



THE NATIONAL KITTEN COALITION
Veterinary Conference



Sunday, October 8, 2023
9:45 am – 6:45 pm EDT

SPONSORED BY:





2023 National Kitten Coalition Veterinary Conference

Quick-View Schedule: All times are Eastern Daylight Time

Sunday, October 8, 2023

Time	Session Title
9:45 am - 10:00 am	Welcome and Technology Check
10:00 am - 11:00 am	Purrfecting CommunicATIion in the FURst Kitten Visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.0 RACE® CE credits
11:00 am - 11:15 am	<i>Break</i>
11:15 am - 11:45 am	Dysautonomia in Kittens and Cats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5 RACE® CE credits
11:45 am - 11:55 am	<i>Break</i>
11:55 am - 12:55 pm	Kittens and Calicivirus Infection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.0 RACE® CE credits
12:55 pm - 1:10 pm	<i>Break</i>
1:10 pm - 2:10 pm	Preparing Kittens for Life in Domestic Setting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.0 RACE® CE credits
2:10 pm - 2:30 pm	<i>Break</i>
2:30 pm - 3:15 pm	Fading Kitten Syndrome from an Anatomic Pathologist's Perspective: Tyzzer Disease and Beyond <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.75 RACE® CE credits
3:15 pm - 3:30 pm	<i>Break</i>
3:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Kitten Mittens: Effects of Peripheral Active Warming and Passive Insulation on Core Body Temperature During Feline Ovariohysterectomy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5 RACE® CE credits
4:00 pm - 4:15 pm	<i>Break</i>
4:15 pm - 5:15 pm	Kittenhood Matters! The Importance of Early Life Experiences for DomEDTic Cats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.0 RACE® CE credits
5:15 pm - 5:30 pm	<i>Break</i>
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Alternative and Complementary Therapies for Kittens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.0 RACE® CE credits
6:30 pm - 6:45 pm	Closing Information: CE Certificates, Access to Post Conference Recording/Quizzes/CE

The National Kitten Coalition is an American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) approved provider for RACE® CE. This conference program has been approved by the AAVSB for 6.75 credits of RACE® CE for veterinarians and veterinary technicians/nurses in jurisdictions that recognize RACE® approval.

NKCVVC 2023 will be recorded. Recordings of all sessions, including optional CE Quizzes, will be available for all registrants through December 31, 2023.



2023 National Kitten Coalition Veterinary Conference

Sunday, October 8, 2023

Session Schedule*: All times are Eastern Daylight Time

9:45 AM -10:00 AM EDT

Welcome and Technology Check

Session Description: Join us to get the 2023 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!

10:00 AM -11:00 AM EDT

Purrfecting CommuniCATion in the FURst Kitten Visit

Natalie Marks, DVM, CVJ, FFCP-Elite

Session Description: In this hour-long webinar, attendees will receive ten efficient and effective tips to maximize the success of the first kitten visit. We will begin with understanding the cat parent/caregiver of today and what their needs and wants are from a veterinary team. We will also briefly discuss the statistics highlighting the gaps in feline healthcare. Attendees will then dive into the top ten tips, including food texture training, the conundrum of parasites and the "indoor only" cat, scratching post training, tailoring the vaccine experience, and how to give the purrfect pedicure. Finally, in the second half, attendees will learn quick tips surrounding why to throw away the food bowl, why cat carriers should be part of the furniture, how to enrich a cat's home from day one, what kitten kindergarten is, and how to prepare for the future.

Speaker Bio:

Dr. Natalie Marks obtained her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine degree with High Honors from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine and became a Certified Veterinary Journalist in 2018. Dr. Marks is an Elite Fear Free Certified Professional, has sat on the Fear Free Executive Council, and is a national educator helping other private practitioners develop these techniques. A veterinarian at Blum Animal Hospital in Chicago since 2006, Dr. Marks is very active in the Chicago Veterinary Medical Association, serving on the executive board. Dr. Marks also volunteers her time helping to elevate feline medicine with the American Association of Feline Practitioners with the student advancement committee. She is a past board member of the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association and an active volunteer to the American Veterinary Medical Association and American Animal Hospital Association.

Dr. Marks has received many prestigious awards in her career, including being awarded the Dr. Erwin Small First Decade Award. Dr. Marks is also very passionate about educating in all aspects of media, both locally and nationally and is a regular columnist in Today's Veterinary Business, Healthy Pet Magazine, Midwest Magazine, and Pet Vet. She is on the Advisory Board for Health Magazine and also was the host of numerous veterinary broadcasts for the Viticus Group (formerly WVC).

