



June 9th | 7:00pm–8:30pm EDT
June 10th & 11th | 10:00am–5:00pm EDT
(All times listed are Eastern Time)

Friday, June 9 - 7:00pm–8:30pm

7:00pm–7:15pm

Stacy LeBaron, Community Cats Podcast
Opening Remarks, Technology Practice

7:15pm–8:15pm

Emily Coleman, DVM, Owner, The Celtic Cat, LLC, Louisa Humane Society, NKC

Kitten 101: A Veterinarian's Perspective

The accessibility to individuals willing to foster kittens is crucial to their survival, but fostering kittens, especially neonatal kittens, can seem daunting to community members or even seasoned fosters. This presentation will touch on many aspects of kitten care: recommended supplies, the importance of quarantine, determining kitten age and gender, neonatal kitten care, age-appropriate nutrition, and preventative care, as well as common medical ailments that may be encountered while fostering. Given that the speaker has the dual perspectives of being a veterinarian and a neonatal kitten foster, the hope is that whether the listener is a community member, affiliated with a rescue organization, manages a foster program, or is a member of the shelter or veterinary communities, this Kitten 101 lecture will provide useful insights and ultimately help save more kittens.

About Emily Coleman

Dr. Emily A. Coleman grew up in Baltimore, Maryland. She acquired a Bachelor of Science at the University of Mary Washington and received her DVM from Virginia Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech. After over ten years in private practice and shelter medicine, Dr. Coleman decided to think outside of the box and to start her own mobile feline spay/neuter/TNR and preventative care practice dedicated to supporting 501c3 nonprofit rescue organizations in Central Virginia. The Celtic Cat, LLC opened in November 2021 and has since assisted over a dozen organizations with their veterinary care. Her veterinary interests include neonatal kitten care, preventative surgery and medicine, as well as geriatric care. Dr. Coleman serves on the Board of Directors for Louisa Humane Society in Louisa, Virginia, as the IACUC veterinarian at the University of Mary Washington, as a member of the Content Review Committee for The National Kitten Coalition, and as of 2023, serves on the Board of Directors for The National Kitten Coalition. She currently lives at Lake Anna, Virginia with her husband, their eight cats and three chickens and fosters over a dozen of the most vulnerable neonatal kittens from surrounding counties each year, typically receiving them at just a few days old.



8:15pm - 8:30pm

Wrap up & Preview for the Weekend
Leadership Sponsor Remarks
Cat trivia

Saturday, June 10 - 10:00am–5:30pm

10:00am–10:15am

Stacy LeBaron, Community Cats Podcast
Rosemarie Crawford, The National Kitten Coalition
Welcome

10:15am–11:15am

Adelle Goodman, Founder and Director, Travel Animal Rescue

Kittens Around The World: The Life of Cats in the Global South

Many individuals, both kittens and otherwise, in the Global South suffer unique challenges that are less often discussed, rarely understood in their full complexity, and less frequently addressed than in wealthy, highly developed countries in the Global North. There are compassionate people working for kittens all around the world, but they are often lacking the resources they need to help these kittens and cats as effectively as possible.

While every country is struggling with its own challenges, are there ways we can work together on these same goals more effectively globally? Understanding our challenges is the first step to addressing them. This session will explore how we can create a stronger network of these compassionate individuals to more effectively help kittens and cats.

About Adelle Goodman

Adelle Goodman is the founder of Travel Animal Rescue and is the director of operations for several animal rescues and farm sanctuaries in Southeast Asia. Three years ago, Adelle left the United States and has been traveling ever since. Adelle spends several months in every place she lives in order to get to know its unique complexities and provide help to animals in need. Adelle mostly works in collaboration with others, and her work is made possible through the support & compassion of incredible people she meets who are actively working on the ground in each place. Adelle has met animal protectors in Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia, India, Japan, Albania, Greece, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia. Currently, Adelle's focus and direct action is TNR of homeless and community cats. While not Adelle does not actively rescue, foster, shelter, or help with adoption due to the nature of her constantly nomadic lifestyle, she travels with her traps and helps her neighbors and friends with TNR'ing their local cats.



