



# ONLINE KITTEN CONFERENCE

June 10–12, 2022

*All times listed are Eastern Time.*

Friday, June 10

7:00–8:00 p.m.

**Stacy LeBaron, Head Cat, Community Cats Podcast**

Opening remarks and technology practice

7:15 - 8:00 p.m.

**Sandy Rees, Founder, Fundraising TV and Chief Encouragement Officer, Get Fully Funded**

#### **4-Legged Fundraising: How to Raise More Money so You Can Save More Kittens**

Caring for kittens takes funding. Most nonprofits only think about fundraising when the checkbook gets low and they go from one fundraiser to the next, never building long-term sustainability. This session will show you how to think differently and practice donor-based fundraising, where the key is relationships - finding and keeping donors who love the work your organization does. When you build a big donor base of people who love your cause, you will ALWAYS have financial support because these folks WANT to see you win! In this session you'll learn how to Build a big, loyal donor base of people who love to give you money. Create inspirational messaging to get these donors involved and keep them coming back. Balance your Asks so there's plenty of "feel-good" experiences for donors and not you just showing up with your hand out all the time. Create an annual fundraising strategy so you always know what to do next, people aren't overasked, and there's plenty of money coming in.

#### **About Sandy Rees**

Sandy is the Founder of Fundraising TV and the Chief Encouragement Officer at Get Fully Funded where she shows passionate nonprofit leaders how to fully fund their big vision, so they can spend their time saving lives instead of worrying about money. She has helped dozens of small animal welfare nonprofits go from "nickel-and-dime fundraising" to adding 6 figures to their bottom line. As a trainer, she shows her students how to find ideal donors, connect with them through authentic messaging, and build relationships that stand the test of time so that fundraising becomes easy and predictable. Sandy has served as a volunteer and board member for a variety of animal rescue nonprofits including Animal Legal Defense Fund. Sandy is based in Loudon, TN. Find out more about her fundraising system at [GetFullyFunded.com](http://GetFullyFunded.com).

8:00–8:15 p.m.

Leadership Sponsor Remarks

8:15 p.m.

Cat trivia

Saturday, June 11

10:00–10:15 a.m.

**Kristen Petrie, Technical Cat, Community Cats Podcast**  
**Rosemarie Crawford and Meghan Agars, The National Kitten Coalition**

Welcome

10:15–11:15 a.m.

**Rebecca Martin, Director/ Founder of Rhode Island Kitten Kits**

### **Kitten Kits: Supporting the Rescue Community**

Kitten Kits have shown to be critical life saving tools in shelters, rescues and veterinary clinics. In this session, director of Rhode Island Kitten Kits, Rebecca Martin will discuss the importance of keeping lifesaving supplies on hand in municipal shelters for time sensitive kitten intakes, making kitten supplies and educational materials available 24/7 to rescuers and good samaritans and providing supplies and support to foster based rescues.

### **About Rebecca Martin**

In 2016 Rebecca and her husband Matthew rescued a litter of neonatal kittens. The experience was life changing and the duo knew that they wanted to help more kittens. Rebecca decided to volunteer as a fundraising coordinator at a local cat shelter and the pair decided to foster another litter of neonatal kittens. They went from kitten novices to kitten savvy when one of the kittens they were fostering had a severe congenital stomach defect. They realized how important critical care was for kittens who were sick. What they also realized was that there was a gap in education and supplies when it came to caring for neonatal kittens. In 2018 they decided to start a nonprofit called Rhode Island Kitten Kits. Once established they arranged with RI's only emergency veterinary clinic so rescuers and Good Samaritans would have access 24/7 to emergency kitten supplies. They also provide additional supplies for continued care for rescues and shelters. Rebecca mentors foster homes that care for neonatal kittens and they often make emergency supply deliveries. They also make sure every municipal shelter in RI has a kitten kit on hand. In addition to running Rhode Island Kitten Kits, Rebecca is a full-time hair stylist and foster mom, and Matthew is a Route Manager for the New England region of Nalco. The pair are currently fostering Squiggy, a kitten with a severe form of Cerebellar Hypoplasia and they have 6 resident cats.

11:15–11:45 a.m.

Break, cat trivia

11:45–12:45 p.m.

**Allison Hunter-Frederick, Cat Behavior Consultant and Trainer**

### **Cat Agility? Yes!**

Agility is a fun activity for cats of all ages to address their physical and cognitive needs. In my presentation, I will focus on the main agility obstacles and how to affordably create those obstacles. I will also provide steps for teaching those obstacles to cats and for combining those obstacles into a complete

course. My demos will provide examples of cats doing agility in homes and in shelters. Whether working with kittens or adults, in a home or a shelter, agility is a fun way to enrich the lives of cats.