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Session Schedule*: All times are Eastern Daylight Time

11:00 AM - 11:15 AM EDT

Break

11:15 AM - 11:45 AM EDT

Dysautonomia in Kittens and Cats

Petra Cerna, MRCVS AFHEA AdvCertFB

Session Description: Dysautonomia is the result of autonomic denervation leading to failure of both the sympathetic and parasympathetic functions of multiple organ systems and has been reported in multiple species including cats. This lecture will focus on most common clinical signs in cats with dysautonomia as well as performing tests to support the diagnosis of dysautonomia in cats and discuss possible supportive treatments for cats with dysautonomia.

Speaker Bio:

Dr. Petra Černá is currently a Small Animal Internal Medicine Resident at Colorado State University, USA. She graduated from the University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Brno, Czech Republic in 2018. She completed a Small Animal Rotating Internship at Vets Now Referral Hospital, Glasgow, UK, in 2019 and Small Animal Medicine Internship at The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, University of Edinburgh, U.K., in 2020. Dr. Černá obtained an ISFM Advanced Certificate in Feline Behavior with Distinction in 2018 and has particular interest in feline medicine and is currently doing a Ph.D. degree at Colorado State University in Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP)

11:45 AM - 11:55 AM EDT

Break

11:55 AM - 12:55 PM EDT

Kittens and Calicivirus Infection

Petra Cerna, MRCVS AFHEA AdvCertFB

Session Description: Feline calicivirus (FCV) is a highly infectious pathogen of cats that typically causes mild to moderate, self-limiting acute upper respiratory tract signs and painful erosions in the mouth. FCV infection can also be associated with chronic gingivostomatitis or limping syndrome with shifting lameness. However, FCV can lead to more serious or even fatal disease in cats, particularly in kittens due to pneumonia and highly virulent FCV variants induce severe systemic disease, characterized by epizootic spread and high mortality. This lecture will focus on recognition of clinical signs in cats infected with calicivirus as well as possible supportive treatments for cats with calicivirus infection and management of calicivirus infection in multi-cat households.

Speaker Bio:

Dr. Petra Černá is currently a Small Animal Internal Medicine Resident at Colorado State University, USA. She graduated from the University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Brno, Czech Republic in 2018. She completed a Small Animal Rotating Internship at Vets Now Referral Hospital, Glasgow, UK, in 2019 and Small Animal Medicine Internship at The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, University of Edinburgh, U.K., in 2020. (Full Bio Above)

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12:55 PM -1:10 PM EDT

Break

1:10 PM -2:10 PM EDT

Preparing Kittens for Life in Domestic Setting

Sarah Heath, BVSc, PgCertVE, DipECAWBM(BM), CCAB, FHEA, FRCVS

Session Description: In order to thrive in a domestic setting cats need to be healthy. Physical health has traditionally been the most important consideration but in order to be truly healthy emotional and cognitive health must also be optimised. This presentation will discuss the emotional development of kittens and relate that to their ability to thrive in a domestic environment.

The role of emotional stability and emotional intelligence in the prevention of problematic behaviour will be discussed. The emotional motivational systems outlined by Jaak Panksepp will be discussed and related to kittens as they progress from foetuses to adult cats. The Influence of maternal emotional health on kitten development will be considered as well as the many ways in the emotional health of kittens can be influenced by the social and physical environment that they experience after birth. The concepts of socialisation and non social environmental learning will be explored and the importance of the emotional bias of kittens during exposure to a wide range of stimuli in domestic context will be emphasised. The role of the breeder and the caregiver in preparing kittens for life in a domestic setting will be considered.

Speaker Bio:

Sarah qualified as a veterinary surgeon from Bristol University in 1988 and set up Behavioural Referrals Veterinary Practice in 1992. She sees clinical cases across North West England and wider afield through video platform consultations. In 2018 she was made an FRCVS for meritorious contributions to the profession in recognition of her work in establishing Behavioural Medicine as a veterinary discipline. She is an RCVS and EBVS® European Veterinary Specialist in Behavioural Medicine and an External Lecturer in small animal behavioural medicine on the veterinary undergraduate course at Liverpool University. In 2019 she gained her Postgraduate Certificate In Veterinary Education.

Sarah has authored many papers, books and book chapters and in 2016 was co-author and co-editor of Feline Behavioural Health and Welfare published by Elsevier. She has a special interest in the interplay between emotional and physical illness in dogs and cats.

