



## The National Kitten Coalition Veterinary Conference/2022

**October 2, 2022**

**Session Schedule & Details**

**Conference starts at 10:00AM EST and ends at 6:00PM EST\***

**RACE® CE Credits available\*\***

**Sponsorships provided by:**



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### **Quick-View Schedule: All times are Eastern Standard Time**

- 10:00 – 10:15 AM: Welcome and Technology Check
- 10:15 – 11:15 AM: An Overview of Kitten Renal Disorders and Feline Renal Transplantation. Michelle Capps, BA, CVT
- 11:15 – 11:30 AM: Break
- 11:30 – 12:30 PM: Congenital Hypothyroidism in Kittens: A comprehensive look at a rare but serious disease. Dr. Pamela Galati, DVM and Jacquelyn Lewis, LVT
- 12:30 – 1:00 PM: Break. (TBD - Update from Tanzania)

- 1:00 – 2:00 PM: No Kitten Around: understanding and mitigating fear behaviors in young kittens. Courtney Graham, PhD candidate
- 2:00 – 2:15 PM: Break
- 2:15 – 3:15 PM: Update on FIP: No longer a death sentence. Dr. Elizabeth Colleran, DVM, DABVP
- 3:15 – 3:30 PM: Break
- 3:30 – 4:30 PM: Kitten Kindy. Dr. Kersti Seksel, BVSc, MRCVS MA, FANZCVS, DACVB, DECAWBM, FAVA
- 4:30 – 4:45 PM: Break
- 4:45 – 5:30 PM: Special Session with Dr. Niels Pedersen, DVM, PhD
- 5:30 – 5:45 PM: TBD - Certificate Courses Available – overviews/Q&A
- 5:45 – 6:00 PM: Closing Information about CE Certificates and access to Conference recordings/quizzes/CE

### 10:00 - 10:15 AM EST

#### Welcome and Technology Check

**Session Description:** Join us to get the 2022 National Kitten Coalition Veterinary Conference started off right! Get a preview of what's to come during the day regarding session content, scheduled breaks and navigating the Conference software. This is your chance to check in, say "hi!" and ensure that you can see and hear all the good stuff to come!

### 10:15 – 11:15 AM EST

#### An Overview of Kitten Renal Disorders and Feline Renal Transplantation

##### Michelle Capps, CVT

**Session Description:** Renal transplantation is a surgical intervention used to enhance life quality and prolong life expectancy for felines in chronic renal failure or acute, irreversible kidney injury. Eligible patients must meet intricate criteria for acceptance into the renal transplant program. This lecture will review congenital and genetic renal disorders in kittens, transplant candidacy, preoperative treatments, postoperative care, long-term management, potential complications, ethics, and surgical success rates. (1 credit RACE® CE for technicians/nurses only)

##### Speaker Bio:

**Michelle M. Capps** is a graduate of Camden County College's Veterinary Technology program in Blackwood, New Jersey, and obtained her certification in 2011. Additionally, Michelle attended Rowan University, where she graduated Cum Laude in General Studies with a minor in Biological Science. Michelle has been affiliated with the Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania since 2012 and currently serves as surgery supervisor. In 2017, she was selected to present a case report (Multiple Thoracotomies in the Rhodesian Ridgeback) at the ACVS Surgery Summit in Indianapolis. Her special interests include Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS), renal transplantation, lecturing, assisting in veterinary research data collection, and article publications. She most recently authored "Feline Renal Transplantation" in The NAVTA Journal (June/July 2021). Michelle is currently working to achieve her VTS in surgery.

**11:15 - 11:30 AM EST**

**Break**

Refill your coffee and hurry back!

**11:30 – 12:30 PM EST**

**Congenital Hypothyroidism in Kittens: A Comprehensive Look at a Rare but Serious Disease**

**Pamela Galati, DVM**

**Jacquelyn Lewis, LVT**

**Session Description:** Raising foster can be an arduous endeavor, but when one littermate isn't thriving, it can be distressing for both caregiver and kitten. Small stature, chronic constipation, and lethargy or mental dullness might seem like a nebulous group of signs, but in some cases, they can point to congenital hypothyroidism, a rare but treatable condition. Thanks to our own experiences in internal medicine, shared experiences from caregivers, and emerging research from such academic institutions as UC Davis, we are learning more about congenital hypothyroidism. In this session, we will go over what it looks like, how it is treated, and what the prognosis is for kittens diagnosed with this disease. (1 credit RACE® CE for veterinarians and technicians/nurses)

**Speaker Bios:**

**Dr. Pamela Galati** was born and raised in Queens, New York. She received her bachelor's degree from Lehigh University in Pennsylvania and her veterinary degree from the Royal Veterinary College in London. She then completed a rotating and specialty internship in internal medicine in Long Island, NY, followed by a residency in Small Animal Internal Medicine at Mississippi State University. She is passionate about all areas of internal medicine, but specifically enjoys diagnosing and treating endocrine disorders.

