**Open Arms Challenge Group:**

<https://maddies.fund/openarmschallengegroup>

**Huddle Registration Link:**<https://maddiesfund-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckduupqjsoGNGtPuk2fatmO_acogXGlPx7>

**Agenda**

* **Welcome –** Amber Eby, Grants Specialist at Maddie’s Fund and Gina Knepp, National Shelter Engagement Director at Michelson Found Animals Foundation
* **Speakers -** Amy Yeager from Charlottesville Mecklenburg and Ilenea Kistler from Southern Charlotte Dog Rescue
* **Q&A**

***88 live attendees***

***Previous Huddle Recordings & Discussion Threads***

* Open Arms Challenge Group on Maddie’s Pet Forum: <https://maddies.fund/openarmschallengegroup>
* Open Arms Challenge Huddle #1 recording & discussion thread: <https://maddies.fund/openarmschallengehuddle1>
* Open Arms Challenge Huddle #2 recording & discussion thread: <https://maddies.fund/openarmschallengehuddle2>
* Open Arms Challenge Huddle #3 recording & discussion thread: <https://maddies.fund/openarmschallengehuddle3>

              

**Chat Log**

09:50:21 From Alison Gibson to Waiting Room Participants:

Welcome! We will be starting at 10am Pacific.Be sure to come by Maddie’s Pet Forum after the program. Our presenters will be available for questions, and we will also share resources there https://maddies.fund/openarmschallengegroup

0:00:22 From Shelbi Waters to Everyone:

Shelbi Waters, SVAS, Minot, ND

10:00:24 From C Hayes to Everyone:

Denise Hayes - Roanoke, VA

10:00:33 From lourdes rojas to Everyone:

Lourdes-Silicon Valley

10:00:33 From Stephanie Rambo to Everyone:

Hi Stephanie Rambo, NJ

10:00:37 From Dylan Moore to Everyone:

Ahoy, Dylan from Santa Fe NM

10:00:37 From Ashley White to Everyone:

Hi! Ashley White. Bainbridge Humane Society. Bainbridge, GA

10:00:37 From Sarah Armes Harwood to Everyone:

Sarah from Humane Society Silicon Valley here!

10:00:37 From Kendall Eckman to Everyone:

Hello all! Kendall from Foothills Animal Shelter in CO!

10:00:37 From Adelia Harrison to Everyone:

Hello from Adelia with Brooklyn Cat Café and Brooklyn Bridge Animal Welfare Coalition

10:00:37 From Megan Davis to Everyone:

Megan Davis - Humane Society for Hamilton county

10:00:38 From Jordan Craig to Everyone:

Jordan Craig, Dallas, TX

10:00:38 From Shaindel Beers to Everyone:

Hello, Everyone!

Shaindel Beers from PAWS, Pendleton Oregon

10:00:40 From Savana Borchers to Everyone:

Jeannie from Lumpkin County Animal Shelter, Dahlonega GA! Hello everyone! Hope you're having a good day!

10:00:46 From Katie Pemberton to Everyone:

Katie Pemberton from Memphis Animal Services

10:00:47 From Kelly Clardy to Everyone:

Hello everyone! Coming in from Hayward, CA!

10:00:47 From Trudy Bennett to Everyone:

Trudy Bennett - Texas Litter Control - Houston, TX

10:00:50 From Jerrica Owen to Everyone:

Jerrica from NACA! Excited to be here!!

10:00:50 From Eileen Mahan to Everyone:

Shannon Porter, Christiansburg, VA

10:00:55 From Courtney Macaraeg to Everyone:

Hi there! Courtney Macaraeg and Ashley Mullin from Jacksonville Humane Society in Jacksonville, FL!

10:00:55 From jennifer leary to Everyone:

Hello - Jennifer from Friends for Life Animal Rescue. - PA

10:01:02 From Gina Knepp, Michelson Found Animals to Everyone:

Gina Knepp, Michelson Found Animals - joining you from Hamilton, Montana - welcome everyone!!

