



Saturday, April 20, 2024

All times listed are Eastern Time.

10:00–10:10 a.m.

Opening Remarks

Stacy LeBaron, Community Cats Podcast

10:10–11:30 a.m.

Multicat Issues: Preventing or Resolving Problems in a Multicat Household

Pam Johnson-Bennett, CCBC

About the Session

Cats have long been incorrectly labeled as solitary creatures. In fact, they are sociable but there are some ground rules regarding how that social structure functions best. Many people are afraid to add a second cat or assume their resident cat would never accept the addition of another feline. Many times, the disaster stories people hear are based on other cat parents having done incorrect introductions. Although there are cats who would prefer to be the only cat in the household, there are many more who would benefit from having a feline friend. How the introduction is handled can often make the difference between whether cats become best buddies or bitter enemies.

Multicat households can be wonderful, with everyone getting along perfectly, but they can also have some challenges. In some cases, cat parents are unaware of ongoing tension between cats because they don't see any actual fighting. Then there are the situations where it's very obvious that cats aren't getting along but cat parents don't know how to fix the problem. And, what about when good relationships go bad? Why do some longtime feline friends turn on each other?

This session will cover how cats establish a social structure, the best way to do a new cat introduction, and how to be a detective to resolve problems so peace and harmony can exist again in a multicat home.

About Pam Johnson-Bennett

Pam Johnson-Bennett is a certified cat behavior consultant and best-selling author of 8 books. She starred in the Animal Planet UK series Psycho Kitty. She is the cat behavior expert for Arm & Hammer Cat Litter and the spokesperson for their Purrfectly Impurrfect campaigns to raise awareness of overlooked shelter cats. Pam was vice president of the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants and founded their Cat Division. She has served on numerous advisory boards, including the American Humane Association, and has been an award-winning columnist for many online and print magazines. She is considered a pioneer in the field of cat behavior consulting and her books have been used as textbooks for behavior courses. Her book, Think Like a Cat, is referred to as the cat bible.

In addition to her lecture and media schedule, Pam does a limited number of private behavior consultations. She owns Cat Behavior Associates, located in Nashville, Tennessee.

11:30–11:45 a.m.

Break

11:45 a.m.–1:15 p.m.

From Hiss to Purr: Keeping Kittens in Lifelong Homes

Tabitha Kucera, RVT, CCBC, KPA-CTP, VTS (behavior)

About the Session

Tabitha delves into the crucial aspect of nurturing the emotional well-being of kittens. While physical health is often prioritized, teaching kittens life skills AKA socialization is equally vital for ensuring these kittens find lifelong homes filled with love and care. We aim to cultivate outgoing, friendly, and adaptable behaviors in these kittens, even those displaying signs of fear. Through the implementation of specific strategies and techniques, we can effectively manage their fear and anxiety while also guiding them toward thriving in diverse environments and situations. Join Tabitha as she explores methods tailored to help these kittens be more confident and comfortable and set them up for success in their new homes.

Learning objectives:

1. Understand the importance of socialization in fostering kittens, recognizing its role in promoting long-term adoption success and ensuring the kittens develop into friendly and well-adjusted pets.
2. Identify common signs of fearful behavior in kittens and develop strategies to effectively socialize them, including techniques for building trust, reducing anxiety, and introducing them to various environments and stimuli.
3. Apply specific methods and techniques discussed in the lecture to transition recently outdoor kittens or other fearful felines into comfortable and loving home environments, emphasizing the practical application of socialization strategies in real-life fostering scenarios.

About Tabitha Kucera(2024)

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) and one of only 30 Veterinary Technician Specialists in behavior. 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 15 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 animals and humans.

Her teaching credentials include lecturing on the regional and national level and lecturing at multiple veterinary technology programs. Her lectures cover relevant topics such as canine and feline body language, cooperative care, Fear Free and low-stress handling, feline and canine aggression, prevention and management for common behavior concerns, and many others. She is a Fear Free certified speaker, a Fear Free Practice Certification Consultant, and host of the podcast, Tails from a Vet Tech. Tabitha has helped to develop training and behavior programs for various veterinary hospitals and shelters and works as a consultant for many shelters and private veterinary practices.

1:15–1:45 p.m.

Lunch Break

1:45–3:15 p.m.

I Need to Surrender My Cat Because [insert reason]!