#### **About Allison Hunter-Frederick**

Allison Hunter-Frederick is a cat behavior consultant, trainer, and educator. She is also the mother of three furkids and several revolving foster cats, a host mom to an international student, and the wife of a supportive husband. Through her business, she has taught classes in cat agility. Her own three cats, which include a former feral, love agility. Allison has a certificate in Cat Behavior & Retention from the Humane Society of the United States, and a Silver Level certificate from Low-Stress Handling University. She has taken multiple other cat behavior courses, including Train Your Cat from Karen Pryor Academy. She is a member of the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants, Pet Professional Guild (Feline Committee), and Best Friends Network Partners. Allison has volunteered with Hearts United for Animals and Husker Cats, and she has fostered for The Capital Humane Society and Joining Forces Saving Lives. Currently, she volunteers with Lincoln Animal Ambassadors, The Cat House, and Love on a Leash.

12:45–1:15 p.m.

Lunch break

1:15–2:15 p.m.

**Jennifer Bledsoe-Nix, Medical Director, SPCA of Wake County**

#### **Pediatric Illness and Treatment Cocktails**

In this presentation, we will cover some of the most common signs and symptoms of medical conditions in neonatal and pediatric kittens. We will be discussing some unique and “outside the box” treatment protocols that have saved countless kitten lives. Along with common symptoms of URI, GI conditions and failure to thrive, we will discuss the importance of symptomatic treatments and using anti-nausea medications as a treatment. We will also discuss some unique methods to administer treatments. This discussion will focus on learning how to recognize signs of illness and methods of treating the patient.

#### **About Dr. Jennifer Beldsoe-Nix**

Dr. Jennifer Bledsoe-Nix earned her DVM degree from the University Of Tennessee College Of Veterinary Medicine in 2004. After graduation, she spent 12 years working in a small animal private practice in East Tennessee. During her time in private practice, she worked extensively with rescue organizations and local animal shelters. While she loved working with all the animals, she discovered her love and passion for feline medicine and shelter medicine. With a new focus in her career, she took a position as Medical Director at SAFE Haven for Cats in Raleigh, North Carolina. As their Medical Director, she provided medical care to the cats and kittens in the shelter, their foster program and their Spay/Neuter Clinic. After 4 years in the feline-only shelter, she transitioned to a larger shelter organization, SPCA of Wake County in Raleigh North Carolina, providing care to a multitude of species. Dr. Jennifer is the Medical Director of the SPCA of Wake County and leads the shelter medical team and spay/neuter medical team. At SPCA, she provides medical care for the animals including cats, dogs, rabbits, guinea pigs and small rodents. Neonatal and pediatric care are essential to their robust foster program and one of her primary passions. When not working, she spends time relaxing with her husband and menagerie of cats including three cats with Cerebellar Hypoplasia of varying severity.

2:45–3:15 p.m.

**Robin Klintz, Founder of FIP Warriors**

**FIP Warriors**

How FIP Warriors came to be and how it's helping people around the world cure their cats of the otherwise deadly virus.

### **About Robin Kintz**

Robin Kintz founded FIP Warriors when her own two kittens were diagnosed with FIP in early 2019. At that time the only online resources she could find regarding FIP were NOT supportive of the experimental GS-441524 treatment. She was able to make contact with two women in one of the Facebook groups that didn't believe in the treatment however, and was then connected to chat groups in China where the meds could be ordered. The need for an online forum for people looking to use GS on their cats was clear and with the two women who first helped her, she founded FIP Warriors. Over the last 3-plus years, the group has helped close to 50,000 cats worldwide and has a presence in many countries internationally. There is also a Warriors Veterinarians group that has nearly 12,000 global members.

3:15 - 4:00 p.m.

Break, cat trivia

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

**Stacy LeBaron, Head Cat, Community Cats Podcast**

### **Stacy's Mystery Kitten Panel**

Join us for a panel conversation with three surprise guests! Each will talk about their kitten-saving journey, and the tips and tricks they've picked up along the way. We're sure to hear some moving and fun anecdotes along the way!

5:00 p.m.

Closing remarks

Sunday, June 12

10:00–10:15 a.m.

**Stacy LeBaron, Community Cats Podcast**

**Rosemarie Crawford and Meghan Agars, The National Kitten Coalition**

Welcome Back!

