



# The National Kitten Coalition Veterinary Conference/2021

September 19, 2021

## Session Schedule & Details\*

Conference starts 10:00 EST and ends at 6:30PM EST\*\*

Thank you to our Conference Sponsors:



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

- 10:00 – 10:15 AM: Welcome and technology check
- 10:15 – 11:15 AM: Kitten Nutrition. Kara Burns, MS, MEd, LVT, VTS, VTS-H
- 11:15 – 11:45 AM: Break
- 11:45 – 12:30 PM: Saving Kittens and Cats with Limited Resources: Lessons from Paka Clinic Zanzibar. Goodluck Gaudence, DVM
- 12:30 – 1:00 PM: Break
- 1:00 – 2:00 PM: Breaking Down Barriers: An Accessible, Staged Approach to Ringworm. Erin Katribe, DVM, MS
- 2:00 – 2:30 PM: Break
- 2:30 – 3:30 PM: Congenital and Early Development Abnormalities in Kittens. Emily Coleman, DVM
- 3:30 – 4:00 PM: Break
- 4:00 – 5:00 PM: Treatment Cocktails for Pediatric Kittens. Jennifer Bledsoe-Nix, DVM
- 5:00 – 5:15 PM: Short Break
- 5:15 – 6:15 PM: Feline Fix by Five: Spay/Neuter Cats by Five Months of Age. Philip Bushby, Professor Emeritus, DVM, MS, DACVS
- 6:15 – 6:30 PM: Closing comments

## 10:00 AM EST

### Welcome and Technology Check

**Session Description:** Join us to get the 2021 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 AM EST

### Off to the Right Start: Nutrition for Kittens

**Kara Burns, MS, MEd, LVT, VTS (Nutrition), VTS-H (Internal Medicine, Dentistry)**  
**EveryCat Health Foundation (formerly known as Winn Feline Foundation)**

**Session Description:** Kittens are dependent on the queen to provide food during the neonatal or nursing period. The transition from queen's milk to solid food (weaning) is a gradual process and is an integral part of the nursing period. However, the veterinary team must be prepared to care for orphaned kittens as well. Kittens are considered orphaned if they lack sufficient maternal care for survival from birth to weaning. Several physiologic needs normally provided by the queen must be met to ensure survival of neonates: heat, humidity, nutrition, immunity, elimination, sanitation, security and social stimulation. A foster queen or the caregiver must meet these needs for orphaned kittens.

The post weaning period through the first year of life is a critical time for development. It is important for the veterinary team and the pet owner to impart a strong nutritional foundation to help support the growth and development of the kitten throughout the demanding neonatal and post weaning period.

This presentation will discuss feeding and nutrition for nursing kittens and orphaned kittens, and it will also cover integrating the weaning process. Additionally, we will discuss nutritional assessment, key nutrients for a healthy kitten, and feeding to achieve healthy growth, optimize trainability and immune function, and minimize obesity. (1 credit RACE® CE)

**Speaker Bio:** Kara Burns is a licensed veterinary technician with a master's degree in physiology and a master's degree in counseling psychology. She began her career in human medicine working as an emergency psychologist and as a poison specialist dealing with human and animal poisonings. Kara is the Founder and Past President of the Academy of Veterinary Nutrition Technicians. She teaches nutrition courses around the world. Kara is an independent nutritional and well-being consultant and is the Editor in Chief of *Today's Veterinary Nurse*. She is a member of many national, international, and state associations and holds positions on many boards in the profession: American Academy of Veterinary Nutrition executive board; Western Veterinary Conference Technician Education Manager; NAVTA Past President; Society for Veterinary Medical Ethics board member; Collaborative Care Coalition executive board; and the Pet Nutrition Alliance President, to name a few. She has authored many articles, textbooks, and textbook chapters and is an internationally invited speaker, focusing on topics of nutrition, leadership, and technician utilization. Kara and her wife Dr. Ellen Lowery

developed the Pet Nutrition Coach Certification course through NAVC. Ms. Burns has been featured on the cover of the *Veterinary Technician Journal* and the *NAVTA Journal* and most recently has been featured in *PetVet Magazine*. She was named the North American Veterinary Conference Technician Speaker of the Year in 2013 and in 2016. She was granted an honorary VTS (Internal Medicine) in 2011. She was also granted an honorary VTS (Dentistry) in 2012. She is the 2010 NAVTA Veterinary Technician of the Year, as well as the 2011 Dr. Franklin Loew Lecturer. Kara has also been named the National Association of Professional Women 'Woman of the Year' for 2010-2011 and the Cambridge Who's Who in Professionals V.I.P. for 2010-2011. She was accepted into the International Women's Leadership Association in 2012.

## 11:15 – 11:45 AM EST Break

Refill your coffee and hurry back!