11:15am–11:45am

Break, Cat Trivia

11:45am–12:45pm

Steve Dale, Certified Animal Behavior Consultant, Steve Dale Pet World

Enriching Kitten Lives

Enriching Kittens' Lives: Life may be safer for indoor cats, but obesity and terminal boredom can kill too. Some call it "catiication" or meeting the environmental needs of cats, and one key is starting young. Living in a dull environment means less exercise and perhaps obesity, and chronic stress may lead to an increased likelihood of physical illnesses, such as "Pandora's Syndrome" (FLUTD), which may prompt inappropriate elimination, a major explanation for relinquishment. Enrichment may activate prey drive of indoor cats and encourage family interaction. Discussed are the best ways to feed kittens and cats, as most may be feeding all wrong. The concept of contrafreeloading suggests most animals prefer working for their food. Various inexpensive and easy-to-implement enrichment ideas and games for clients are presented. There's also a discussion of training kittens and cats, not only how to do it, but why anyone might bother training them in the first place.

About Steve Dale

Certified animal behavior consultant, Steve Dale, is the host of two nationally syndicated radio shows, Steve Dale's Pet World and The Pet Minute. His many TV appearances range from Oprah to Good Morning America to National Geographic Explorer to a wide variety of Animal Planet programs, and as a former contributor to superstation WGN-TV and nationally syndicated HouseSmarts TV. Steve has authored ebooks, Good Dog! and Good Cat! and several other books, including My New Puppy, DogGone Chicago, and American Zoos. Steve is also a contributor to The Cat: Clinical Medicine and Management, Treatment and Care of the Geriatric Veterinary Patient and has written forewords/introductions to many books. Steve's a print contributor to DVM 360 and a member of their speaking faculty. He also writes for CATster and the Journal of the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America. Formerly, he was the pet editor at USA Weekend and author of a Tribune Media Services syndicated pet column for 21 years.

Steve serves on the Boards of the EveryCat Health Foundation (formerly Winn Feline), Human Animal Bond Association, and the Association for Pet Obesity Prevention. He's a past Board Member of the American Humane Association, CATalyst Council (which he co-founded), and others. Steve is the recipient of many awards, including the first-ever American Veterinary Medical Association Excellence in Media Award, presented to Steve, then renamed the Steve Dale AVMA Excellence in Media Award, 2022. Steve continues to work with government bodies to create and advocate for pet protection laws.



12:45pm–1:00pm

Break

1:00pm-2:00pm

Nadia Oseguera, California Program Manager, UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program

Unlocking Potential: Growth Mindset Approaches to Foster Development

Helping the most fragile and vulnerable kittens often requires an advanced set of skills that the average person is not innately equipped with. When we approach foster recruitment, development, and retention with the notion that all foster caregivers have the potential to grow their skills over time, we can establish and nurture a wider base of volunteers. In this session, Nadia Oseguera will share learner-centered and growth mindset approaches that encourage fosters to grow their kitten-caregiving skills at their individual pace and go from novice to pro!

About Nadia Oseguera

Nadia Oseguera is the California Program Manager for the Koret Shelter Medicine Program (KSMP). Prior to joining KSMP, Nadia worked for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) where she managed a high-volume feline foster program in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC). Her proudest accomplishments while at the ASPCA include developing programs to help vulnerable felines and creating learner-centered trainings for foster caregivers.

The foster recruitment, development, and retention tactics that Nadia implemented during her time at the ASPCA were based on her belief that kitten and cat fostering should be accessible to anyone wanting to help. Her beliefs around inclusivity, combined with her educational background in Psychology and her professional experience in customer care and education, inspired her to approach foster recruitment, development, and retention through a growth mindset lens. During her five years at the ASPCA, Nadia developed relationships and contributed to the growth and development of more than 1,000 foster caregivers who collectively fostered more than 9,000 felines ranging from orphaned newborns to behaviorally challenged adult cats.

2:00pm-2:30pm

Break

2:30pm-3:30pm

Laura Cassidy, Certified Cat Behavior Consultant, Pawsitive Vibes Cat Behavior and Training

Taking Fearful Kittens from Cowardly to Confident

With about 80% of kittens in the United States born outside to community cats, there is never a shortage of fearful, unsocialized kittens in shelters and rescues every kitten season. The amount of



time, energy, and skill it can take to bring these kittens from feral to friendly can be draining, especially when early intervention is key to them growing up to be social, friendly, well-adjusted house cats. If you're not sure how to best help these kittens, or if all your usual tricks have fallen short, what happens next? Learn from certified cat behavior consultant Laura Cassiday some new strategies to help you support the fearful kittens in your care as they emerge from their cocoons and blossom into beautiful social butterflies!

