



5th Annual  
**National Kitten Coalition  
Veterinary Conference**

October 20, 2024



Sponsored by:



This Conference is intended for veterinarians, veterinary technicians/nurses, those currently enrolled in veterinary or vet tech schools, veterinary staff members in private practices and shelters, and those involved in veterinary education and research.



# 2024 National Kitten Coalition Veterinary Conference

## Sunday, October 20, 2024

Session Schedule: All times are Eastern Daylight Time

SESSION TIME (EDT)	SESSION TITLE – PRESENTER – LIVE, INTERACTIVE RACE® CE CREDITS
9:45 am -10:00 am	<i>Welcome and Technology Check</i>
10:00 am - 11:00 am	<b>HIGH QUALITY HIGH VOLUME SPAY/NEUTER (HQHVSN) - KITTEN EDITION!</b> - Becky Morrow, DVM, MS, CAWA * 1.0 RACE® CE credits
11:00 am - 11:15 am	<i>Break</i>
11:15 am - 11:45 am	<b>CAT FRIENDLY IS FOR EVERYONE. THE ROLE OF CAT FRIENDLY PRINCIPLES IN IMPROVING FELINE VISITS.</b> - Kelly St. Denis, MSc, DVM, DABVP (feline practice) * 0.5 RACE® CE credits
11:45 am - 11:55 am	<i>Break</i>
11:55 am - 12:55 pm	<b>DIARRHEA IN THE KITTEN: WHEN DEWORMING ISN'T THE ANSWER.</b> - Kelly St. Denis, MSc, DVM, DABVP (feline practice) * 1.0 RACE® CE credits
12:55 pm - 1:10 pm	<i>Break</i>
1:10 pm - 2:10 pm	<b>FELINE FETAL AND NEONATAL MORTALITY: WHAT WE KNOW AND WHAT WE ARE MISSING</b> - Alejandra Lablé, DVM, MSc, PhD (c) * 1.0 RACE® CE credits
2:10 pm - 2:30 pm	<i>Break</i>
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	<b>IMPROVING KITTEN HOSPITALIZATION</b> - Maria Paz Bringas, DMV * 1.0 RACE® CE credits
3:30 pm - 3:45 pm	<i>Break</i>
3:45 pm - 4:45 pm	<b>YOU'VE GOTTA BE KITTEN ME: THE MOST COMMON OR CONCERNING KITTEN TOXICITIES</b> - Laura Stern, DVM, DABVT, DABT * 1.0 RACE® CE credits
4:45 pm – 5:00 pm	<i>Break</i>
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	<b>KITTENS AND UPPER RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTIONS: BEST PRACTICES</b> - Emily Coleman, DVM * 1.0 RACE® CE credits
6:00 pm - 6:15 pm	<i>Closing Information: CE Certificates &amp; Access to Post Conference Recording/Quizzes/CE</i>

\*The National Kitten Coalition is an American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) approved provider for RACE® CE. This conference (AAVBS Course Number: 20-1194430) program has been approved by the AAVSB for 6.50 credits of live, interactive RACE® CE for veterinarians and veterinary technicians/nurses in jurisdictions that recognize RACE® approval.

NKCV 2024 will be recorded. Recordings of all sessions, including optional RACE® approved CE Quizzes, will be available for all registrants through December 31, 2024.



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9:45 am - 10:00 am EDT

### **WELCOME AND TECHNOLOGY CHECK**

#### **Session Description:**

Join us to kick off the 2024 National Kitten Coalition Veterinary Conference! Get a sneak peek of the day's session content, scheduled breaks, and tips for using the conference software. Take this opportunity to check in, say "hi!" and make sure you can see and hear everything that's planned!

10:00 am - 11:00 am EDT

### **HQHVSN - KITTEN EDITION!**

#### **Becky Morrow, DVM, MS, CAWA**

#### **Session Description:**

High Quality High Volume Spay/Neuter (HQHVSN) is based on established protocols, specialized techniques, and optimal use of the team to allow for increased efficiency and the ability to sterilize more animals. HQHVSN streamlines workflow to provide safe and accessible spay/neuter services that will help to decrease the community cat population and the number of homeless cats in shelters. This session will introduce HQHVSN with a focus on the smallest feline patients.

#### **Speaker Bio:**

Dr. Becky Morrow is a shelter veterinarian and professor who is very active in the animal rescue community. She founded Frankie's Friends Cat Rescue in 2010 after she cared for over 400 cats rescued from Tiger Ranch, a massive institutional hoarding facility. She has performed tens of thousands of spays and neuters and teaches High Quality High Volume Spay/Neuter techniques to other veterinarians and veterinary students.

