

The National Kitten Coalition Veterinary Conference



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12:45 - 2:00PM EST

Best Practices for Best Outcomes in Kitten Spay/Neuter

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Session Description:

Our goal is to save more kittens' lives. One of the best ways we can do that is to get them ready for and into their new homes as soon as it's in their best interest. Early-age spay/neuter saves more lives (and resources) - fewer kittens needing foster care and less time spent in foster care for those who do need it! By safely spaying and neutering kittens when they are old enough, big enough, and healthy enough to have this procedure, we can get them out of foster homes or shelters and into their permanent homes sooner. This gives us the capacity to save even more!

We'll look at what age or weight is the "right" age or weight to perform surgery as well as other important factors (spoiler alert - we want them to be at least 1.5 lbs. and robustly healthy.) We'll cover some important things to do before, during, and after surgery to help them do well and recover quickly (using these techniques, most are up, eating, running around, and playing less than an hour after surgery). We'll cover the when, how, and why of it all so that attendees understand these important considerations. (1.0 CE credit)

Speaker Bio:

Dr. Delany graduated from UCLA with a degree in Business/Economics and from UC Davis with her DVM in 2000. She has worked as an animal shelter, high volume spay/neuter and emergency veterinarian for the past 20 years. She worked for the UC Davis Shelter Medicine Program initially based out of the Sacramento County shelter and then at Yolo County Animal Services (YCAS) for eight years. At YCAS she implemented many lifesaving programs to help increase their live release rate (LRR) from 50% to over 90%, including starting the shelter's first foster program and adopting early age spay/neuter at the shelter - increasing kitten LRR from 30% to >90% in less than 3 years. In addition to her work at YCAS, Dr. Delany has helped other shelters with population management, implementing new life saving programs, shelter software use, data analysis, reporting and statistics. She also runs a private, non-profit rescue group that rescues sick, injured and newborn animals.