

## Congenital and Early Development Abnormalities in Kittens

Emily Coleman, DVM

Owner, The Celtic Cat, LLC. NKC CRC member. Board of Directors, Louisa Humane Society.

**Session Description:** Neonatology is often an overlooked topic during a veterinary medical education as well as continuing education opportunities, leaving both the recent graduate and the seasoned practitioner without the necessary knowledge of various abnormalities seen in neonatal kittens. Taking a practical, everyday approach, this talk will discuss how to recognize, diagnose and make treatment recommendations for three congenital and early developmental abnormalities seen in kittens: neonatal ophthalmia, cleft palate, and umbilical hernias. These abnormalities, while varying in levels of urgency as well as ease of treatment, all often involve a kitten that is just days old. As the nation adopts a no-kill outlook to animal rescue, it is only expected that more neonatal kittens will be seen in veterinary hospitals, making it very important for veterinary practitioners to be empowered to have frank, honest conversations with their clients on treatment recommendations and prognosis, whether they be rescue organizations or Good Samaritans of the general public. As early veterinary intervention is almost always required, this tiny, vulnerable population deserves a chance to thrive by being evaluated and treated appropriately.

**Speaker Bio:** Dr. Emily A. Coleman grew up in Baltimore, Maryland and acquired a Bachelor of Science at the University of Maryland in 2005. She then attended the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech, graduating in 2009. In 2020, after over ten years in private practice and shelter medicine, Dr. Coleman decided to pursue her niche and start her own mobile feline spay/neuter/TNR and preventative care practice dedicated to supporting rescue organizations in her community. The Celtic Cat, LLC will be opening Fall/Winter of 2021. Her veterinary interests include neonatal kitten care, preventative medicine, as well as geriatric care. She currently lives at Lake Anna, Virginia with her husband and their eight cats, two dogs and two guinea pigs. Dr. Coleman serves on the Content Review Committee of the National Kitten Coalition and is on the Board of Directors for Louisa Humane Society. She fosters over 30 of the most vulnerable neonatal kittens from surrounding counties each year. When not busy with her foster kittens she enjoys live music, reading, hiking, and kayaking.