



Saturday, April 8, 2023
All times listed are Eastern Time.

10:00–10:15 a.m.

Stacy LeBaron, Community Cats Podcast

Opening Remarks

10:15–11:45 a.m.

Pam Johnson-Bennett, CCBC

How Cats Think

Cats are beloved companion animals and yet, many people, even longtime cat lovers, may not understand what goes on inside those furry heads. We need to look at life from the cat's point of view and appreciate what drives this beautiful and highly intelligent animal's behavior. All behaviors (even those we don't like) serve a purpose and always make sense to the cat.

Cats have long been misunderstood as being untrainable, aloof, and solitary. We'll look at why misunderstandings occur. We'll cover how cats communicate using scent, body language and vocalization, and how they process their environment.

Cats often get unfairly labeled when they display unwanted behaviors. Being labeled can cause cats to lose their home, end up in a shelter, or be abandoned. We'll examine some common behavior problems and compare how humans view them versus how cats perceive them. We'll examine the importance cats place on territory and how they establish their social structure. To sum it all up, we'll be learning what it's like to *think like a cat*.

About Pam Johnson-Bennett

Pam Johnson-Bennett is a certified cat behavior consultant and best-selling author of 8 books. She starred in the *Animal Planet UK* series *Psycho Kitty*. She is the cat behavior expert for *Arm & Hammer Cat Litter* and the spokesperson for their *Purrfectly Impurrfect* campaigns to raise awareness of overlooked shelter cats. Pam was vice president of the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants and founded their Cat Division. She has served on numerous advisory boards, including the American Humane Association, and has been an award-winning columnist for many online and print magazines. She is considered a pioneer in the field of cat behavior consulting and her books have been used as textbooks for behavior courses. Her book, *Think Like a Cat*, is referred to as the cat bible.

In addition to her lecture and media schedule, Pam does a limited number of private behavior consultations. She owns Cat Behavior Associates, located in Nashville, Tennessee.

11:45–1:15 p.m.

Tabitha Kucera, RVT, CCBC, KPA-CTP, VTS (behavior)

Me-Ouch! Identifying pain & how pain contributes to behavior concerns.

As a certified cat behavior consultant and veterinary technician, I commonly see behavior concerns where pain is causing or contributing to the behavior. I am lucky to bring a clinical eye to the home environment and many behavior concerns have medical roots that would otherwise go unnoticed. Cats are unique in that they are both predator and prey animals. Due to this, assessing their pain is challenging not only for pet owners, but also for veterinary and shelter professionals. Through lecture and video demonstration, this session will hone your pain assessment skills and provide you with the resources to help identify pain.

About Tabitha Kucera

Tabitha Kucera is an Elite Fear Free® and Low Stress Handling®-certified registered veterinary technician (RVT), a Certified Cat Behavior Consultant (CCBC) through the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants, and a Karen Pryor Academy-Certified Training Partner (KPA-CTP) and one of only 30 Veterinary Technician Specialists in behavior. She is the owner of Chirrup and Chatter Cat and Dog Behavior Consulting and Training in Cleveland, Ohio.

Tabitha has been working with cats and dogs for over twelve years, and in that time has worked with a number of rescue organizations and small animal practices, where she dedicated herself to learning about the prevention, root causes, and solutions to feline and canine behavioral concerns. She helps people better understand and relate to their animal companions, which leads to a stronger bond and a more gratifying relationship between animal and human.

Her teaching credentials include lecturing on the regional and national level and lecturing at multiple veterinary technology programs. Her lectures cover relevant topics such as canine and feline body language, cooperative care, Fear Free and low stress handling, feline and canine aggression, prevention and management for common behavior concerns, and many others. She is a Fear Free certified speaker, a Fear Free Practice Certification Consultant, a behavior consultant for Cat Pawsitive Pro, and host of the podcast, Tails from a Vet Tech. Tabitha has helped to develop training and behavior programs including Fear Free implementation, fearful cat and enrichment programs, for various veterinary hospitals and shelters and works as a consultant for many shelters and private veterinary practices.

1:15–1:45 p.m.

Lunch break

1:45–3:15 p.m.

Dr. Rachel Geller, Certified Cat Behavior & Retention Specialist

Play: It's Not Just Fun and Games!

Cats love to play and they are wired to do so as natural born hunters. You just need the right types of toys along with the right attitude! I often hear from my cat behavior clients that their cats don't like to play: my cat is lazy, my cat is fat, my cat is old, and my cat thinks play is boring. Some people equate the term play with something only young cats do and then grow out of as they get older – like a child becoming an adult. But all cats, if they were living outside, would hunt and catch their prey in order to eat and stay alive. So what's going on if your cat isn't playing? In this session, Dr. Geller will show you how to create hunting opportunities for cats including how to use their minds and bodies in sync to successfully outwit and capture their prey. She will show you how to prevent your cat from becoming fat, bored, stressed, and

how to avoid - as well as solve - behavior problems through beneficial play.