10:01:07 From Kris Fry to Everyone:

Kris Fry Humane Indiana (shelter/clinic/wildlife) Northern Indiana

10:01:25 From Eileen Russell to Everyone:

Hello from Eileen of God's Feral Felines in Alabama

10:01:25 From sarah rosenberg to Everyone:

Sarah Rosenberg (she/they) from Paws Between Homes in Atlanta.

10:01:25 From Miriam Steinberg to Everyone:

Hi folks Miriam from Lollypop Farm in Rochester, NY

10:01:25 From Emily Roberts to Everyone:

Hi everyone! Joining from upstate NY - Cortland County SPCA.

10:01:25 From Gina Carbonari to Everyone:

Gina Carbonari, Ulster County SPCA, Kingston NY

10:01:27 From Caitlyn Harrison to Everyone:

Hi, Caitlyn here with Pinellas County Animal Services in Largo, FL

10:01:29 From Rachel Keene to Everyone:

Rachel in Norfolk VA!

10:01:39 From Lauren Dougall to Everyone:

Leslie Fluhrer Agape Animal Rescue in Nashville, TN.

10:01:41 From Charice Davis to Everyone:

Hi, Charice Davis, Hands and Feet Pet Advocates in Knoxville, TN

10:01:42 From Alison Gibson to Waiting Room Participants:

HI Neil and Katy - you have been admitted to the call - you may want to log out and in again to join us!

10:01:48 From Stephanie Brown to Everyone:

Hello Stephanie Brown from Alone No More Dog Rescue Phoenix, AZ.

10:01:53 From Fiona Tanner to Everyone:

Fiona Tanner from Louisa County Animal Shelter in Mineral, VA!

10:02:12 From Donna Brown to Everyone:

Donna Brown Garden City Community Cats Project. Garden City Idaho

10:02:13 From Alison Gibson to Everyone:

Be sure to come by Maddie’s Pet Forum after the program. Our presenters will be available for questions, and we will also share resources there https://maddies.fund/openarmschallengegroup

10:02:14 From Kimberly Qualls to Everyone:

Hello! Kimberly from LifeLine Animal Project in Atlanta, GA.

10:02:19 From Angel Stock to Everyone:

Angel Stock It's Meow or Never Tallahassee, Fl

10:02:30 From Jan Williams to Everyone:

Elizabeth from Desert Labrador Retriever Rescue, Arizona

10:02:30 From Phablo Dias Silva to Everyone:

Hello Phablo Dias from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

10:02:50 From Wendy Frink to Everyone:

Maddie’s Pet Forum https://maddies.fund/openarmschallengegroup

10:03:31 From Sarah Rosenberg (shey/they) Paws Between Homes to Everyone:

Love this, Amber. Thanks for carrying it forward!

10:07:38 From Gina Knepp, Michelson Found Animals to Everyone:

You are doing just fine, Amy! We are all friends here.

10:07:38 From KellyC. (she/her), Maddie's Fund to Everyone:

You’re doing great, Amy!

10:08:06 From Shelbi Waters to Everyone:

Go Amy! Great info!

10:10:18 From Peg Lucky to Everyone:

Good afternoon from West Feliciana Humane Society in St. Francisville, LA

10:10:27 From Kelly Duer to Everyone:

Great job, Amy! I’ve totally been there 🙂

10:10:33 From Wendy Frink to Everyone:

Same!

10:10:37 From Jan Williams to Everyone:

Amy, you’re doing great! Don’t worry, we’re all on your side!

10:10:40 From Emily Roberts (she/her) to Everyone:

You’re not alone!

10:10:42 From Charice Davis to Everyone:

I get nervous sometimes too!

10:10:43 From Lauren Dougall to Everyone:

Amy you are doing great! I get really nervous too!

10:10:44 From Stephanie Rambo to Everyone:

I'm the same way!

10:10:45 From Fiona Tanner to Everyone:

Same girl same. It’s all good :)

10:10:46 From Brittany Ransonet to Everyone:

same!

10:10:47 From Sarah Rosenberg (shey/they) Paws Between Homes to Everyone:

FEELING SO SEEN, AMY!!