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2:10 PM -2:30 PM EDT

Break

2:30 PM -3:15 PM EDT

Fading Kitten Syndrome from an Anatomic Pathologist's Perspective: Tyzzer Disease and Beyond **Sai Fingerhood, DVM, MRCVS, DACVP**

Session Description: This session stems from the presenter's experience during their anatomic pathology residency working with the Orphan Kitten Project (OKP) at UC Davis. The collaboration between OKP and the pathology department stemmed from a common desire to understand the causes of 'fading kitten syndrome'. The fruitfulness of this collaboration serves as a reminder of the importance of interdisciplinary communication and collaboration between clinicians and pathologists.

The content of the session will focus on common pathologic lesions encountered in kittens on the post-mortem floor. We'll start with a brief overview of how to approach a standard post-mortem examination in kittens followed by examples of some classic cases and their associated lesions. Most of the cases will involve infectious agents with additional discussion about predisposing factors that may increase susceptibility to disease.

A portion of the session will then be devoted to Tyzzer disease in kittens. *Clostridium piliforme*, the agent of Tyzzer disease, has traditionally not been considered a major pathogen of cats. However, a surprising number of kittens were found to have lesions compatible with this disease during the time of the presenter's residency. This prompted investigation into the historic prevalence of this disease in kittens with a focus on the gross and histopathologic hallmarks of the disease in kittens. Results from this retrospective analysis will be presented during the session.

Speaker Bio:

Sai Fingerhood (they/them) is a recently boarded anatomic pathologist who currently works as a diagnostician and lecturer at the University of Surrey. Their educational background is varied, graduating from Princeton University with a degree in Anthropology and Dance in 2013 and proceeding to enter veterinary school at the University of California, Davis in 2015. After graduating from veterinary school (2019) they stayed in Davis for a residency in Anatomic Pathology, ending in July 2022. During their residency they worked closely with the UCD orphan kitten project and completed a research project characterizing *Clostridium piliforme* in orphaned kittens. Their pathology-related areas of interest include diseases of production and intensively housed animals, as well as more broadly, the human-animal interface and the diseases that arise within this socio-ecological niche. They are interested in the multitude of ways humans can learn from one another and from the animals and environment around them; they are acutely aware of the important role educators have in helping to shape not only future veterinarians, but also community members.

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3:15 PM -3:30 PM EDT

Break

3:30 PM -4:00 PM EDT

Kitten Mittens: Effects of Peripheral Active Warming and Passive Insulation on Core Body Temperature During Feline Ovariohysterectomy

Rachael Kreisler, VMD, MSCE, DACVPM (Epidemiology)

Session Description: Small animals such as kittens are particularly susceptible to hypothermia when under anesthesia. There are common approaches that veterinary professionals take to minimize the risk of hypothermia, but which ones actually work? We conducted a study to compare a common technique, the application of cotton toddler socks (“kitten mittens”) to the paws of cats and kittens in addition to truncal warming, to truncal warming alone. We then compared these approaches to a novel technique in cats: active warming of the paws.

This session will explain what we studied and what we found regarding the “kitten mittens” technique, as well as provide a background on how kittens lose body heat during anesthesia. It will also explain how to take an evidence-based approach to examining your own clinical procedures to ensure that you are providing both high-quality and efficient care to your patients.

Speaker Bio:

Rachael Kreisler is an Associate Professor of Shelter Medicine and Epidemiology at Midwestern University and a Diplomate of both the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine and its specialty in Epidemiology. She is the Founding Editor in Chief of the Association of Shelter Veterinarians’ Journal of Shelter Medicine and Community Animal Health, as well as the Immediate Past President of the Association for Veterinary Informatics.

Rachael teaches Shelter and Community Medicine, public health, epidemiology, and understanding the veterinary literature. Her work outside of the classroom includes driving a 33-foot mobile veterinary clinic and providing surgical and medical services to shelter and community animals. She has over 20 publications on topics that inform clinical decision-making, affect shelter and at-risk animal populations, and improve veterinary student education.

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4:00 PM -4:15 PM EDT

Break

4:15 PM -5:15 PM EDT

Kittenhood Matters! The Importance of Early Life Experiences for Domestic Cats

Mikel Delgado, PhD, Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist, Certified Cat Behavior Consultant

Session Description: Although kittenhood may seem short, it has an oversized impact on later life outcomes for pet cats. This talk will review our current understanding of best practices related to the early life experiences of domestic cats. From the moment of conception, several environmental factors are already potentially operating on the future health and behavior of kittens. Most kittens are born outdoors, and many more orphaned kittens are being rescued and hand-raised. What are the possible implications?

