



Sunday, September 11, 2022

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10:00–10:15 a.m.

Stacy LeBaron, Community Cats Podcast

Opening Remarks

10:15–11:15 a.m.

Peter Wolf, Senior strategist for Best Friends Animal Society

With Friends Like These... The unintended consequences of pulling friendly community cats for adoption

Targeted trap-neuter-vaccinate-return (TNVR) and return-to-field (RTF) programs are becoming the norm in communities across the country, reducing the number of cats admitted to shelters and increasing the number leaving alive. Still, the number of cats being killed is more than twice the number of dogs. One remaining challenge is the concerns among some TNR/RTF supporters over “returning friendlies.”

Although these concerns are well-intentioned, the policy implications can be disastrous for community cats and the people who care for them. In this presentation, I will discuss the various reasons for returning sociable community cats to their outdoor homes, giving attendees the tools to advocate for change at their local shelter.

About Peter Wolf

Peter J. Wolf is a senior strategist for Best Friends Animal Society. Peter’s role involves the analysis of science and public policy related to community cat issues, a topic he’s been researching and writing about since 2010 through his blog, Vox Felina. His writing is published regularly on the Best Friends blog, in letters to editors, and in peer-reviewed research articles. Peter holds a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering and master’s degree in industrial design. His professional/industry experience has focused on the acquisition, analysis, and synthesis of quantitative and qualitative data.

11:15-11:45 p.m.

Break, Cat Trivia

11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

Kimberley Freeman, Lost Cat Finder

Getting Lost Cats Back home + preventing them from ending up at Shelters

Every day, hundreds of cats go missing. Unfortunately, only a small number of them are found. This is partly because people follow outdated advice, then give up too soon when it doesn't work. The result? Millions of unfound cats end up at overcrowded shelters.

This session tackles how to stop the cycle and get more cats back home through best practices in lost cat recovery and supporting cat owners. Whether you work at a shelter, a rescue group or you're a local TNR advocate, you'll learn about key resources and best practices for lost cat recovery.

About Kimberley Freeman

As a professional lost cat tracker, Kim has 10 years of practice finding missing cats and the dirt under her nails to prove it. Combining animal tracking with bird language and the science of lost cat behavior, she's been deemed the world expert in lost cat recovery, solving cases in 48 states and 23 countries.

Her mission is getting cats found before they end up in shelters—and she's created online guides on how to do it. Using special techniques tailored to feline psychology, these new methods improve owner success and reduce shelter intake. Alerting owners to these guides relieves demands on shelter staff and gives owners best-practices guidance based on science instead of myths.

Freeman's online Lost Cat Kit can be found at LostCatFinder.com and her years of happy reunion stories are posted on Facebook/Lost Cat Finder.

12:45–1:30 p.m.

Lunch break

1:30–2:30 p.m.

Ed Boks, Executive Director, Bayou Animal Services

City of Dickinson Community Cat Program

The City of Dickinson, TX is implementing a new program to tame the growth of its feral cat population. The Community Cat Program will partner with local TNR trappers to humanely trap free-roaming cats without visible evidence of ownership or microchip identification and will ensure they're vaccinated, spayed or neutered.

About Ed Boks

Ed convinced the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors to embrace TNR as the official county response to feral cat complaints in 24 cities and towns. Boks has been an advocate of TNR in Maricopa and Yavapai counties in Arizona, New York City, the City of Los Angeles (partnering with FixNation), Spokane and now in the Gulf Coast of Texas.

2:30-3 p.m.

Break, Cat Trivia

3-4:00 p.m.

Erica Roewade & Liz Houtz, Co-Founders, Cats in Action

Mythbusting: Challenging traditional ideas about "home"

A look at evolving views of where cats live and thrive.

About Erica Roewade & Liz Houtz

Erica Roewade and Liz Houtz co-founded Chicago-based Cats in Action in 2019. They are a sponsor group under the 2007 Cook County Managed Care of Feral Cats Ordinance. Erica and Liz co-administrate Illinois Barn Cats Facebook and Chicago Community Cats TNR, the largest community cat Facebook network in the state. They also co-host a free monthly workshop on Zoom called "Helping Cats Near You".

4-5 p.m.

Mike Wheeler, Director of Community Services for the City of Cabot, Arkansas

Daniel Achuff, Animal Protective Services Manager, Brandywine Valley SPCA

Return to Home, The Animal Control Officers Perspective

ACO's can play a role as advocates for Community Cats. Mike and Daniel share their experiences and thoughts around this potentially controversial topic.

About Mike Wheeler

Mike currently serves as the Director of Community Services for the City of Cabot, Arkansas. In this role, Mike oversees Animal Services as well as the city's senior center. Prior to beginning his career in animal welfare, Mike served in the US Army as an Intelligence Analyst before opening his own insurance agency. Mike has worked in Animal Services since 2009 and is currently certified as an Animal Control Officer Level II by the Arkansas State Animal Control Association. Mike holds certifications in Animal Cruelty Investigations from Colorado State University, Animal Fighting/Cruelty Investigations from the University of Arkansas Criminal Justice Institute, and serves as a Specialized Law Enforcement Instructor- Animal Control for the Arkansas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training.

About Daniel Achuff

Daniel became the Animal Protective Services Manager for Brandywine Valley SPCA in November of 2019. He has been with the Brandywine Valley SPCA since 2015 when he was hired as an animal control officer and became a Humane Society Police Officer in 2016. Before Daniel was a Humane Officer/Animal Control officer he spent 7 1/2 years as an emergency veterinary technician where he excelled in caring for animals. Daniel grew up in Texas where his mother and father started and ran an animal sanctuary for abandoned and abused exotics for 14 years. Daniel grew up caring for tigers, lions, cougars, timber wolves and many exotic animals that were abused or abandoned by zoos or owners. Daniel also joined the Army National Guard which was a goal of his since he was a kid and received an honor graduate in basic training. Since then, Daniel has accomplished investigating over 1200 cruelty investigations and has a 96% conviction rate that he is very proud of. Daniel is currently a board member for the National Animal Care and Control Association and continues to be the voice for the animals who do not have one.

5:00 p.m.

Close

