

The National Kitten Coalition Veterinary Conference



November 8, 2020

Session Schedule & Details

Conference starts 10:00AM EST and ends at 5:10PM EST*

This conference program has been approved by the AAVSB for 4.5 hours of continuing education credit for veterinarians and technicians in jurisdictions which recognize RACE® CE.**

10:00 - 10:15AM EST

Welcome and Technology Check

Session Description: Join us to get the 2020 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 check that you can see and hear all the good stuff to come!

10:15 - 11:00AM EST

Helping Clients Help Kittens

Rosemarie Crawford, MA, BS, LVT

Director of Educational Programs, The National Kitten Coalition

Session Description: Kittens have unique needs and being able to clearly and confidently explain those needs to clients is essential. From phone consultations to in-house appointments, learn what needs to be in the conversations with clients about kittens – especially neonatal kittens and queens with kittens. This session will highlight situations unique to young kittens and provide practical, tried-and-true tips for effectively conveying that information to clients (including foster parents). This session will help attendees confidently communicate kitten-care information to help their clients - and ultimately the kittens in their care. (0.5 CE credit)

Speaker Bio: **Rosemarie Crawford** is a licensed veterinary technician and brings with her almost 20 years of experience in animal welfare. As a medical staff member in a high-volume, open-access shelter, Rosemarie worked closely with the shelter veterinarian to provide for the animals' medical and surgical needs. She assisted in developing and implementing progressive protocols for the care and treatment of kittens in the shelter's kitten nursery room as well as for those in foster care. In addition to speaking at conferences and training sessions for The National Kitten Coalition, Rosemarie also works at a six-doctor veterinary practice in northern VA. In her spare time she enjoys fostering kittens, traveling with her husband or just relaxing at home with their three cats.

11:00 - 11:15 EST Break

Hurry fast! Refill that coffee, we're getting underway in just a few!

11:15AM - 12:15PM EST

Kitten Health Scorer

Marthina (Marty) Greer, DVM, JD

Director of Veterinary Services for Revival Animal Health and Veterinary Village

Session Description: This is a newly developed and still-evolving system that standardizes the assessment of neonatal kittens. Using this system, caregivers can provide early intervention for kittens who may be failing to thrive. Veterinarians can use this to assess the urgency of offering care. The goal is to keep more kittens growing and developing before they are in such trouble that they require hospitalization or are lost to illness and disorders that can be rapidly fatal. With a few inexpensive tools and some practice, veterinary professionals can also teach caregivers skills that allow for better kitten outcomes. (1.0 CE credit)

Speaker Bio: Dr. Marty Greer received her bachelor's degree in 1978, her DVM in 1981 from Iowa State University, and her JD in 2010 from Marquette Law School. Dr. Greer and her husband, Dr. Dan Griffiths, own Veterinary Village and International Canine Semen Bank WI-IL. She has a special interest in pediatrics, small animal reproduction, and behavior. They have two married grown children, Katy (Tim Anderson) and Karl (Kelly) and one grandson, Jorin. In addition, they raise and show Pembroke Welsh Corgis and Danish-Swedish Farmdogs (and Bengal cats in the past). Her family has raised six puppies for Canine Companions for Independence, a service dog organization. She is the director of veterinary services at Revival Animal Health, a catalog company. She practices law part-time with her law partner Sheila Kessler at Animal Legal Resources, LLC. Her passion is to educate clients and keep puppies and kittens healthy. Dr. Greer is a serious foodie and loves beer, cooking, knitting, and photography. She has recently published the book *Canine Reproduction and Neonatology – for Veterinarians, Veterinary Staff, and Breeders*.

12:15 - 12:45PM EST Break

Stretch & rehydrate. We'll see you back at 12:45!

12:45 - 2:00PM EST

Best Practices for Best Outcomes in Kitten Spay/Neuter

Cynthia (Cindi) Delany, DVM, KPA-CTP

Supervising Shelter Veterinarian for the UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program

Session Description:

Our goal is to save more kittens' lives. One of the best ways we can do that is to get them ready for and into their new homes as soon as it's in their best interest. Early-age spay/neuter saves more lives (and resources) - fewer kittens needing foster care and less time spent in foster care for those who do need it! By safely spaying and neutering kittens when they are old enough, big

enough, and healthy enough to have this procedure, we can get them out of foster homes or shelters and into their permanent homes sooner. This gives us the capacity to save even more!