10:15–11:15 a.m.

**Mike Phillips, President and Co-Founder of Urban Cat League, Licensed Veterinary Technician, Urban Cat League**

### **Taming Feral Kittens for Adoption**

Learn techniques for preparing hissing and swatting kittens to be calmly and safely placed in the arms of a prospective adopter. Video and detailed explanation of the Urban Cat League techniques used successfully for over 20 years will be shared. In association with TNR, taming the kittens for adoption reduces the colony size, thereby improving community relations and the quality of life while caring for the remaining colony cats. This technique can also save the lives of under-socialized kittens from hoarding situations and works equally well on tame and shy kittens who present poorly in the adoption setting.

### **About Mike Phillips**

Mike Phillips is currently president of Urban Cat League which he co-founded in 2003. In 2014, he was recruited to be the founding Senior Supervisor of the ASPCA's neonatal kitten nursery after having formerly served as the Veterinary Technician Supervisor of the ASPCA's NYC Adoption Center. Thousands have attended Mike's workshops for Community Cats on numerous topics including Taming Feral Kittens, Advanced TNR Trapping Techniques, Feral Cat-Shelter Building, TNR Community Relations and Bottle Feeding Neonatal Kittens. In 2010, the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association named Mike the recipient of the award, "BEST FRIEND TO FERAL CATS." Simultaneously to all of that, Mike's alter ego worked in theater as a director, choreographer and performer for over 40 years including 20 years at the New York City Opera.

11:45–12:45 p.m.

**Jacquelyn Lewis, LVT, VCA Veterinary Referral and Emergency Center of Westbury, NY**

### **Congenital Hypothyroidism in Kittens: Rare But Real**

Hypothyroidism is thought to be a rare disorder in kittens, but veterinarians also contend that the disease is under-diagnosed. This webinar will cover how to spot signs, what to ask your vet, and what the treatment and prognosis looks like for foster kittens diagnosed with congenital hypothyroidism.

### **About Jacquelyn Lewis**

Jacquelyn Lewis is 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.

12:45–1:15 p.m.

Lunch break

1:15–2:15 p.m.

**Christi Metropole, President and CEO, Stray Cat Alliance**

**Monica Frenden-Tarant, Director of Welfare Advancement for The Joanie Bernard Foundation at Cincinnati Animal CARE**

### **Kittens and Community Cat Programs: Considerations, Caveats, and Concerns**

With a push to embrace community cat programming around the country, kittens are on many of our minds. Do we return unsocialized kittens? Friendly kittens? How old are they? What about rabies vaccine requirements? Kittens considered for return to home have special considerations and concerns we must take into account to ensure their welfare while preserving resources at the shelter and managing the tsunami of incoming kittens each spring. In this presentation, national cat gurus Monica Frenden-Tarant and Christi Metropole will guide you through the latest recommendations, discuss special considerations, and answer your questions on how to effectively, and humanely, manage kittens in your community cat programming.

### **About Christi Metropole**

When Christi Metropole encountered a stray and needy kitten in 1999, she was appalled to learn that little to no resources existed to help her, her cat, and thousands like them. As a result, she founded Stray Cat Alliance and soon, feral and free-roaming cats had found a formidable ally. Under Christi's unwavering

leadership, hundreds of volunteers and scores of donors have since united to provide education, human power, and skills to advocate for every cat's right to be safe, healthy, and valued. Under her astute direction, Stray Cat Alliance developed scalable, sustainable, best-practice programs, such as Safe and Home and Return to Home, that ensure a better quality of life for feral, stray, homeless, or community cats—often misunderstood and targeted—that wouldn't otherwise survive and flourish. Christi is a respected expert in the field of animal welfare whose expertise and advocacy efforts have put her at the forefront of the movement to make Los Angeles a no-kill city. Her unwavering commitment to enact progressive and humane policies to save the lives of cats and kittens has made Christi a sought-after speaker on critical issues related to cat care and protection, laws regarding humane treatment, and human health-related concerns. She worked for more than a decade to overturn the TNR injunction in the City of Los Angeles and was a leader in the development of Los Angeles' Citywide Cat Program.