10:10:48 From Jan Williams to Everyone:

Just talk to one person. :-)

10:10:57 From Katie Broaddus, Austin Humane Society to Everyone:

I really appreciate you insights on what makes rescues easy to work with, Amy! It's so important to not just focus on the shelter's needs but also on how to be good partners!

10:11:16 From Katy Heerssen - Special Pals to Everyone:

You're doing great Amy! Love the "punch card" system - it's a give and take and we are all in it together!!

10:11:22 From Kay Amland to Everyone:

Don't worry for a second. Keep it up. The info is very helpful.

10:11:26 From Marylin Colon to Everyone:

Amy, you'd be surprise how many ppl are the same! I am for one understand. Great info! Thanks

10:11:39 From Megan Davis to Everyone:

We do foster to adopts for the animals that still need care!

10:11:43 From Shelly (she/her), Maddie's Fund to Everyone:

Zoom tip - click on the three dots in the upper-right of your video and select Hide self view. It’s not natural to see yourself when you’re speaking to others.

10:12:54 From Alison Gibson to Everyone:

Great tip @Shelly!

10:13:02 From Amy Schindler to Everyone:

Amy- are most of the rescue groups in your area or are they long distance?

10:13:35 From Frances Alford to Everyone:

We do foster to adopts

10:14:23 From Shelly (she/her), Maddie's Fund to Everyone:

I have to run to another meeting - looking forward to watching the recorded version. Thanks for sharing Amy!

10:23:29 From Donna Brown to Everyone:

I love Amy's information about the shelters view

10:23:40 From Mary (she/her) @ Maddie's Fund to Everyone:

What a great partnership!

10:24:25 From Fiona Tanner to Everyone:

I definitely agree, it’s good to understand all sides. I’ve worked rescue and shelter settings, and am soon doing a few ride-alongs with animal control so I can see what they’re dealing with on a daily basis. I think there’s so much growth that can come from seeing all perspectives and working together to provide the best care for the animals and community. Great topic and presentation.

10:25:07 From Gina Knepp, Michelson Found Animals to Everyone:

I'd love to hear their top three tips they would give to shelters and rescues on how to be better partners. How can both lift one another up?

10:25:14 From Emily Roberts (she/her) to Everyone:

Have any shelters here worked with a hostile rescue? We had a dog pulled from our shelter and the transport was told “if you don’t go and get it, they’re going to kill it!” - insinuating we were a “”kill shelter”” (I know that’s a loaded term, but we are no-kill)

10:28:17 From Donna Brown to Everyone:

I wish our shelter used rescues as subgroups

10:28:18 From Gina Knepp, Michelson Found Animals to Everyone:

Mutual respect, empathy and understanding. Love it!

10:28:18 From Emily Roberts (she/her) to Everyone:

Put in a better way - how do you deal with conflicting perspectives on animal welfare?

10:28:30 From Shaindel Beers to Everyone:

Emily, The best you can do is politely correct misinformation. I'm so sorry that that happened. When I see misinformation online about my shelter, I politely introduce myself and explain whatever the truth of the situation is. I hope that helps.

10:29:20 From Charice Davis to Everyone:

We have a very strong collaboration with our local shelter. It takes a lot of understanding by all parties. Most shelters are severely underfunded, understaffed and overworked. This is not their fault. Municipalities budgets play the biggest part in these issues. Our community leaders need to hear from constituents to help increase funding.

10:29:22 From Emily Roberts (she/her) to Everyone:

Thanks Shaindel :) I did explain to the transport, but it makes me not want to partner with a rescue that would say that about us! And that’s not fair to the animals in my care

10:29:42 From Anna Domings to Everyone:

Yes!!! Seconded

10:31:00 From Ashley White to Everyone:

Literally had this happen to us this morning….

10:31:18 From Steve Marrero to Everyone:

I have

10:31:25 From Sheryl Haga to Everyone:

Has happened to us several times

10:31:53 From Charice Davis to Everyone:

There are a lot of groups who don't have the information and are solely going on what they feel or think. Give them the facts. Help them understand your circumstances

10:32:09 From Steve Marrero to Everyone:

Same here

10:32:15 From Steve Marrero to Everyone:

Awesome!!