We'll look at what age or weight is the "right" age or weight to perform surgery as well as other important factors (spoiler alert - we want them to be at least 1.5 lbs. and robustly healthy.) We'll cover some important things to do before, during, and after surgery to help them do well and recover quickly (using these techniques, most are up, eating, running around, and playing less than an hour after surgery). We'll cover the when, how, and why of it all so that attendees understand these important considerations. (1.0 CE credit)

Speaker Bio:

Dr. Delany graduated from UCLA with a degree in Business/Economics and from UC Davis with her DVM in 2000. She has worked as an animal shelter, high volume spay/neuter and emergency veterinarian for the past 20 years. She worked for the UC Davis Shelter Medicine Program initially based out of the Sacramento County shelter and then at Yolo County Animal Services (YCAS) for eight years. At YCAS she implemented many lifesaving programs to help increase their live release rate (LRR) from 50% to over 90%, including starting the shelter's first foster program and adopting early age spay/neuter at the shelter - increasing kitten LRR from 30% to >90% in less than 3 years. In addition to her work at YCAS, Dr. Delany has helped other shelters with population management, implementing new life saving programs, shelter software use, data analysis, reporting and statistics. She also runs a private, non-profit rescue group that rescues sick, injured and newborn animals.

2:00 - 2:30PM EST Break

Time for a snack?

2:30 - 3:30 EST

Kitten Development and Socialization

Dr. Leslie Sinn, DVM, DACVB Behavior Solutions

Session Description: This presentation will cover current knowledge of kitten development and best practices for optimal kitten socialization. (1.0 CE credit)

Speaker Bio: **Dr. Sinn** is a board-certified, veterinary behaviorist. She currently maintains a private practice, Behavior Solutions, which provides behavioral services to dogs, cats, parrots, horses and other animals throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. She has presented nationally and internationally and is the author of many articles and chapters including one on compulsive behavior in cats in the recently released book by the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists, *Decoding Your Cat*.

3:30 - 4:00PM EST Break

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

4:00 - 5:00PM EST

Lessons Learned after 12 Years of Saving Bottle-Baby Kittens

Dr. Ellen Jefferson, DVM and Dr. Alexis Bardzinski, DVM

Session Description: Austin Pets Alive! created a nursery and foster program in 2009 to save neonatal kittens from certain death at the municipal shelter. The program grew from 250 kittens the first season to well over 2,000 annually. APA! has overcome panleukopenia, general diarrhea, URI, calici and more as we have tried to figure out the best ways to save lives. This session will go over the medical aspects of saving so many kittens and the tips and tricks we have learned along the way. (1.0 CE credit)

Speaker Bios: **Ellen Jefferson, DVM**, is the Executive Director for both Austin Pets Alive! and American Pets Alive!, an instructor for the Maddie's® Lifesaving Academy and on the Executive Team for HASS. Dr. Jefferson started her career in private practice. In 1999, in response to an 85% death rate at the city shelter, she started EmanciPET, a spay/neuter clinic, in an effort to decrease the number of homeless animals. In 2008, with Austin still only saving 45% of shelter lives, she joined Austin Pets Alive! Since 2008, Austin Pets Alive! has been the driving force behind bringing Austin to a greater than 95% live release rate. American Pets Alive! Is now piloting the Human Animal Support Services Project, an international collective of shelter industry leaders, which aims to reinvent Animal Services to more accurately reflect the value that modern society places on pets as family members.

Alexis Bardzinski, DVM, is the Medical Director of Austin Pets Alive! in Austin, Texas. Dr. Bardzinski began her veterinary career practicing on horses and shortly after began doing high volume high quality spay and neuter and helping out at various shelters. Dr. "B" has been at Austin Pets Alive! for almost seven years and in her spare time works with other shelters across Texas to help facilitate low cost spay/neuter in hopes of promoting increased live release in these shelters. Paisley, an Australian Cattle Dog, as well as Kase and Sake, two long haired white cats, help keep her busy for the remainder of her free time.

5:00 - 5:10PM EST

Conference Wrap-Up

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

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

**Program Number 995-43963. RACE® Continuing Education Credit is available only to licensed veterinarians and credentialed technicians/nurses in jurisdictions recognizing RACE® CE. Attendees wishing to receive CE credit must be present during the entire, live session(s) (but not the entire Conference). CE certificates will be emailed following the Conference.