## 11:45 AM EST

### Saving Kittens and Cats with Limited Resources: Paka Clinic Zanzibar

Goodluck Gaudence, DVM

Paka Clinic, Zanzibar Tanzania, East Africa

**Session Description:** The Zanzibar archipelago in Tanzania, East Africa, has a high street cat population and resources are very limited. Many cats are severely affected by preventable viral diseases, malnutrition, and over-population. There is a high mortality rate and blindness is common because of lack of access to early treatment.

Paka Clinic Zanzibar is the only specialist cat clinic in Tanzania. The clinic has a small team run by Dr Goodluck Gaudence and includes three assistant veterinarians. There is no state funding and the clinic relies entirely on donations. Paka Clinic is not a shelter, but it does provide care for cats until they have finished treatment and can return to the street. The clinic runs a trap, neuter and return program and monitors the health of several colonies. It also offers a free veterinary clinic for local communities to ensure Zanzibar's high poverty rate is not a barrier to accessing veterinary care.

This presentation will explore the challenges of neonatal kitten rescue, community cat care and population management in a resource-limited environment. It will offer veterinarians the opportunity to learn how to maximize the efficacy of TNR programs, such as targeting female cats. It will also offer veterinarians the chance to see how real impact can be achieved with scarce resources, for example when small-animal medications and supplies are hard to come by and when special neonatal resources such as kitten milk replacer and warmers are not available. (0.5 credit RACE® CE)

**Speaker Bio:** Goodluck Mwangawa Gaudence (DVM) is Chief Veterinarian at Tanzania's only specialist cat clinic: Paka Clinic Zanzibar. He works alongside three Assistant Vets. He is responsible for organizing all veterinary activities at the clinic. Dr Goodluck Gaudence manages the Trap Neuter Release and cat colony monitoring programs, and he leads all veterinary care for street kittens and other sick cats around Stonetown, Zanzibar. He also provides veterinary services for Zanzibar's pets, mostly cats.

Dr Goodluck Gaudence has been at Paka Clinic since late 2019. Before that he was a private Vet Practitioner in Pwani and Dar es Salaam regions in Tanzania, providing medical assistance to different

cases from different species. He graduated from Tanzania's Sokoine University of Agriculture as a Veterinary Surgeon Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (BVM) in 2018, where he was ranked the best student of Fifth Year in Veterinary Medicine.

## 12:30 – 1:00 PM EST Break

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

## 1:00 PM EST

### Breaking down barriers: An accessible, staged approach to ringworm

Erin Katrube, DVM, MS

Medical Director, Best Friends Animal Society

**Session Description:** While ringworm doesn't affect only kittens, kittens make up the largest population of cats that we see with ringworm in shelters. In many shelters across the country, treating ringworm in-house is still a hurdle, and those shelters rely either on transfer to other organizations or cats and kittens lose their lives for a disease that should not be fatal. While shelter ringworm management is not a new topic, one shelter's staged implementation of a program is an innovative approach. The shelter knew the recommendations for treatment – but couldn't go from barely saving healthy cats to a fully implemented ringworm ward immediately. Building an entire program from scratch can be daunting, but with this approach, it's attainable for nearly any shelter.

We will also discuss how private practitioners can get involved in helping shelters save the lives of ringworm cats and kittens. Lifesaving is a community effort, and that includes veterinary partners! Private practitioners can help by providing medical support directly to the shelter and by continuing management after adoption.

Finally, we'll provide an update on evidence-based approaches to medical management of ringworm, both in the shelter and private practice setting. (1 credit RACE® CE)

**Speaker Bio:** Dr. Erin Katrube earned her DVM degree from Texas A&M University in 2009. Following graduation, she moved to Austin, Texas, where she practiced both emergency and critical care and shelter medicine. Dr. Katrube moved to Kanab, Utah, in 2017 and began working at Best Friends Animal Society's sanctuary. She became Best Friends' Medical Director in 2018 and completed her master's degree in Shelter Medicine through the University of Florida the same year. She serves on the Association of Shelter Veterinarians board of directors, and she currently lives in Texas where her focus is on strategic national and regional work to accomplish Best Friends' goal of getting every shelter to no-kill by 2025. She recently completed a year as interim medical director for Palm Valley Animal Society in Edinburg, Texas.

## 2:00 – 2:30 PM EST Break

Time for a snack?

