



ONLINE CAT CONFERENCE

January 27–28, 2024
All times listed are Eastern Time.

Special thanks to our Premier Sponsor:



**Maddie's
Fund**

Saturday, January 27

10:00 AM - 10:15 AM.

Stacy LeBaron

Welcome

10:15 AM - 11:15 AM

Dr. Azalia Boyd, Chief Veterinary Medical Officer, Urban CAC

Dr. Raye Taylor, Senior Veterinary Medical Officer, Rural CAC

Vet REDI: Curiosity Saves the Cats

The veterinarians from Companion and Animals for Reform and Equity (CARE) will introduce the development of a new certification for veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals that focuses on racial equity, diversity and inclusion. Both Dr. Raye Taylor and Dr. Azalia Boyd have extensive first-hand and personal experiences and a deep commitment to advancing the principles of cultural awareness, social justice and racial equity in veterinary medicine.

They will provide valuable perspectives on the tangible benefits of a more diverse and inclusive veterinary field, both for professionals and the communities they serve. Topics like acquiring a cultural knowledge base, eliminating personal bias and stereotyping, ways to implement trauma-informed care, and how social justice differs from social responsibility are only a few highlights of the certification program.

Listeners and/or viewers can expect to gain insight into how the new certification can create positive change and elevate the standard of care in veterinary practices.

About Dr. Azalea Boyd

Dr. Azalia Boyd is a double graduate of the Historically Black College & University (HBCU), Tuskegee University. There, she received a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine and a Bachelor of Science in Animal and Poultry Science. After earning her degrees, Dr. Boyd completed an emergency, surgery, and internal medicine internship, strengthening her medical skills. Once getting out into the work field, she has served as a valued associate at multiple clinics and hospitals within metro Atlanta, held leadership positions as medical director and mentor, and continues to provide high-quality veterinary care day to day.

About Dr. Raye Taylor

Dr. Raye Taylor is a Red Lake Nation descendant and is the first in her family to go to college. She has worked with many animals from insects to birds and fish; however, she has spent most of her career working with dogs, cats, and horses. For education, Dr. Taylor has degrees from Iowa State University in Animal Ecology/Zoology and Microbiology, then left her PhD track to attend veterinary school at St. George's University. She has certificates from University of Minnesota (Veterinary Medicine), and Cornell University (Leadership); and carries certifications in the Human-Animal Bond and Hospice and Palliative Care. With years in general practice, regulation, and teaching, she has always maintained a relationship with community work. This has extended from mentorship and leadership at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine; in veterinary clinics, on mobile services, and at the races

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Stacy LeBaron, Headcat at the Community Cats Podcast

See It Solve It, Strategies to Reduce Cat Overpopulation

Stacy LeBaron, host of The Community Cats Podcast, long-time TNR advocate/practitioner, and non-profit administrator, will share her experience and offer suggestions to address the most common situations that can arise when birds, raccoons, coyotes, and other species live alongside a managed community cat colony. Hear about how she navigated working with various agencies to promote TNR and learn about cases where both cat lovers and bird enthusiasts have come together to make it work for the benefit of all the animals - and people - involved.

About Stacy LeBaron

Stacy has almost 30 years of experience helping cats. Many of you know her as the host of the Community Cats Podcast, but she is also a non-profit administrator, advocate and feline entrepreneur.

12:30 PM - 1:00 PM

Lunch break

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Cameron Greig, Community Cat Coordinator, Humane Society of Huron Valley

Setting up large scale weekend TNR spay/neuter events and finding sponsor funding

Covering all the bases of setting up a large scale TNR spay / neuter event from gathering supplies, to staffing, to tracking down sponsor funding.

About Cameron Greig

Cameron manages both HSHV's TNR and free pet food program, he has always been an entrepreneurial-minded philanthropist. As he's grown, he's realized that time is just as important as money and would regularly volunteer at a homeless shelter, food bank or a pet shelter — to this day, he cannot go to his family cabin in northern Michigan without stopping at two different pet shelters. At one, he teaches the pups to do tricks for treats, and at the other he visits the kitten room to read to, play with and socialize the kitties. Cam owns a one-eared, extra-lovable cat named Gigi.

2:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Break

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Bryan Kortis, National Programs Director, Neighborhood Cats

Persuading Municipal Officials to Go with TNR

You know the best way to manage free-roaming cats is with TNR and you're eager to get going and start solving the overpopulation of cats in your community. But there's that pesky ordinance which prohibits feeding animals outdoors, or an official at the shelter or animal control who doesn't want to try something new, or a City Council or mayor who won't help with funding. What's a TNR advocate to do? We'll show you! We'll break down in detail the best ways in our experience to make a persuasive, compelling case for your officials to give TNR a chance and support your work. Including what arguments to make, which ones to avoid, what data to collect and how to anticipate and rebut the naysayers. We can't guarantee success but we can guarantee after this session you'll have the knowledge to take your best shot at it!

About Bryan Kortis

Bryan Kortis 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 (executive director of Neighborhood Cats), live in Hawaii where they have helped transform the state from high-kill to community cat-friendly. In between stints with Neighborhood Cats, he served as a grants manager for PetSmart Charities, overseeing over \$21 million in TNR and spay/neuter projects. He has produced many of the leading educational materials on Trap-Neuter-Return, including co-authoring The Return-to-Field Handbook published by HSUS, assisted numerous communities in setting up large-scale TNR programs and co-designed with Tomahawk Live Trap many of the most popular TNR traps now on the market. Bryan can currently be found teaching monthly TNR basic training workshops and advanced webinars on the Community Cats Podcast.

3:30 PM - 3:45 PM

Break

3:45 PM - 4:45 PM

Margaret Tompkins, President, Tompkins Foundation for FeLV Advocacy

Mixed Households, Can you? Should you? Will you?

Far too often, the owner of a group of cats who have lived indoors together for years has one cat that gets sick. The owner takes the cat to the vet only to find out that the cat has FeLV and is suffering from FeLV-related disease. All the other cats in the household have been exposed to FeLV. That's a case of an accidentally mixed household. Now what? What do you do if you want to deliberately have a mixed household? Can FeLV+ cats live with negative cats with minimal risk? What to do? Can You Mix Them? Should You Mix Them? Will You Mix Them? Let's have a conversation.

About Margaret Tompkins

Margaret Tompkins is President of the Tompkins Foundation for FeLV Advocacy. She is a tireless advocate for FeLV education and FeLV+ cats. She actively networks FeLV+ cats all over the country. She is active on social media, especially Facebook, in promoting adoptions and education. She is a huge proponent of TNR and supports shelter and rescue programs that provide positive outcomes for FeLV+ cats. Her email is Margaret.Tompkins@comcast.net.

4:45 PM - 5:00 PM

Stacy LeBaron

Cat Trivia/Close

Sunday, January 28

10:00 AM - 10:15 AM

Stacy LeBaron

Welcome

10:15 AM –11:15 AM

Dan Spehar, Co-Founder, Together Initiative for Ohio's Community Cats

Identifying a State's Community Cat Resources : What We Found in Ohio

The data we collected while compiling a statewide directory of Ohio's community cat resources revealed some surprising insights, as well as confirmed some long-standing perceptions, about the availability of spay-neuter and trap-neuter-return (TNR) resources across the Buckeye state. These findings, including the identification of counties considered to be resource deserts, likely mirror the community cat resources environment in other states.

About Dan Spehar

Dan Spehar is a freelance research, data, and communications specialist. Much of his work has focused on the management of community cats. Dan has co-authored eight published peer-reviewed articles on the subject, and he has presented findings at national and regional conferences.

Dan is co-founder of the Together Initiative for Ohio's Community Cats. He leads the Together Initiative in advocating for the humane management of Ohio's community cats—via public education and efforts to promote collaboration among stakeholders. Since 2013, Dan has served as a Senior Humane Policy Volunteer Leader for the Humane Society of the United States—a role that allows him to work for the humane treatment of all animals via public policy initiatives. Dan holds a bachelor's degree in communication and a master's degree in animal policy.

11:15 AM - 11:30 AM

Break

11:30 AM.–12:30 PM.

Chris Roy, Founder, Doobert

Technology solutions to engage your community to find fosters & volunteers and help and reduce shelter intake

Looking for technology to help you reduce shelter intake? Want to move beyond the limitations of shelter management software? Doobert is the only system providing two-way text messaging and advanced workflows to automate your life-saving work. Come learn more about how we can help you!