Dr. Rachel Geller, Certified Cat Behavior & Retention Specialist

About the Session

You love your cat very much. However, something has happened in your life or something changed in your living situation or there is something you want to do - and now, you are thinking of giving up your cat. If you are in this situation, or you work/volunteer at a shelter and have received a surrender form and want to know how to advise someone in such a situation, Dr. Rachel will give you things to consider to keep the cat happy and healthy in difficult situations, lifestyle changes and non-traditional circumstances. She will provide solutions so that the cat does not need to be surrendered. Before a cat is surrendered to a shelter, we will go through accommodations and options that may help to keep people and their cats together, thus ensuring life-saving space is available for homeless cats, abandoned or injured, and brought into shelters. Examples include a new baby, household changes, living in a small apartment, living in a single room within a house, basement apartments, roommates, moving/travel, RV living, and mobility challenges.

About Dr. Rachel Geller

Rachel Geller, Ed.D. is the Founder and President of All Cats All the Time, Inc. which is a 501c3 nonprofit dedicated to promoting the adoption of cats and preventing their surrender and abandonment by helping cat/animal shelters – and cat owners who cannot otherwise afford to do so – access cat behavior counseling free of charge for the cats in their care.

Rachel is certified as a: Cat Behavior and Retention Specialist, Surrender Prevention Specialist, Humane Education Specialist, Pet Chaplain®, Fear Free Shelter Specialist, American Association of Feline Practitioners Cat Friendly Veterinary Advocate, and RedRover Reader. She is currently a cat behaviorist for cat/animal shelters all over the world, including working with adopters, training shelter volunteers, and instituting surrender prevention programs. She also provides individual cat behavior help to cat parents.

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. Rachel's cat behavior and retention 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 resolve 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 is the author of the

webinar “Activities for Inclusion” for the Association of Professional Humane Educators which provides instruction and concrete techniques for animal shelters to follow on how to include the special needs population as volunteers. She was a contributing author to “The Ark Project – Jewish Initiative for Animals” which focuses on the humane treatment of animals.

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

3:30–4:45 p.m.

Play It Safe for Your Kitty’s Sake

Arden Moore, America’s Pet Health and Safety Coach

About the Session

No cat can live in a protective bubble. A cat can injure his leg by misjudging the distance from the counter to the kitchen island. Or choke on a ball of yarn. Or need daily medicine to treat a painful health ailment. In this session, master-certified pet first aid/CPR instructor Arden Moore identifies potential dangers – indoors and outdoors – facing cats and what to do and what not to do in a cat emergency when every minute counts. She will offer tips on handling cats in a wildfire, hurricane, or other natural disaster as well as keeping road trips and outdoor cat adventures fun and safe. She will incorporate Fear Free strategies to ensure you are in the right emotional state to handle an injured cat and she will teach you how to think like a first responder. Joining her will be Pet Safety Cat Casey, arguably the world’s most active pet first aid cat.

About Arden Moore

Arden Moore’s mission is to bring out the best in pets...and their people. Known as America’s Pet Health and Safety Coach, Arden happily wears many “collars” in the pet world. She is a master-certified pet first aid/CPR instructor, founder of Pet First Aid 4U, and director of education for Pro Pet Hero. Her veterinarian-approved classes reach thousands all over the world and feature Pet Safety Cat Casey and Pet Safety Dog Kona, a pair of shelter alums. She makes learning fun and practical and has drawn students from all over North America as well as Europe, Central America, New Zealand, and yes, even South Africa.

In addition, she is a Fear Free certified speaker and host of two weekly shows: [Oh Behave](#) on Pet Life Radio and [Four Legged Life](#), a nationally syndicated radio show that also airs on YouTube. The award-winning “Oh Behave” show on Pet Life Radio ranks as the longest, continuous pet podcast (on the air since 2007). On both shows, Arden interviews pet-championing celebrities, leaders in the pet industry, and ordinary people doing extraordinary things for pets.

She has strong typing fingers. This best-selling author has written more than two dozen cat and dog books. She wrote and published four books in the past two years: The Cat Behavior Answer Book, The Dog Behavior Answer Book, A Kid’s Guide to Cats, and A Kid’s Guide to Dogs (Storey Publishing). The kid books earned top writing honors in the children’s book categories from the Cat Writers Association and the Dog Writers Association of America. She was a columnist and feature writer for Catster Magazine and the former editor of Catnip Magazine, a national monthly magazine published by Tufts University.

Arden shares her home in Dallas, TX with the Furry Brady Bunch which includes four cats and two feline-adoring dogs. She has been a feline advocate since childhood, when her first cat, Corky, happily swam with her in the backyard lake. Learn more at [ArdenMoore.com](#).

4:45-5:00 p.m.

Cat Trivia and Closing Remarks

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