### **About Monica Frenden-Tarant**

Monica Frenden-Tarant is the Director of Welfare Advancement for The Joanie Bernard Foundation at Cincinnati Animal CARE and is helping organizations create the most humane city in the country for cats. A decade before anyone had heard of such a thing, she cut her teeth founding a trap-neuter-return organization in rural Illinois and pioneered one of the nation's first, and largest, working cat programs. In 2012, she joined Austin Pets Alive! where she led her team to an 88 percent growth in cat adoptions and helped Austin achieve a citywide 98 percent live release rate for cats. Monica then spent years as an instructor for the Maddie's Fund Lifesaving Academy teaching shelters best practices and innovative lifesaving programs, advancing research in feline retroviruses, as well as progressing public policy as a City of Austin Animal Advisory Commissioner. Monica is a frequent speaker and advisor on innovative ways to save every cat, including cats with feline leukemia, community cats, and shelter cats in need of medical care.

2:15–2:45 p.m.

Break, cat trivia

2:45–3:45 p.m.

**Nicole Schafer Crane, Executive Director, Kaua'i Humane Society**  
**Alexandria Taogoshi, Animal Programs Manager, Kaua'i Humane Society**

### **Are There Ever Enough Fosters?**

Kaua'i Humane Society (KHS) takes in over 700 neonate kittens a year. As the only animal shelter facility on the island of Kaua'i, the care of neonates weighs heavily on KHS fosters. KHS's foster program provides all needed supplies to fosters at no cost and places healthy neonates as well as those requiring medical attention (ringworm and upper respiratory infection), but there seem to never be enough fosters. For kitten season 2022 KHS is piloting two new programs to increase neonate care and foster recruitment. The first is offering a stipend to staff that take neonates after hours while they wait to be matched with a foster and the second is offering a monetary incentive to fosters that meet fostering checkpoints (e.g. transitioning bottle babies to wet food and getting kittens to 2lbs). This presentation will provide preliminary results of these programs and analyze their successes and failures.

### **About Nicole Schafer Crane**

The Kaua'i Humane Society's Executive Director, Nicole Schafer Crane, has been involved in animal welfare since childhood. She spent her childhood volunteering at the local pound, competitively showing animals, coaching equestrian, and working in veterinary clinics and zoos. College was another opportunity for her to expand her interest and learn more about how to help those that could not speak for themselves. Her studies took her across the South and Midwest and finally abroad. In New Zealand she ran a successful campaign to remove anti-shark nets from the beaches. In the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands she campaigned for marine animals before turning her focus to the local "boonie" dogs and assisted with Saipan's first animal welfare legislation. After years abroad she returned

to the US to work with the San Francisco SPCA at their sister shelter the Stockton Animal Shelter and then off to Louisiana to manage Caddo Parish Animal Services and Mosquito Control before finding herself in Kaua'i supporting the amazing KHS 'ohana.

### **About Alexandria Taogoshi**

Alexandria Taogoshi is the Animal Programs Manager with the Kauai Humane Society. Over the 8 years she has been at the shelter, she has worked a number of different positions, from animal care technician to veterinary lead. Now she specializes in positive outcomes for the shelter's animals by managing special programs such as the transfer program, behavior program, and the foster program! Alex considers herself an avid cat lover and has taken home countless unweaned, sick, injured, and under-socialized cats to foster, building up her knowledge base through first-hand experience with these wonderful animals. Currently enrolled in school to become a certified veterinary technician, Alex hopes to continue to expand on her education and experience so that she may provide the best care to the animals around her and so that she may help others learn what they need to do to play a positive role in an animal's life.

3:45–4:00 p.m.

Break, cat trivia

4:00–5:00 p.m.

**Molly Kelsey, Feline Behavioral Consultant**

### **Confident Kittens: Making The Most Of Key Socialization Periods**

Socialization periods for kittens are as important as they are for puppies. Unfortunately, their experiences during the socialization periods are nowhere near as prioritized and advocated for as their canine counterparts. The primary socialization window for kittens occurs from 2-7 weeks of age and the second one lasts from 9 weeks to 14-16 weeks. By using these key windows of time to expose a kitten to a variety of experiences in a positive way e.g. body being handled like a veterinary examination, common household appliances in operation and children, we set them up to be confident, happy, and resilient adults.

### **About Molly Kelsey**

Molly Kelsey is a former Vet Nurse, and foster fail when it comes to orphan neonatal Tabbies. She has worked with cats for over ten years in companion animal practice, volunteering both in New Zealand and overseas, and more recently, as a Feline Behavioral Consultant. She is the only PPG registered Feline Behavior Consultant in New Zealand and is also a member of the IAABC. Her work ethos centers around improving the mental and physical well-being of every cat she is asked to assist with. This is achieved by educating and empowering owners, shelter staff, and veterinary professionals.

5:00 p.m.

Closing remarks

Special thanks to all our conference sponsors:

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