

Session Descriptions

Animal Welfare Fund with Pollyanne McKillop, Animal Shelter and Breeding Kennels Regulatory Program Manager, MDARD-AID - If you represent a Michigan-registered animal shelter or you or your organization work with shelters to find monies and resources, this session is for you. Grants are awarded by MDARD-AID from the Michigan animal welfare fund for certain shelter animal spay/neuter programs, specific trainings, and certain types of outreach and education. You will get tips and advice on writing an awardable grant application. Please note that this year's grant applications are due October 15, and more information is available on MDARD's animal shelter page at <https://www.michigan.gov/mdard> (click on LICENSING, CERTIFICATION & REGISTRATION, then ANIMAL RELATED LICENSING, then ANIMAL SHELTERS) or at animalshelters@michigan.gov.

Ask the Experts: Behavior Issues* with Kristen Collins, MS, ACAAB, Vice President of the ASPCA® Behavioral Rehabilitation Center (BRC) - Whether you work with dogs, cats, or both, these experts have years of behavior knowledge and experience and want to answer your behavior questions! What behavior challenges are keeping your animals from being as healthy, happy, and adoptable as possible? Bring your questions and get tips and strategies for success from the experts!

Ask the Experts: Medical Issues with Dr. Elizabeth Berliner, DVM, DABVP, Assistant Clinical Professor & Janet L. Swanson, Director of Shelter Medicine, Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine and Dr. Jeanette O'Quin, DVM, MPH, DABVP, DACVPM, Assistant Professor – Clinical, Department of Veterinary Preventive Medicine, The Ohio State University - The doctors are in! Two of the most experienced and respected shelter medicine experts in the country will answer your questions regarding the medical issues you are facing in your organizations. They will also discuss several medical “mini topics” on common issues and the latest in diagnosis and treatment.

Behavior Assessments for Shelter Dogs – What We Do and Do Not Know* with Dr. Sara Bennett, DVM, MS, DACVB, Clinical Assistant Professor of Veterinary Behavior in the Department of Clinical Sciences at North Carolina State University, College of Veterinary Medicine - This lecture will explore the definition of temperament and the utility of several different test formats and measuring tools. The requirements for an accurate and predictive test will be discussed, as well as the current finds in the peer-reviewed scientific literature. Recommendations on how to use the information collected from these testing modalities will be covered.

Behavioral Impact of Puppy Mill and Hoarding Environments* with Dr. Sara Bennett, DVM, MS, DACVB, Clinical Assistant Professor of Veterinary Behavior in the Department of Clinical Sciences at North Carolina State University, College of Veterinary Medicine - The environmental effects of puppy mill and hoarding situations on behavioral development in dogs will be discussed. The general behavior observations of a dog from these environments will be described. How to manage these pets from an environmental, social, and behavioral therapy standpoint will be discussed, while in a shelter or foster setting. Medications as part of the treatment plan and prognosis will be included in the discussion.

Bridging the Gap: Understanding Adopter Expectations, Perception, and Reality with April Harris, CAWA, Director of Animal Welfare Insights, Adopt-a-Pet.com - Adopt-a-Pet.com is North America's largest non-profit pet adoption website, and that means we have millions of potential adopters visiting our website every month. In fact, we had over 50 million visitors in 2018. We've been collecting lots of data and asking our visitors to provide us with insights into how they think, feel, and experience pet adoption. In this session, we will get into all of the data that we have been collecting for the past several years, share specific insights into the adopter experience, and explain trends we are seeing with online pet searching. We will also share insights into the gaps between perception and reality and how your organization can boost or break your reputation with potential adopters.

Bright Ideas from around the Midwest with Panelists - Each year, the Michigan Humane Society selects five animal shelters to receive Bright Ideas Awards. These shelters kicked off a creative campaign, thought up a cutting-edge project, or made exciting improvements to their facilities, and they will be at the conference to share their bright ideas with you. Come hear the 2019 award-winning ideas!

Canine Flu/URI* with Dr. Elizabeth Berliner, DVM, DABVP, Assistant Clinical Professor & Janet L. Swanson, Director of Shelter Medicine, Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine - Canine respiratory disease is a complex of varied agents, including some emerging diseases of which we have limited understanding. This session will review current knowledge and recommendations for diagnosis and management in shelters, with an eye towards the challenges of increased dog transport and managing outbreaks in shelters.

Session Descriptions

Capacity for Care and Rounds* with Dr. Jeannette O'Quin, DVM, MPH, DABVP, DACVPM, Assistant Professor – Clinical, Department of Veterinary Preventive Medicine, The Ohio State University - Daily rounds are an important tool to ensure animal health, welfare, and flow throughout the shelter. They can also be useful to recognize when a shelter is operating beyond their capacity for care. Both of these concepts will be explored with case examples.