**2:30 PM EST**

## **Congenital and Early Development Abnormalities in Kittens**

**Emily Coleman, DVM**

**Owner, The Celtic Cat, LLC. NKC CRC member. Board of Directors, Louisa Humane Society.**

**Session Description:** Neonatology is often an overlooked topic during a veterinary medical education as well as continuing education opportunities, leaving both the recent graduate and the seasoned practitioner without the necessary knowledge of various abnormalities seen in neonatal kittens. Taking a practical, everyday approach, this talk will discuss how to recognize, diagnose and make treatment recommendations for three congenital and early developmental abnormalities seen in kittens: neonatal ophthalmia, cleft palate, and umbilical hernias. These abnormalities, while varying in levels of urgency as well as ease of treatment, all often involve a kitten that is just days old. As the nation adopts a no-kill outlook to animal rescue, it is only expected that more neonatal kittens will be seen in veterinary hospitals, making it very important for veterinary practitioners to be empowered to have frank, honest conversations with their clients on treatment recommendations and prognosis, whether they be rescue organizations or Good Samaritans of the general public. As early veterinary intervention is almost always required, this tiny, vulnerable population deserves a chance to thrive by being evaluated and treated appropriately. (1 credit RACE® CE)

**Speaker Bio:** Dr. Emily A. Coleman grew up in Baltimore, Maryland and acquired a Bachelor of Science at the University of Maryland in 2005. She then attended the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech, graduating in 2009. In 2020, after over ten years in private practice and shelter medicine, Dr. Coleman decided to pursue her niche and start her own mobile feline spay/neuter/TNR and preventative care practice dedicated to supporting rescue organizations in her community. The Celtic Cat, LLC will be opening Fall/Winter of 2021. Her veterinary interests include neonatal kitten care, preventative medicine, as well as geriatric care. She currently lives at Lake Anna, Virginia with her husband and their eight cats, two dogs and two guinea pigs. Dr. Coleman serves on the Content Review Committee of the National Kitten Coalition and is on the Board of Directors for Louisa Humane Society. She fosters over 30 of the most vulnerable neonatal kittens from surrounding counties each year. When not busy with her foster kittens she enjoys live music, reading, hiking, and kayaking.

**3:30 – 4:00 PM EST Break**

**Breathe deeply, stretch, and grab your favorite “mocktail” or furry companion to join you for the next session.**

**4:00 – 5:00 PM EST**

## **Treatment Cocktails for Pediatric Kittens**

**Jennifer Bledsoe-Nix, DVM**

**Veterinarian at SPCA of Wake County, NC**

**Session Description:** This presentation will cover some of the most common medical issues we see with neonatal and pediatric kittens. We will be discussing some unique and “outside the box” treatment protocols that have saved countless kitten lives. Along with some common treatments for URI, diarrhea, vomiting and failure to thrive, we will discuss the importance of using anti-nausea

medications along with symptomatic care for kittens with URI and any GI conditions. This discussion will focus on learning to treat the patient and not just treating the disease. (1 credit RACE® CE)

**Speaker Bio:** Dr. Jennifer spent 12 years working in private practice in East Tennessee. While in private practice, she worked extensively with rescue organizations and 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. While there, she provided all medical care to the cats and kittens in the shelter and in their foster program. After 4 years in a feline only shelter, she transitioned to a larger shelter organization - SPCA of Wake County. At SPCA, she provides the medical care for the animals including cats, dogs, rabbits, guinea pigs and other small rodents. Neonatal and pediatric care are essential to their robust foster program and one of her primary passions.

## 5:00 – 5:15 PM EST SHORT Break

Don't be too long! You won't want to miss a single minute of the next session!

## 5:15 – 6:15 EST

### Feline Fix by Five: Spay/Neuter Cats by Five Months of Age

**Philip Bushby, Professor Emeritus, DVM, MS, DACVS**

**Session Description:** The “traditional” age for spay neuter has been 6 months. Recent veterinary literature has caused many in the profession to question the appropriate age for spay neuter. The literature raising concerns about age of sterilization is almost exclusively related to large breed dogs. While the profession questions the appropriate age for spay neuter in dogs there should be no question about the appropriate age in cats. Sterilization of cats prior to five months of age significantly reduces the incidence of mammary neoplasia and, if performed in adequate numbers, would reduce or eliminate “kitten season” in animal shelters. This session will cover why Feline Fix by Five is important, explore the question of risks associated with spay neuter of cats prior to 5 months of age, address peoples’ concerns about spay neuter of cats at a younger age and present findings from veterinary literature. (1 credit RACE® CE)

**Speaker Bio:** Phil Bushby, a 1972 graduate of the University of Illinois CVM, is a Board-Certified Surgeon has served on the Mississippi State University CVM (MSU-CVM) faculty for 43 years. He established the MSU-CVM shelter program and is a frequent speaker on efficient spay/neuter. He was a member of the organizing committee for the shelter medicine specialty board, received the ASPCA’s Henry Berg Award in 2008, the AVMA’s Animal Welfare Award in 2012 and the Association of Shelter Veterinarians Meritorious Service Award in 2015. He holds the Marcia Lane Endowed Chair of Humane Ethics and Animal Welfare at Mississippi State University.

## 6:15 EST Conference Wrap-Up

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

\*This Conference Program is approved by the AAVSB for 5.5 hours of live, interactive distance, RACE® continuing education credits and 5.0 hours anytime, non-interactive RACE® continuing education credits in jurisdictions which recognize RACE® approval.

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