Domestic cats also have a socialization window that is early and short (from approximately 2 to 7 weeks of age). This is a critical time where kittens ideally receive positive exposure to people, animals, objects, and experiences that they will encounter throughout their lifetime. Ultimately, this means that most kitten socialization happens in animal shelters and foster homes. But socialization is more than just exposure and many foster programs need support in guiding their foster caretakers in what they should be doing and why.

Throughout the talk I will incorporate the results of existing research on kitten socialization and behavior in kittens' first few months of life, with an emphasis on what happens from birth to weaning to adoption, with an eye on how we can all best help kittens thrive beyond kittenhood.

Speaker Bio:

Dr. Mikel Maria Delgado is a Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist and Certified Cat Behavior Consultant who has been working with cats for over 20 years. She offers cat behavior consulting for cat guardians, shelters, and pet corporations through Feline Minds.

She completed her PhD at the University of California, Berkeley, and was a postdoctoral researcher at the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California, Davis where she researched the health and behavior of orphaned neonatal kittens and cats in multi-cat households. She is author of the forthcoming book, "Play With Your Cat!" (Tarcher/Perigee 2024). Mikel is also co-author with Jackson Galaxy of the 2017 book "Total Cat Mojo," and has published her research in several academic journals.

Mikel is a Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist (Animal Behavior Society), a Certified Cat Behavior Consultant (International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants), and an Affiliate Member of the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior. She now lives in Sacramento, California with her boyfriend Scott (a cat-loving CPA) and their three rescue cats, Ruby, Coriander, and Professor Scribbles.

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5:15 PM -5:30 PM EDT

Break

5:30 PM -6:30 PM EDT

Alternative and Complementary Therapies for Kittens

Jean Hofve, DVM, MRCVS, DACVP

Session Description: Complementary, alternative, integrative, holistic – these terms describe many therapies not usually included in standard veterinary practice. Such therapies include acupuncture, herbs, homeopathy, flower essences, nutritional supplements, and “energy medicine” such as Reiki and therapeutic touch.

Veterinary clients are very interested in, and increasingly demanding, alternative therapies for their pets. It is therefore incumbent upon all of us, as veterinary professionals, to become familiar with the most common modalities, including:

- Acupuncture
- Herbs (Western and Chinese)
- Flower Essences
- Reiki
- Nutritional Supplements
- Homeopathy

Kittens are tiny and fragile. If there is a safe, effective treatment that can, for example, reduce the dose of antibiotics needed, that would be a good thing for the kitten, as well as responsible antibiotic stewardship. If there is a technique the client can use at home or on the way to the clinic in an emergency that could help save a kitten’s life, let’s learn it and teach it. If there is an easy way to reduce stress quickly in a shelter environment, or improve the clinic experience for a new kitten, let’s use it.

This session will review common alternative treatment modalities, so that veterinary professionals can knowledgeably advise their clients as to their uses, risks, benefits, and evidence supporting them.

Speaker Bio:

Dr. Jean Hofve earned her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at Colorado State University in 1994. With additional training and experience in homeopathy, homotoxicology, Reiki, and flower essences, she practiced holistic veterinary medicine in Denver, Colorado. Dr. Jean co-authored *The Complete Guide to Holistic Cat Care: An Illustrated Handbook* with nutritionist Celeste Yarnall, PhD; and *Paleo Dog: Give Your Best Friend a Long Life, Healthy Weight, and Freedom from Illness by Nurturing His Inner Wolf*. Dr. Jean’s award-winning website, www.LittleBigCat.com, is a respected source of information on holistic pet health, nutrition, and behavior. She served as the editor-in-chief of the Journal of the American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association for three years. Now retired from practice, she lives in Jamestown, Colorado, with her rescued cat, Perry Christmas.

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6:30 PM -6:45 PM EDT

Conference Close

Session Description: Stay for our quick closing session, where we will outline our process for providing participant CE Certificates. We will also provide information on how to access the Conference recordings and optional CE Quizzes for any sessions you may have missed.

Thank you for being a part of the 4th Annual National Kitten Coalition Veterinary Conference!

The conference would not be possible without the expertise and insight of our speakers and the generosity of our sponsors. The National Kitten Coalition would like to thank our speakers, sponsors, and participants for trusting us with providing these continuing education opportunities. We look forward to seeing you next year!

SAVE THE DATE

5th Annual National Kitten Coalition Veterinary Conference
October 20, 2024

2023 National Kitten Coalition Veterinary Conference Sponsors