About Dr. Rachel Geller

Rachel Geller, Ed.D. is the Founder and President of All Cats All the Time, Inc. which is a 501c3 nonprofit dedicated to promoting the adoption of cats and preventing their surrender and abandonment by helping cat/animal shelters – and cat owners who cannot otherwise afford to do so – access cat behavior counseling free of charge for the cats in their care.

Rachel is certified as a: Cat Behavior and Retention Specialist, Humane Education Specialist, Pet Chaplain®, Fear Free Shelter Specialist, American Association of Feline Practitioners Cat Friendly Veterinary Advocate and RedRover Reader. She is currently a cat behaviorist for cat/animal shelters all over the world, including working with adopters, training shelter volunteers and instituting surrender prevention programs. She also provides individual cat behavior help to cat parents.

Rachel has given or participated in presentations for the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), the Massachusetts Animal Coalition, and the New England Federation of Humane Societies on topics involving cat behavior, cat behavior and retention programs, and surrender prevention. Rachel's cat behavior and retention program has been recognized by HSUS as a model program.

Rachel's book, [*Saving the World. One Cat at a Time*](#), was written to help with resolving cats' behavioral and emotional problems with the goal of creating harmonious relationships between cats and their owners. All of the proceeds from book sales go to cat shelters. Rachel is the author of the webinar "Activities for Inclusion" for the Association of Professional Humane Educators which provides instruction and concrete techniques for animal shelters to follow on how to include the special needs population as volunteers. She was a contributing author to "The Ark Project – Jewish Initiative for Animals" which focuses on the humane treatment of animals.

Rachel was a behavioral specialist for grades K–8 in the Waltham (Massachusetts) Public Schools for over 20 years. She has lived in Newton since 1992 with her husband and two cats. An avid runner, she has run (and finished!) eleven Boston Marathons.

3:15–3:30 p.m.

Break, cat trivia

3:30–5:00p.m.

Arden Moore, America's Pet Health and Safety Coach

What's Eating You, Cat?

Engaged in the dual roles of being hunters and hunted, cats do approach food and water bowls – and meal time – with caution. In this talk, Arden Moore spotlights what is happening mentally and physically to felines based on our food choices and kitchen routines. She will reveal three factors that determine a cat's willingness to eat. Understand how stress can spark hunger strikes and trigger some medical diseases. Learn a few new tricks to get your cat to drink enough to stay hydrated and to accept pills more easily. Discover how two new medications are being called 'game changers' by veterinarians for cats with waning appetites due to stress or disease. And, hopefully, gain a better and more accurate understanding of how cats view drinking water and eating.

About Arden Moore

Arden Moore's mission is to bring out the best in pets...and their people. Known as America's Pet Health and Safety Coach, Arden happily wears many "collars" in the pet world. She hosts two weekly shows. The award-winning "Oh Behave" show on [*Pet Life Radio*](#)—ranked as the longest continuous pet podcast (on the air since 2007). More than 500,000 tune in each week as she interviews pet-championing celebrities,

leaders in the pet industry and ordinary people doing extraordinary things for pets. And, she hosts the Arden Moore's Four Legged Life show, airing on radio stations coast to coast plus streaming and airing on YouTube. Learn more at [Four Legged Life](#).

Her major focus is to educate and inspire two-leggers on ways to keep cats and dogs healthy and happy. She accomplishes this as an in-demand speaker, Fear Free Pets certified professional and master certified pet first aid/CPR instructor. As founder of [Pet First Aid 4U](#) and as director of education for [Pro Pet Hero](#), Arden teams up with Pet Safety Cat Casey (a talkative ginger cat) and Pet Safety Dog Kona (an always-smiling terrier mix) to teach veterinarian-approved pet first aid classes in person and live, interactive via Zoom. She makes learning fun and practical and has drawn students from all over North America as well as Europe, Central America and yes, even South Africa.

She has strong typing fingers. This best-selling author has written more than two dozen cat and dog books. She wrote and published four books in the past two years: *The Cat Behavior Answer Book*, *The Dog Behavior Answer Book*, *A Kid's Guide to Cats* and *A Kid's Guide to Dogs* (Storey Publishing). The kid books earned top writing honors in the children's book categories from the Cat Writers Association and the Dog Writers Association of America. She is also a columnist and feature writer for *Catster* Magazine, VetScoop and Fear Free Happy Pets. She is the former editor of *Catnip* Magazine, a national monthly magazine published by Tufts University.

Arden shares her home in Dallas, TX with the Furry Brady Bunch that includes four cats and two feline-adoring dogs. She has been a feline advocate since childhood, when her first cat, Corky, happily swam with her in the backyard lake. Learn more at [ArdenMoore.com](#).

5:00 p.m.

Closing remarks

Special thanks to our conference sponsor:

Ryan Animal Rescue Foundation