**Jacquelyn Lewis** is a Licensed Veterinary Technician in the Internal Medicine department at VCA Veterinary Referral and Emergency Center in Westbury, NY. She is also the co-founder of Sound Home Animal Sanctuary, a micro-sanctuary and rescue for small mammals, with a special focus on orphaned kittens. In addition to VCA, Jacquelyn has worked at Veterinary Care Group, as well as North Shore Animal League America. She possesses a B.A. in Journalism from the University of Oregon, and an M.S. in Publishing from New York University, as well as an A.A.S. in Veterinary Technology from LaGuardia Community College. Jacquelyn is Fear Free certified in addition to being a Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator. She has had a lifelong passion for working with and caring for small animals, with a special interest in cat rescue, feline neonatal care, TNR, and feline behavior.

**12:30 – 1:00 PM EST**

**Break**

Stretch & rehydrate. We'll see you back at 1:00!

**1:00 - 2:00 PM EST**

**No Kitten Around: Understanding and mitigating fear behaviors in young kittens**

**Courtney Graham, PhD candidate**

**Session Description:** We know that early life experiences impact behavioral development and long-term welfare. The sensitive period for socialization in kittens is estimated to be between 2 and 9 weeks of age, while kittens are typically in foster care and before kittens are adopted. During this period, kittens are more resilient to new experiences, making this the optimal time to instill positive associations to the world around them. This session will cover how to identify specific behaviors to determine the emotional state of kittens and distinguish between mild and moderate fear levels. Through a number of empirical studies, this session will also review the current state of socialization practices, behaviors considered important for successful adoption, and risk factors for the development of fear behaviors in kittens prior to adoption. It will also cover the importance of appropriate socialization during this time period and how these experiences can impact the welfare and development of fear behavior in young kittens. The ultimate goal is to set kittens up for successful and long-term adoption with high caretaker satisfaction to keep kittens in their forever homes. Using the important perspective of the foster parent—a key stakeholder in a kitten’s early development—this research has gained insight into this crucial time in a kitten’s life to provide recommendations for early kitten care. (1 credit RACE® CE for veterinarians and technicians/nurses)

**Speaker Bio:**

**Courtney Graham** completed her BS in Geography from the University of Victoria (Canada) and her MS in Applied Animal Biology from the Animal Welfare Program at the University of British Columbia (Canada). She is scheduled to finish her PhD in 2022 from the Department of Population Medicine at the Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph (UofG, Canada). Her research investigates the impacts of early life experiences on the behavioral development of young kittens, with particular focus on identifying and mitigating fear behavior in kittens within their sensitive period for socialization. She has previously served as Board Trustee and Secretary for the Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada, an external reviewer for the British Columbia SPCA Standards for Companion Animal Services, Vice President and Event Coordinator for the Campbell Center for the Study of Animal Welfare Student Chapter (UofG), guest reviewer for Animal Care Committee research protocols (UofG), and facilitator for the Ontario Veterinary College Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Behavior Rotation. Courtney currently lives in Vancouver, Canada, with her two rescue cats, Sophie and Mango.

**2:00 - 2:15 PM EST**

**Break**

Time for a snack?

**2:15 - 3:15 PM EST**

**Update on FIP: No longer a death sentence**

**Dr. Elizabeth Colleran, DVM, MS ABVP Diplomate (feline)**

**Session Description:** Feline infectious peritonitis (FIP), caused by genetic mutants of feline enteric coronavirus known as FIPV, is a highly fatal disease of cats with no currently available vaccine or US Food and Drug Administration-approved cure. Dissemination of FIPV in affected cats results in a range of clinical signs, including cavitory effusions, anorexia, fever and lesions of pyogranulomatous vasculitis and perivasculitis, with or without central nervous system or ocular involvement. Two protease inhibitor anti-coronavirus drugs have been responsible for effective cures. Without FDA approval, a form of crowd-sourced therapy has evolved. The available data on this and a recent legalization of an adenosine nucleoside analogue anti-coronavirus oral medication in the UK and Australia provides a promising future for the successful treatment of FIP. This session will discuss the pathophysiology of Coronavirus and ways to act safely and lawfully to provide FIP therapy and cure. (1 credit RACE® CE for veterinarians and technicians/nurses)

**Speaker Bio:** **Dr. Colleran** is the founder and hospital director of two exclusively feline practices and an ABVP feline Diplomate. One of her hospitals is now a part of a great partnership leaving her the time to teach and write. Her membership in the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) resulted in many years on the executive board and stints as treasurer and president. She is the co-chair of the signature and most significant AAFP program - Cat Friendly Practice. She serves on the AVMA Animal Welfare Committee. Her passion for feline education has taken her around the world talking to veterinarians and support staff about feline medicine, behavior and ethology. In 2017, the online reference DECISION SUPPORT IN MEDICINE: FELINE MEDICINE was published as part of the DSM medicine series. Dr. Colleran was the editor in chief and contributor. She wrote 6 chapters for the latest edition of the Feline Patient, ed. Dr. Gary Norsworthy, and is presently writing a book about her true passion, senior cats. Beyond cats, she loves road cycling in the mountains, exotic food, good wine, her dear friends and crazy husband. Her husband's new puppy is another matter altogether.