About Chris Roy

Chris Roy is a tech guy in his "day" job and used his experience to create Doobert.com which is an online software platform custom-built for animal rescuers. Doobert.com is the ONLY software that supports transport, fostering, case management, and video capturing all in one place.

12:30 PM - 1:00 PM

Lunch break

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Deborah Cribbs, Founder and Director, Give Them Ten

Scooter Nation: How a cool, edgy cat is creating cat-caring communities across the US

Give Them Ten is a movement to create cat-caring communities across the nation. We believe a better world for cats can be achieved with more spay and neuter efforts, fostering, adoption and caring for community cats. Our movement started in Cincinnati, Ohio in 2013 when the live release rate of shelter cats was an unsettling 37%. Since our movement began, it's vastly improved to over 96%. We've invited like-minded organizations to join the movement and now have members across the U.S. from Hawaii and Washington to Georgia and many other states. We'll show how Give Them Ten has changed behavior toward cats and how others are creatively leveraging our strategies, tools, and our Scooter the Neutered Cat campaigns to engage their communities to do the same. Attendees will be invited to bring Scooter to their communities to get the same great results.

About Deborah Cribbs

Deborah Cribbs is the Board of Trustees chair for the Joanie Bernard Foundation, creator of the Give Them Ten Movement and its edgy Scooter the Neutered Cat mascot. She's a banker that has personal experience with cats which has deepened her connection to the work of the movement. She has a colony of community cats in her backyard and is an admitted "failed" foster parent who fell in love with her foster and ended up adopting. 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.

2:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Break

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Stella Ickes, Community Engagement Officer and Animal Control Officer, Pasco County Florida

How to Handle Large Cat Situations: A Conversation

This is going to be an open and frank conversation with Stacy and Stella understanding how we can work together to support large cat situations in communities.

About Stella Ickes

Stella turned her lifelong passion for animals into a career in 1996 at Farmingville Animal Hospital in New York, where she worked as a veterinary assistant and kennel manager for 10 years. After moving to Florida in 2012, she realized she missed the industry and started volunteering in the veterinary department of Pasco County Animal Services (PCAS). She was soon offered a position as an animal care technician, which gave her firsthand experience with the plight of homeless animals in the community.

By 2016, Stella's passion for helping both pets and people caught the attention of the organization's Field Services supervisor, who encouraged her to train as an animal control officer. She is now a certified animal control officer, in addition to being certified in humane euthanasia. She has served as Community Engagement Officer and on PCAS' Community Engagement Committee, which processes requests for the Pet Safety Net Program.

In 2021, Stella was named Animal Control Officer of the Year by the Florida Animal Control Association. She was the lead officer in charge of a recent grant to Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate and Return 600 cats in a high-volume community, driving the effort to completion within two months. She has identified many hoarding cases and worked with overwhelmed caregivers to find sterilization and placement opportunities, as well as any counseling or other resources needed. In addition, she assists with presentations to local neighborhood associations and civic organizations.

Stella has six pets of her own: four feisty dachshunds — her favorite breed — a giant, lovable rottweiler and a beautiful 3-legged calico cat.

3:30 PM - 3:45 PM

Break

3:45 PM - 4:45 PM

Mary Scott, Working Cats Program Director, ASAP Cats

Running a Successful Working Cats Program

Working Cat or Barn Cat Programs are used nationwide to provide positive outcomes for nonsocial cats in rescues and shelters. Cats who prefer little or no interaction with humans can avoid euthanasia if they are placed as mousers with a full time job. Mary will describe how she runs her Working Cats Program in Santa Barbara, California, which regularly saves cat lives, achieves adopter satisfaction and has a good rate of feline retention.

About Mary Scott

Tired of the 9 to 5 life as a paralegal, in 2009 Mary left law to start her career in animal welfare. Mary is one of several volunteers in leadership positions at ASAP Cats, the open admission stray cat shelter located in Southern Santa Barbara County, California. As leader of its Working Cats Program, Mary places nonsocial cats as mousers on farms, ranches, nurseries and large residential properties in the Santa Barbara and Santa Ynez Valley areas.

4:45 PM - 5:00 PM

Stacy LeBaron

Cat Trivia/Closing

Special thanks to all our conference sponsors:

Maddie's Fund
MSPCA
CARE
Vermont Humane Federation
The Humane Society of the United States

Scholarships Are Available:
[Here](#)