjoy podcasts, you'll probably find us.

Michelle [00:36:36]

Well, that's wonderful. And Stacy, we talked about your different conferences that are coming up. You have one coming up pretty soon. Do you want to share it?

Stacy [00:36:45]

Sure. Yeah, our upcoming conference is April seventeenth, which is Online Behavior Day. It runs from ten a.m. to five p.m. Eastern time, which is a Saturday. And we have four incredibly fantastic speakers, one being the fabulous Arden Moore.

Michelle [00:37:02]

She's great. She's funny. She's brilliant at what she does, and I'm so excited that she's part of your conference.

Stacy [00:37:10]

Arden is great. And I took her first-aid class with my niece and my daughter and their cats, and it was just really fun and fantastic. We also have Pam Johnson-Bennett who's very well-known cat behaviorist. We have Tabitha Kucera as well as Rachel Geller, so we have four fantastic people joining us for the Online Behavior Day and you can find out more information at our website communitycatspodcast.com. Twenty-five dollars for the day.

Michelle [00:37:38]

Well Stacy, I want to thank you so much for coming on Cattitude and sharing all this great information about the Community Cats Podcast, as well as your various virtual conferences. So thank you so much.

Stacy [00:37:52]

Thank you, Michelle. Thank you also, for being part of my show too.

Michelle [00:37:57]

What a great show. It was so wonderful talking to Stacy LeBaron, the host of Community Cats Podcast and hey, everyone, just a side note. If you perhaps are listening to this later and you miss one of the virtual conferences, keep looking on

the Community Cats Podcast website because Stacy does the virtual conferences all the time. They're always happening. They're recurring. So I would like to thank my guest, Stacy LeBaron, for coming on Cattitude. Thanks to my amazing producer for making me and my guests sound just so much better than we are. So thank you Mark, and thanks to my cat crew which is Dennis and Molly and Charlotte and Jethro and Sammy, and the lone dog Nikki who kind of acts like a cat sometimes. And a huge, huge, huge thank you to everyone listening to Cattitude. It's been a great ride and I hope to continue it for a lot longer. So it's not about attitude. It's all about Cattitude. See you next time.

Stacy [00:38:45]

That's it for this week. Please head over to Apple podcasts and leave a review. We love to hear what you think, and a five-star review really helps others find the show. You can also join the conversation with listeners, cat caretakers, and me on Facebook and Instagram. And don't forget to hit follow or subscribe on Spotify, Apple podcast, Google podcast, YouTube, Stitcher or wherever you listen to podcasts, so you don't miss a single show. Thanks for listening and thank you for everything that you do to help create a safe and healthy world for cats.

Kristen Petrie [00:39:15]

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