**3:15 - 3:30 PM EST**

**Break**

**3:30 – 4:30 PM EST**

**Kitten Kindy**

**Dr. Kersti Seksel**

**Session Description:** Taking cats to school? Really? Why? Well why not? Why should cats miss out on what we so readily accept is so important for people and dogs? Kitten Kindy is not just about educating cats - it is about educating their people they live with and that way the community as well. And what better time to start this education program but when cats are young.... and preferably in their very important and sensitive socialization period. They are small and cute (but not always cuddly) so the people they live with need to learn all about the feline mind, their senses and their social systems. This should help everyone live together in harmony! Or at least have realistic expectations of what living with a kitten and then a cat means.

This presentation will cover why Kitten Kindy started, why it is important and how to run the classes. From starting to think about why run the classes to how to set them up and then what to cover in the classes will all be discussed. Come along and enjoy learning about how cats learn – as well as what they, and the people they live with should learn! (1 credit RACE® CE for veterinarians and technicians/nurses)

**Speaker Bio:** Kersti is a Sydney University veterinary graduate and has a Bachelor of Arts in Behavioral Science (major in psychology) and Master of Arts (Hons) by thesis. She is a Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists, Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists and Diplomate of the European College of Animal Welfare and Behavioural Medicine.

Kersti is an adjunct Professor at the University of Queensland, adjunct Associate Professor at Charles Sturt University, head tutor for the Distance Education course in Behavioural Medicine for the Centre for Veterinary Education at University of Sydney, teaches undergraduate veterinary students at the University of Sydney. She regularly presents at conferences nationally and internationally, both in person and via internet, has written many textbook chapters, a book, *Training Your Cat*, is a regular presenter on radio and is a consultant on VIN. She created Puppy Preschool® and Kitten Kindy®.

**4:30 – 4:45 PM EST**

**Break**

Don't be too long! You won't want to miss a single minute of the special session with Dr. Pedersen.

**4:45 – 5:30 PM EST**

**Special Q & A Session**

**Dr. Niels Pedersen, DVM, PhD**

**Session Description:** Many great discoveries on FIP have come out of UC Davis and Pedersen's laboratory, including the first propagation of the causative coronavirus in tissue culture, recognition of its close relationship to common coronaviruses of other species, the development of an antibody test for feline coronavirus, and the recognition that the FIP virus (FIPV) was an uncommon mutation of a ubiquitous and largely non-pathogenic feline enteric coronavirus (FECV). A number of studies defining FECV infection in nature and how mutations in FECV lead to FIP followed. Join this special session to hear from the world's leading expert on FIP and feline infectious disease, including considerations for multi-cat households. Dr. Pedersen will answer questions submitted ahead of time as well as those asked during the session. Don't miss this opportunity to hear from the leading expert and get your most pressing questions answered.

**Speaker Bio:**

Dr. Pedersen has been with UC Davis since 1972 and retired as a distinguished professor emeritus in October 2013. His first 17 years were spent in clinics, teaching, and research, and the next six years in teaching and research. His career became much more involved with administration and research during the remainder of his years at Davis. Following a stint as Department chairman, he became the founder and director of the Center for Companion Animal Health and, several years

later, also the director of the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory. This latter duty refueled a long-term appreciation for the role of genetics in disease. Research into infectious and immunologic diseases of cats and dogs has remained constant throughout his career. Dr. Pedersen remains an active emeritus faculty and continues his first love, research. He has no plans to retire if his health allows, because for him, retiring to research is much better than retiring.

Although he has researched many infectious diseases of cats, FIP remains his first love; if you can use this term to apply to a disease that is still both common and almost universally fatal. Dr. Pedersen has come to look at FIP as the “worthy adversary.” It is undoubtedly one of the most complex and challenging infectious diseases of any species, and he is driven to see it prevented or cured. He realized that the answers will not come from one laboratory and that because it is not like any human disease, funding will always be less than adequate and come mainly from individuals and organizations that have a personal interest in seeing it end. He hopes to continue to do his part to keep the disease in the spotlight and say he is not alone. He recently reviewed over 100 clinical and research publications on FIP that research groups have submitted worldwide since 2008. No other disease of cats has received this degree of scrutiny.

**5:30 - 5:45 PM EST**

**Certificate Courses – offerings and information**

**5:45 – 6:00 PM EST**

**Conference Wrap-Up**

**Thank you for attending – and for all you do to help kittens!**

\*While the Conference will make every effort to adhere to the stated schedule, it may be subject to change.

\*\*This live, interactive conference program (#20-926387) has been **approved by the AAVSB for RACE® CE** credit for veterinarians and technicians/nurses in jurisdictions that recognize RACE® approval. **Recordings will be available through December 31, 2022.** CE approval is pending for recorded sessions and accompanying quizzes.