



NKCKittenNurseryConference/2021

Schedule and Session Details

Please note that this schedule is subject to change

Saturday, April 24, 2021

11 am-1 pm EDT

Dealing with Curve Balls

- Samantha Friedman, Kitten Nursery Manager, St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center
- Dr. Allison Bliss, Veterinary Staff and Programs Manager and Karina Josenhans, Manager, Animal Logistics ASPCA® Kitten Nursery
- Jackie Noble, Nursery & Foster Manager, San Diego Humane Society
- Moderator: Laura Baughman, National Kitten Coalition Board Member

Session Description:

Nurseries get hit with curve balls and you need to turn on a dime when one does. Whether it's an unexpected outbreak of ringworm or the dreaded "panleuk," or the COVID-19 virus that upends shelter staff and volunteer schedules, those running kitten nurseries need to be react fast, and often in creative ways.



Samantha Friedman has managed St. Hubert's kitten NICU since it opened in April 2019. The COVID-19 crisis hit just as the Nursery was set to celebrate its one-year anniversary. Samantha will tell us about how they reacted, and the many challenges she's faced while trying to operate the Kitten Nursery during the COVID-19 crisis.



Dr. Allison Bliss has been managing veterinary care at the ASPCA kitten nursery since 2019. As the Animal Logistics Manager of the Kitten Nursery since 2017, Karina Josenhans has helped transform it into the foster based program it is today. When COVID-19 hit NYC in March 2020, the ASPCA Kitten Nursery/Foster Program faced new challenges. Staff support became a challenge, and a lot of pivoting happened. One silver lining of 2020 was the overwhelming response the Nursery received from people willing to foster even the tiniest of neonates.



Jackie Noble joins San Diego Humane Society program supervisors to oversee year-round nursery caregivers, seasonal staff, foster specialists and all volunteers who participate in the kitten nursery programs. In 2016 the nursery was rocked by an outbreak of panleukopenia. Jackie will recount how the staff fought this pernicious disease, and what it learned for dealing with disease outbreaks going forward.

Speaker Bios

Samantha Friedman

Samantha is a Veterinary Technician specializing in shelter medicine and felines with special needs, including neonates and others who need critical care. She has 20 years of experience in the animal welfare field and has worked at numerous shelters in New Jersey. Samantha has managed the NICU since it opened in April 2019. It has rescued over 1,000 kittens, and has a 90 to 95% survival rate. In addition to getting kittens from St. Hubert's, Sam works with rescue groups and independent rescuers across New Jersey who continue to bring her young stray and sick kittens round the clock.

Dr. Allison Bliss

Born and raised in upstate New York, Dr. Allison Bliss received a BA from Alfred University in 2005 where she majored in Biology/Pre-Veterinary studies and minored in Equine Science. She received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Mississippi State University in 2010 and a Master in Public Health from The University of Iowa in 2016. Her work after graduating has included mixed companion animals, military working dogs, small animal private practice, small animal specialty practice, and shelter medicine. When she is not at the ASPCA, Dr. Bliss enjoys running, reading, baking, and spending time with her furry kids.

Karina Josenhans

Karina has been an animal lover her whole life, prompting her to dip her toes in the animal welfare industry six years ago. After working with local shelters and veterinary clinics, she found herself at the ASPCA. As the Animal Logistics Manager of the Kitten Nursery, she has helped transform it into the foster based program it is today. Outside of the nursery, Karina enjoys hiking with her dog, yoga, music, travelling and playing piano.

Jackie Noble

Jackie earned her Master's in Zoology from the University of Glasgow in 2009 and joined the San Diego Humane Society staff in 2010. While pursuing her degree, she studied animal nutrition, behavior and pathology, all of which apply directly to the work being done at the kitten nursery. As Nursery & Foster Manager Jackie is responsible for staff management, volunteer engagement, case record review, daily rounds, protocol review and development, budget oversight, administrative and marketing tasks specific to the programs and information sharing with other groups. Jackie, as well as the program supervisors are responsible for overseeing year-round nursery caregivers, seasonal staff, foster specialists and all volunteers who participate in the programs. In her spare time Jackie volunteers with Orphan Kitten Club's Full Circle Program. As a member of the trap team she helps do her part to end the cycle of kittens being born outside.

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.