About Laura Cassiday

Laura Cassiday is a certified cat behavior consultant (CCBC) through the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants, an Animal Behavior College certified cat trainer, and a Fear Free certified animal trainer living in Baltimore, Maryland. To date, Laura has worked with hundreds of cats in shelter and home settings, successfully resolving behavior concerns such as aggression, destructive behavior, and litter box issues and helping their caregivers to understand their feline friends better than they did before.

Laura recently published her first book, *The Complete Guide to Cat Adoption*, and delivered an expert testimony with the House and the Senate for the Maryland Anti-Declaw Bill, which became law in the fall of 2022. She is a professional member of the Cat Writers' Association and became Feline Division Chair of the Pet Professional Guild in August 2022.

3:30pm-3:45pm

Break

3:45pm-4:45pm

Allison Hunter-Frederick, Certified Cat Behavior Consultant, Allison Helps Cats

Could Your Kitten Be A Therapy Cat?

Therapy animals bring happiness to a variety of populations, including seniors, patients, disaster victims, inmates, airline passengers, students, children, and anyone else who could use comfort with physical and/or psychological ailments. Becoming a therapy animal requires certification and insurance through a recognized therapy animal organization.

This presentation will cover how to prepare a kitten for therapy work, how to become a certified therapy team, and how to prepare for the actual therapy visits. Presenter Allison Hunter-Frederick will share what she has learned from personal experience, other cat therapy handlers, and a local cat shelter.

Not all animals are suited to be therapy cats. The good news is that all the ways one should prepare a kitten to become a therapy cat are beneficial to them, even if they don't enjoy therapy work. All kittens would benefit from socialization, harness training, good husbandry, and a bond of trust.



About Allison Hunter-Frederick

Allison Hunter-Frederick is a certified cat behavior consultant, trainer, and educator. Allison is a member of the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants, Pet Professional Guild (including the PPG Cat Committee), and Best Friends Network Partners. Allison volunteers with Lincoln Animal Ambassadors, The Capital Humane Society, The Cat House, and Love on a Leash in Lincoln, Nebraska. Allison and her cat Rainy have been doing cat therapy since 2018. They are certified through Love on a Leash. 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.

4:45pm-5:00pm

Closing remarks

Sunday, June 11- 10:00am–5:30pm

10:00am–10:15am

Stacy LeBaron, Community Cats Podcast

Rosemarie Crawford, The National Kitten Coalition

Welcome Back!

10:15am–11:15am

Mike Phillips, President and Co-Founder, Urban Cat League

Successful Adoption Strategies for Under Socialized and Formerly-Feral Kittens that Prevent Returns

The typical adoption setting and meeting new people terrifies some kittens. However, with the right approach, forever adoptions are possible for these kittens, and you can become an expert in both how to promote them for adoption and in educating prospective adopters in on what to expect and how to successfully bond with their newest family member.

About Mike Phillips

Mike Phillips is the 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.



11:15am–11:45am

Break

11:45am–12:45pm

Halie Waid, QC Microbiologist, Kind Kitty

Viral Transmission and Sanitation in the Shelter/Rescue Environment

This session will include extensive information on common viruses and diseases encountered in the shelter/rescue environment. We will discuss methods of transmission and proper quarantine practices along with efficient sanitization procedures. There will be a demonstration on the effectiveness of common household/shelter cleaning products and the best way to stay on top of kitten room cleanliness.

About Halie Waid

Halie is president and co-founder of Kind Kitty Neonatal Kitten Rescue located in Central Florida. Aside from her role at Kind Kitty, she also serves as a Quality Control Microbiologist at Thermo Fisher Scientific. With her Associate of Science in Biological Sciences from Oklahoma City Community College, her Bachelor of Science in Conservation Biology and Ecology from Arizona State University, and her skills acquired from working as a Microbiologist, she is uniquely qualified to speak on environmental risks in animal shelters and effective prevention of viral transmission. She is currently earning her master's degree in Biology and after completion will attend the University of Florida for her PhD. Aside from her passion for helping cats in need, she loves researching new methods to make the shelter/rescue environment a safer and healthier place for cat rehabilitation.