10:32:44 From Katie Broaddus, Austin Humane Society to Everyone:

Our local municipal shelter has a partner agreement that includes the stipulation that rescue partners cannot bash the shelter, or the agreement is ended.

10:33:00 From Steve Marrero to Everyone:

That's a great partner

10:33:34 From Peg Lucky to Everyone:

My shelter gets lots of calls for animals that are dumped outside of our territory or state and we are full and can’t help them. They will then threat us that they will just shoot the animal. It breaks my heart, but we are all full in the area we are in.

10:34:09 From Anna Domings to Everyone:

Peg, that is so hard. And an unfortunately common story among animal welfare folks I think. :(

10:36:11 From Donna Brown to Everyone:

Shelters need to communicate what their policies are as they change.

10:36:19 From Gina Knepp, Michelson Found Animals to Everyone:

The more we partner, the more we lift one another, we can change the narrative. Most people don't know the difference between rescues and shelters. To them we are synonymous. If we link arms and work collaboratively we can rewrite the story and ultimately help more people and animals.

10:36:24 From Emily Roberts (she/her) to Everyone:

Definitely hard to change those mindsets!

10:36:32 From Anna Domings to Everyone:

^^^

10:36:53 From Emily Roberts (she/her) to Everyone:

So right Gina.

10:37:53 From Donna Brown to Everyone:

lost and found posts are SO TIME Consuming

10:37:54 From Shaindel Beers to Everyone:

Absolutely agreed with Ileana. Thank you.

10:39:23 From Gina Knepp, Michelson Found Animals to Everyone:

@donnabrown Yes, they can be time consuming, but getting a lost animal back home is the best thing we can do for the animal and its family, the least expensive and the most ethical.

10:40:33 From Donna Brown to Everyone:

Amy, how is your shelter subsidized? Our cities are asked to individually pay or the city won't be supported by shelter. what do you think

10:40:45 From Katy Heerssen - Special Pals to Everyone:

love it, we are all in this together!!

10:40:50 From Gina Knepp, Michelson Found Animals to Everyone:

Love it - misinformation soldiers!! I am going to write a job description for that.

10:42:47 From Shaindel Beers to Everyone:

I'm a writer, and I have 16,000+ Twitter followers. If you let me know your shelter's Twitter or reach out to me, I can Retweet adoptable animals from my personal account.

10:43:13 From Gina Knepp, Michelson Found Animals to Everyone:

@shaindelbeers - awesome!!!!

10:43:17 From Jenny Miller to Everyone:

Thank you!

10:43:22 From Charice Davis to Everyone:

Thanks! Great presentation and info!!

10:43:25 From Shaindel Beers to Everyone:

Thank you! I'm @shaindelr on Twitter

10:43:44 From Charlotte Otero @Maddie's Fund to Everyone:

Such great information, thanks so much Amy and Ileana!

10:43:54 From Wendy Frink to Everyone:

https://maddies.fund/openarmschallengegroup

10:43:59 From Katy Heerssen - Special Pals to Everyone:

about to follow you Shaindel!

10:44:02 From Fiona Tanner to Everyone:

Thanks everyone. Lots of great things to think on :)

10:44:06 From Jerrica Owen to Everyone:

Great job everyone!!!!!

10:44:07 From Marylin Colon- MatchDog Rescue to Everyone:

Thank you for such informative huddle! Best wishes to Amy and Ileana! And to everyone on here! :)

10:44:09 From Sharon Fletcher to Everyone:

Thank you Amy and Illeana!!

10:44:11 From Marcy Gallo to Everyone:

Thank you!

10:44:12 From Emily Roberts (she/her) to Everyone:

Thanks for the great Huddle today!

10:44:13 From Kay Amland to Everyone:

Thank you!!

10:44:15 From Sarah Armes Harwood to Everyone:

Thanks all! Loved the content!

10:44:17 From Modesto Mercedes to Everyone:

Thank you!!

10:44:18 From Savana Borchers to Everyone:

Thank you for the knowledge!!

10:44:20 From Phablo Dias Silva to Everyone:

Thank you!

------------------------end-----------------------