Dr. Morrow is often called upon to speak on topics related to community cats and TNR and has worked with dozens of shelters and rescues in Western Pennsylvania to bring the mobile surgical unit to underserved regions. She is an Assistant Teaching Professor at Penn State University and an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine's Online Shelter Medicine Program.

11:00 am - 11:15 am EDT

### **Break**



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11:15 am - 11:45 am EDT

## **CAT FRIENDLY IS FOR EVERYONE. THE ROLE OF CAT FRIENDLY PRINCIPLES IN IMPROVING FELINE VISITS.**

**Kelly St. Denis, MSc, DVM, DABVP (feline practice)**

### **Session Description:**

'Cat Friendly' is a buzz-word many of us have heard, but what does it really mean? How is it possible to improve feline visits when cats can be so challenging? This seminar will introduce Cat Friendly principles and what it means to be Cat Friendly. Through an understanding of feline emotions and their behavioral outcomes we will explore simple ways your team can improve visit outcomes for the cat, the caregiver and the team.

### **Speaker Bio:**

Dr. St. Denis is a practicing feline medicine specialist, board certified with the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners. Dr. St. Denis is medical co-editor of the AAFP Feline Practitioner Magazine with Dr. Jessica Quimby and co-editor of the Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery with Dr. Andy Sparkes. Dr. St. Denis is a consultant on the Veterinary Information Network in feline internal medicine and lectures internationally on all things feline.

11:45 am - 11:55 am EDT

### **Break**

11:55 am - 12:55 pm EDT

## **DIARRHEA IN THE KITTEN: WHEN DEWORMING ISN'T THE ANSWER.**

**Kelly St. Denis, Diplomate in the Specialty of Feline Practice (ABVP)**

### **Session Description:**

Diarrhea can be problematic in any age group, but it can be especially challenging and debilitating in kittens. Beyond ensuring that proper parasite protocols have been implemented, there are numerous differentials to explore. It is often tempting to pursue empirical treatments, but these can delay resolution and increase risk of patient decline. This seminar will assist in understanding current testing options as well as exploring appropriate therapeutics. The role of fecal transplantation and specific protocols will be presented.

### **Speaker Bio:**

Dr. St. Denis is a practicing feline specialist, author, and international speaker. (Full Bio Above)



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Session Schedule: All times are Eastern Daylight Time

12:55 pm - 1:10 pm EDT

**Break**

1:10 pm - 2:10 pm EDT

### **FELINE FETAL AND NEONATAL MORTALITY: WHAT WE KNOW AND WHAT WE ARE MISSING**

**Alejandra Lablé, DVM, MSc, PhD (c)**

#### **Session Description:**

This session will discuss the topics of neonatal physiology, relating them to pathologies or syndromes that can affect them and whether these can cause early death in these patients. Mentioning congenital, parasitic, and infectious causes of death. Ending with those diseases that we do not know if they are causing death in neonates and the challenges we have as clinicians and researchers, talking to diagnosis and treatment.

#### **Speaker Bio:**

Dr. Lablé completed her graduation in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Chile in 2016 and feline medicine from the same university in 2020. In 2021, she started her residency in cardiology and a master's program in Veterinary Cardiology at the Technological University of Mexico. Since her graduation, she has been working in internal medicine and began her feline medicine practice with a focus on neonatology and cardiology. Dr. Lablé is currently conducting research on the causes of feline neonatal and fetal death as part of her Ph.D. work in the Biological and Medical Engineering program at the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile. She is also an ISFM/AAFP Cat Friendly Practitioner and a current Honorary Academy Member of the International Society of Feline Medicine.

Dr. Lablé's interest in neonatology began about four years ago when she observed the shortcomings in the diagnosis and treatment of neonatal and pediatric patients. This led her to pursue several courses in pediatric imaging and medicine, as well as a diploma in Neonatology and Pediatric medicine. She hopes that her current research work will contribute to the clinical diagnosis of these patients, enabling them to access better treatments and reducing the mortality rate.

2:10 pm - 2:30 pm EDT

**Break**



# 2024 National Kitten Coalition Veterinary Conference

## Sunday, October 20, 2024

Session Schedule: All times are Eastern Daylight Time

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm EDT

### **IMPROVING KITTEN HOSPITALIZATION**

**Maria Paz Bringas, DMV**

#### **Session Description:**

In daily practice, veterinarian professionals increasingly see orphan neonates or rescued kittens with different health conditions, which include mild or severe pathologies, anatomical alterations, and malnutrition, among other conditions. In this session, we discuss the importance of having a proper area to care for neonates and kittens with different health conditions. Discussing the factors to consider such as temperature, humidity, environment, hygiene, and feeding.