12:45pm–1:00pm

Break

1:00pm–2:00pm

Emilie Rackovan, Neonatal Kitten Specialist, Urban Cat Coalition

Advocating for Special Needs Kittens

Kittens are already one of the most vulnerable populations of animals, so what happens when they also have special needs? Often, these tiny beings are the first to be euthanized due to a lack of resources and knowledge, but that doesn't have to be the case. Whether it's failure to thrive, FIP, injury, paralysis, etc., many of these kittens can be treated and go on to live full, enriched lives. In this session, we will talk about how you can advocate for special-needs kittens and give them their best chance at survival!



About Emilie Rackovan

Emilie is a neonatal kitten specialist and foster parent for Urban Cat Coalition, a foster-based feline rescue in Milwaukee, WI. She began her journey in animal welfare in 2016 at Best Friends Animal Society in Los Angeles as a Cat Caregiver, before moving back to her hometown of Milwaukee, WI. In 2017, she was hired as an Adoption Counselor/Animal Care Technician at the local humane society and then transitioned into the role of Content Specialist in 2020. Currently, Emilie works full-time for Best Friends Animal Society on their digital fundraising team.

Emilie has a bachelor's degree in Communication and has attended animal welfare trainings and seminars all across the country. In addition to rescuing and fostering, Emilie also does TNR, humane education, and social media content creation. She is extremely passionate about saving the lives of kittens – especially ones at high risk for euthanasia due to medical conditions – and her motto is, “The more difficult the case, the better!”

2:00pm-2:30pm

Break

2:30pm-3:30pm

Eliska Meadows, Neonatal Specialist, Founder, CEO, President, Mumma's Here Now Neonatal Rescue

Saving Cleft Kittens

In this session, Eliska Meadows, founder of MHNNRescue, will provide information on caring for cleft kittens. This presentation will walk through equipment and supplies the MHNNRescue prefers to use and has had success with. As well as sharing the journey with one of their rockstar cleft kittens, Una. Including a Q&A period, the goal of this presentation is to educate that the word “cleft” is not a death sentence and that kittens can live perfectly healthy lives given the right care and attention.

About Eliska Meadows

Eliska Meadows has been a specialized neonatal foster for many years, working with multiple rescues in Ontario, Canada. As a foster who found a passion for caring for neonatal orphans and kittens with disabilities, Eliska kept finding herself overwhelmed with orphans in need of help. In response, she started MHNNRescue to act as a resource for other rescues, vet offices, and the public. As a specialized rescue MHNNRescue focuses on the fragile lives (Orphans, Disabilities, Congenital Defects, etc.) that slip between the cracks. For almost all of their intakes, MHNNRescue is a last hope. The MHNNRescue motto is "Giving A Second Chance At Life, No Matter How Small". To this day MHNNRescue has assisted and collaborated with rescues and fosters globally. MHNNRescue strong team of likeminded professionals that have the same goals in mind. This includes many Specialists, Veterinarians, Fosters, & Supporters. Eliska and the MHNNRescue team continue to take every new case that comes in as an opportunity to learn and improve the care they provide.



3:30pm-3:45pm

Break

3:45pm-4:45pm

Andee Bingham, Founder and Director, Esther Neonatal Kitten Alliance

Fundraising for Kittens

Giving kittens a chance to grow and thrive can be costly, and the funds received through fundraising and donations can make all the difference. This presentation by Andee Bingham, founder of Esther Neonatal Kitten Alliance, will cover how to find donors, create engaging material, and fund the needs of the kittens in your care. The session will cover using both traditional fundraising models and leveraging social media effectively to increase donations.

About Andee Bingham

Andee Bingham founded Esther Neonatal Kitten Alliance in 2019 to create an organization that could meet the intensive needs of orphaned, unweaned, and medically challenged kittens. Andee has a special affinity for underdogs and has devoted much of her career to caring for the youngest, sickest, and most injured. Her cat Toby (featured in her bio pic) arrived at the Kitten Alliance with a necrotic and severely infected back leg. After months of intensive care, Toby is living his best life as a goofy, playful tripod. The Kitten Alliance facility in Asheville, NC serves as an intensive care unit, educational resource, and adoption center. Learn more about her life-saving work at www.kittenalliance.org.

4:45pm-5:00pm

Closing remarks