**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 & Gina Knepp, National Shelter Engagement Director at Michelson Found Animals
* **Speakers –** Spencer Conover, Assistant Director of Pasco County Animal Services & Dani Giroux, Founder/Owner of Runaways Animal Rescue
* **Q&A**

***63 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>
* Open Arms Challenge Huddle #4 recording & discussion thread: <https://maddies.fund/openarmschallengehuddle4>
* Open Arms Challenge Huddle #5 recording & discussion thread: <https://maddies.fund/openarmschallengehuddle5>
* Open Arms Challenge Huddle #6 recording & discussion thread: <https://maddies.fund/openarmschallengehuddle6>
* Open Arms Challenge Huddle #7 recording & discussion thread: <https://maddies.fund/openarmschallengehuddle7>
* Open Arms Challenge Huddle #8 recording & discussion thread: <https://maddies.fund/openarmschallengehuddle8>
* Open Arms Challenge Huddle #9 recording & discussion thread: <https://maddies.fund/openarmschallengehuddle9>
* Open Arms Challenge Huddle #10 recording & discussion thread: <https://maddies.fund/openarmschallengehuddle10>

***Resources Shared During Call***

* “We’re In this Love Together” by Al Jarreau: <https://youtu.be/otVH5cv9z1A>
* Pasco County 2021 Shelter Statistics: <https://www.pascocountyfl.net/3992/Shelter-Statistics>
* Don’t Forget the Pets (pet care resource for domestic violence situations): <https://dontforgetthepets.org/>
* Spencer Conover contact email: [sconover@pascocountyfl.net](mailto:sconover@pascocountyfl.net)
* Open Arms Challenge Group: <https://maddies.fund/openarmschallengegroup>
* Open Arms Challenge Resources: <https://www.maddiesfund.org/open-arms-challenge-resources.htm>

              

**Chat Log**

09:52:48 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.

Maddie’s Pet Forum Open Arms Challenge Group: https://maddies.fund/openarmschallengegroup

09:59:34 From Alison Gibson to Everyone:

Al Jarreau https://youtu.be/otVH5cv9z1A

10:00:11 From Alison Gibson to Waiting Room Participants:

Hi folks - some listening music for you! https://youtu.be/otVH5cv9z1A

10:01:57 From Lindsay Molloy to Everyone:

Hi all! Lindsay Molloy Denver Animal Shelter

10:01:57 From Alison Gibson to Everyone:

Maddie’s Pet Forum Open Arms Challenge Group

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10:02:09 From Elena Gowe to Everyone:

Elena Gowe, Baywater Animal Rescue, Cambridge MD

10:02:09 From Lauren Dougall to Everyone:

Leslie Fluhrer Agape Animal Rescue Nashville, TN.

10:02:22 From Cindy Flauger to Everyone:

Cindy Flauger, Neenah Animal Shelter, Neenah, WI

10:02:23 From Mary Lou Harju to Everyone:

Mary Lou Harju - Beaver County Humane Society - Aliquippa PA (near Pittsburgh)

10:02:24 From Angel Stock to Everyone:

Angel Stock, It's Meow or Never,Tallahassee Fl

10:02:24 From Anna Domings to Everyone:

Anna Domings, Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Animal Sanctuary in Brimfield MA. hello!

10:02:30 From jennifer leary to Everyone:

Hello - Jen from Friends For Life Animal Rescue in PA

10:02:57 From Stacy Reynolds to Everyone:

Stacy Reynolds with Paws Between Homes in Atlanta, GA. Hey!

10:03:02 From Melina Melina Ramos to Everyone:

Melina with Heaven Can Wait Animal Society and Pups On Parole in Las Vegas BABY!

10:03:17 From Phablo Silva to Everyone:

Hello from Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

10:03:18 From Alison Gibson to Everyone:

Welcome, everyone!

10:03:24 From Alison Gibson to Everyone:

WOW Rio!!

10:03:28 From Sarah Rosenberg (she/they) Paws Between Homes to Everyone:

Sarah Rosenberg (she/they), also with Paws Between Homes in Atlanta!

10:05:03 From Christy Alford with IMON to Everyone:

Hey Christy with Its Meow or Never in Tallahassee Florida

10:06:05 From Irene Chansawang (she/her) to Everyone:

Hello! It's a rainy morning in the Bay Area of CA. :)

10:06:08 From Alison Gibson to Everyone:

Christy such a great org name! love it

10:06:50 From Christy Alford with IMON to Everyone:

Thanks Alison

10:07:53 From Christy Alford with IMON to Everyone:

Organizations here also all us (rescues) take animals for free to get them into other options.