We will explore how neonatal physiology differs from adults, and discuss the need for quick guides with normal ranges for age and safe drug doses for pediatric patients. We will also discuss the importance of establishing a proper biosafety plan, while providing adequate stimulation and socialization. After this session, you will be able to confidently create a safe environment for your pediatric patients who require extra care during their recovery.

#### **Speaker Bio:**

Dr. Maria Paz Bringas Velasco has been dedicated to feline medicine since graduating from Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia (UPCH) seven years ago. Her primary areas of interest are neonatology and pediatrics, and she is currently the chief of the maternity ward at Gatuario, a veterinary clinic that exclusively treats cats.

Dr. Bringas has given many lectures on feline medicine and pediatrics, including as a guest teacher in feline medicine at UPCH and as part of the academic faculty for the NucleoLATAM Diploma in Neonatology and Veterinary Pediatrics. She co-founded "Catmunity," a study group for feline medicine that welcomes Peruvian and foreign practitioners.

3:30 pm - 3:45 pm EDT

**Break**



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## Sunday, October 20, 2024

Session Schedule: All times are Eastern Daylight Time

3:45 pm - 4:45 pm EDT

### **YOU'VE GOTTA BE KITTEN ME: THE MOST COMMON OR CONCERNING KITTEN TOXICITIES**

**Laura Stern, DVM, DABVT, DABT**

#### **Session Description:**

Despite cats outnumbering dogs in the US, only about 10.7% of the calls to the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center were regarding cats. In this session, we will discuss toxins that are of special importance to kittens, either because they occur commonly or because they have a high potential to cause serious clinical signs. We will discuss common situations for kittens to be exposed to toxins, special concerns for kittens both from a toxicologic standpoint and from a medical standpoint with treating small patients. We will explore species-specific differences unique to cats and kittens in metabolism, kinetics, decontamination, and behavior and explain how this affects toxicity of substances.

Additionally, we will look at common toxins, including: glo jewelry, selected common household plants, over the counter medications commonly given to kittens, flea and tick medications, dewormers, and others. The common circumstances of exposure, level of concern, clinical signs, and treatment recommendations will be discussed for these toxins. Special consideration will be given to our kitten patients, as their age and small size can present additional considerations and concerns during treatment.

#### **Speaker Bio:**

Dr. Laura Stern received her DVM degree from Michigan State University. She has worked at the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center for the past 15 years. She is currently the Associate Medical Director for the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center. In 2016, she became a Diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Toxicology and the American Board of Toxicology in 2023.

Dr. Stern has published peer reviewed articles, book chapters, and presented RACE® approved CE. She currently lives in Monticello, Illinois with her husband, child, 6 cats and chinchilla.

4:45 pm -5:00 pm EDT

**Break**



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5:00 pm – 6:00 pm EDT

## **KITTENS AND UPPER RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTIONS: BEST PRACTICES**

**Emily Coleman, DVM**

### **Session Description:**

Upper respiratory tract infections are commonly diagnosed in the feline population. Kittens are especially vulnerable to upper respiratory tract infections and the secondary complications that can arise; even more so if kittens are living in a high density population such as shelters, community cat colonies or breeding catteries. Upper respiratory tract infections have many causes including: viral infections such as herpes virus and calicivirus, bacterial infections such as chlamydia and bordetella and even fungal infections. The most common underlying cause of a upper respiratory tract infections is due to a FHV-1, which spreads easily among felines. It is estimated that 97% of cats are exposed to FHV-1 during their lifetime. This talk will review these most common etiologies of upper respiratory tract infections, the importance and role of diagnostics, current recommendations for treatment, supportive care measures when indicated, as well as prevention through appropriate quarantine and vaccination.

### **Speaker Bio:**

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 seven month old Catahoula mix, eight cats, six 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.





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6:00 pm – 6:15 pm EDT

## **CONFERENCE CLOSE**

### **Session Description:**

Stay for our quick closing session, where we will outline our process for providing participants with CE Certificates. We will also provide information on accessing the Conference recordings and optional CE Quizzes for any sessions you may have missed.

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## 2024 NATIONAL KITTEN COALITION VETERINARY CONFERENCE SPONSORS



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.