



NKCKittenNurseryConference/2021

Schedule and Session Details

Please note that this schedule is subject to change.

Saturday, April 10, 2021

4-6 pm EDT

Starting and Running a Kitten Nursery – with Scarce or Challenging Resources

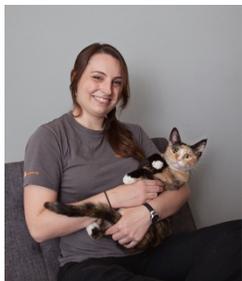
- Maggie Lynch, Director of Development, Austin Pets Alive!
- Nicole Wisneskie, Nursery Lead, Best Friends Animal Society-Los Angeles
- Moderator: Laura Baughman, National Kitten Coalition Board Member

Session Description:

How do you start or run a kitten nursery when you have nothing? What if you have a building, but it's not the greatest set up for a nursery? How do you patch together the space and resources you need to succeed? What works and what doesn't?



Maggie Lynch has been APA!'s Development Director since 2015 and also serves as the Director of Development for American Pets Alive!. She began volunteering with APA! Maggie will tell us about APA!'s early days of starting a kitten nursery with literally nothing, and how they saved hundreds of kitten lives with a donated trailer, donated electricity and donated water. Even today, they save thousands of kittens on the smallest of budgets.



Nicole Wisneskie has been the Supervisor of the BFLA Kitten Care Center within the Best Friends shelter outside Los Angeles since 2017 and has overseen the care of over 8,500 neonatal kittens. The shelter's kitten nursery is a patchwork of rooms spread around the shelter facility, and it works! Nicole will describe some of the challenges the BFLA Kitten Nursery program faced in its evolution, detailing what worked (and what didn't!) to overcome those challenges as well as the importance of solid protocols and training in maintaining a functioning kitten program. With just a few key pieces in place, neonatal kitten programming can be simpler than you think!

Speaker Bios

Maggie Lynch

Maggie began volunteering with APA! in early 2009 when she founded APA!'s grants program to support its rapid growth, learning the ropes of bringing in and stewarding the funding that fuels nonprofit work along the way, as well as the basics of program budgets and performance measurement. She left in 2011 to expand her experience in supporting social change, working at one of the world's leading social enterprises in Cambodia. After returning to the U.S. in 2012, she consulted with nonprofits on how to build strong organizational foundations for fundraising and wrote grants for a variety of causes. As Development Director since 2015, Maggie leads development strategy, oversees a staff of six, and works with program managers in creating resources, measuring performance, and communicating their many successes to supporters.

Nicole Wisneskie

Nicole began her career in animal welfare in 2010 at the San Gabriel Valley Humane Society before joining Best Friends Los Angeles in 2014. She has an associate degree in Veterinary Technology from Mt San Antonio College and is a Registered Veterinary Technician. Nicole has been the Supervisor of the BFLA Kitten Care Center since 2017 and has overseen the care of over 8,500 neonatal kittens.

Laura Baughman

Laura started fostering kittens for local animal shelters in 2010, and began advocating for a new kitten nursery at one of them in 2012. There was nothing “out there” about how to do it and what it would cost, so she approached The National Kitten Coalition about putting that information together in a “best practices” manual, became Project Leader, and in 2017 NKC published *Launching and Operating a Successful Kitten Nursery*. When she’s not helping folks explore kitten nurseries, Laura is an economist researching the impacts of trade. And fostering kittens.