10:08:39 From Lauren Dougall to Everyone:

As a rescue, we get the majority of our dogs from local shelters

10:08:46 From Marissa Johnston to Everyone:

Sorry if I missed it....what are your intake numbers/capacity?

10:10:53 From Alison Gibson to Everyone:

Kathryn Hinton is in the house! Kathryn with Polk County Bully Project here

10:13:49 From Jan Williams to Everyone:

Jan Williams, Volunteer for DLRR (Desert Labrador Retriever Rescue) in AZ.

10:14:14 From Alison Gibson to Everyone:

KITTEN YOGA!!!😻

10:15:12 From Becky Koop to Everyone:

Becky Koop, Friends of Madera Animal Shelter, Madera, CA

10:15:35 From Mary Lou Harju to Everyone:

How is that working in today's world when veterinary offices are overworked and scheduling appointments out by weeks and months?

10:17:36 From Sarah Rosenberg (she/they) Paws Between Homes to Everyone:

QUESTION ABOUT ADOPTION FEES for Spencer: How important are adoption fees to your operating revenue? Do you notice any unintended consequences (i.e., barriers to adoption) of not offering any alternatives to charging adoption fees?

10:19:57 From Alexis - Animal Rescue League of Berks County (she) to Everyone:

We have started working with domestic violence, mental health and emergency response organizations. We have shifted to trying to focus on social service agencies to provide support where we can to support people and their pets.

10:21:38 From Lauren Dougall to Everyone:

We are also working with Domestic Violence Centers who are starting up programs where individuals can bring their animals.

10:21:56 From Mike Shumate to Everyone:

<https://www.pascocountyfl.net/3992/Shelter-Statistics>

10:22:07 From Mike Shumate to Everyone:

Howdy!

10:23:52 From Sarah Rosenberg (she/they) Paws Between Homes to Everyone:

That speaks to moving animals more than to whose homes they’re getting into . . .

10:24:51 From Christy Alford with IMON to Everyone:

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10:31:03 From Sarah AGUILAR to Everyone:

Additional resource for DV pet care: https://dontforgetthepets.org/

10:31:28 From Jan Williams to Everyone:

So nice to know more work/support being done with DV organizations...40% of women will NOT leave a DV situation because they can't take their pets. Sooooo sad!

10:31:58 From Jan Williams to Everyone:

and yes...Men are also DV victims, I just don't know the stats for them, but should inquire.

10:32:16 From Sarah Rosenberg (she/they) Paws Between Homes to Everyone:

How about treating members of the public as community partners who can foster pets? Or considering that members of the community are asking as independent rescues when they adopt from shelters?

10:32:40 From Melina Melina Ramos to Everyone:

Las Vegas has Shade Tree a women's shelter who partner with Noah's Animal Rescue next door so the families can be on the same campus

10:32:53 From Jan Williams to Everyone:

Nice Melina!

10:33:37 From Spencer Conover to Everyone:

Spencer Conover - sconover@pascocountyfl.net

10:33:47 From Daryl Yankee to Everyone:

We have a "secret" foster network that supports DV agencies in our community. We are a silent partner to protect our staff and the pets.

10:34:32 From Ben Swan to Everyone:

Great idea!

10:35:27 From Alexis - Animal Rescue League of Berks County (she) to Everyone:

We have a longtime challenge with negative relationships with some local rescues that do not believe in shelter best practices and the fact that we also have limits to our capacity for care. We have steps on some things to try in our strategic plan, but any additional suggestions on positive relationship development would be great. We already offer resources, low-cost vet care, offer to help take animals when we can, etc. We are trying to get a coalition going, but it feels like a very heavy lift in the beginning.

10:35:28 From Kay Amland to Everyone:

how does your kitten yoga program work? That's a great idea about connecting community with our work.

10:42:25 From Alison Gibson to Everyone:

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Watch the recording of this and previous huddles here: <https://www.maddiesfund.org/open-arms-challenge-huddles.htm>

10:42:33 From Sarah AGUILAR to Everyone:

can't stop won't stop!

10:43:28 From Ben Swan to Everyone:

Can you speak to the perception that some shelters believe that some rescues only take highly adoptable pets and ignore other pets. That’s why there are some road blocks with rescues and shelters.

10:44:14 From Wendy Frink to Everyone:

@ben we will post this question in the forum

10:44:40 From Spencer Conover to Everyone:

Thank you all!

10:44:42 From Phablo Silva to Everyone:

thanks for sharing

10:44:45 From Christy Alford with IMON to Everyone:

Thanks everyone!!!

10:44:47 From Melina Melina Ramos to Everyone:

😍

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