Changing the Perception of Animals in Our Communities* with Captain Andi Taylor, Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office - Human-animal relationships are complex and have consequences for both species. While studies show that most pet owners consider their pets to be family members, that perception is not true in society as a whole. How can we modify the overall perception of animals in our communities to positively impact animal welfare.

Coalition Building for Animal Care Organizations with Katherine Shenar, Executive Vice President, The Association for Animal Welfare Advancement - Katherine literally wrote the book on this issue, which “describes how coalition building can maximize the positive impact of animal-related organizations on their communities.” Learn how to identify common ground and put aside differences to accomplish more collectively than could be accomplished individually.

Disaster Response* with Deborah MacDonald, Director, Statewide Outreach & Senior Cruelty Investigator, Michigan Humane - Do you want to learn about what it takes to prepare for and respond to man-made and natural disasters and emergencies involving animals? This session will provide a high-level overview of various aspects of disaster response, including communications, incident command, coordinating a team response, animal care and handling, emergency animal shelters, equipment, and safety issues for people and animals. Information about available certificate programs and in-depth training courses will also be provided.

Don't be Spammy: Email Best Practices with Katy Kelly, Sr. Digital Marketing Manager, Michelson Found Animals Foundation - Don't let your organization's message wind up in your current and potential supporters' spam folders! In this session, email marketing expert Katy Kelly will teach you how to effectively and steadily grow your email lists while remaining on the “up-and-up” with major email providers Gmail, Yahoo, and Outlook. Learn best-in-class email practices so that your mailings wind up in the inbox and not the spam folder, including specifics on assessing your list health through data analysis, tips on keeping content fresh, and guidance on how to troubleshoot and fix declining open and click rates.

Fabulous Foster Programs with Rosemarie Crawford, Co-Founder, The National Kitten Coalition - Foster programs have a huge impact on lives saved. Thankfully, these greatly-needed programs are becoming more widespread in shelters and rescues across the country. Some organizations, however, still struggle with finding or retaining well-qualified fosters, obtaining adequate funding, or attaining higher save rates. This session will address all of these areas and more. We'll tackle considerations for managing or expanding foster programs, explore strategies for serving a variety of animal populations, and gain insights on proven protocols that save more lives.

Feline Retroviruses* with Dr. Elizabeth Berliner, DVM, DABVP, Assistant Clinical Professor & Janet L. Swanson, Director of Shelter Medicine, Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine - New research is prompting a rethinking of diagnosis and management of feline leukemia and feline infectious peritonitis in animal shelters. This session will work through the complex nature of these diseases, and provide insight into how new recommendations for shelters and programs are impacting life-saving measures.

Finders Keepers: Attracting and Retaining the Best Team Members with Jim Tedford, CAWA, President & CEO, The Association for Animal Welfare Advancement - Every player is, or should be, critical to the efficient and effective functioning of the whole team. Learn how to attract the best players and how to keep them engaged – and even happy – so they stick around and help you make the community a better and safer place for people and animals. Turnover is expensive in terms of money and, more important, in terms of productivity. Learn how to reduce turnover and increase the solidarity of your team.

Give Them Sanctuary: A Special Model of Animal Care with Leona Foster, Founder, Leuk's Landing and Dan McKernan, Founder, Barn Sanctuary - Animal sanctuaries serve as critically important safety nets for special animal populations who may have no other place to go. But how much do you really know about how sanctuaries operate? In this session, you will hear from two experts with years of experience caring for animals who may not be candidates for adoption who need a place where they will be protected and allowed to live their best lives. Learn what it takes to provide this special kind of care, including how rescues can work with and support sanctuaries.

Grant Writing Workshop with Danielle Michaels, Grant Writer, Michigan Humane Society and special guest, Stacy Rogers, Regional Director - Midwest Region, Best Friends Animal Society- This course will cover the basics of the grant writing process, with a special focus on presenting a compelling narrative, effective writing techniques and stewarding grantor relationships.

Session Descriptions

How to Contribute to Criminal Investigation and Prosecution* with Donna Lassa, Legal Advocacy Counsel, Criminal, ASPCA - Delve into Michigan's substantive animal abuse statutes with a focus on how understanding their elements are important when determining when and how best to report a case and assist law enforcement and prosecutors. We'll further consider animal disposition and owner forfeiture procedures, related search and seizure law, plea bargaining, trials and sentencing considerations.

Keeping Them Home: A New and Innovative Alternative to Owner Surrender* with April Harris, CAWA, Director of Animal Welfare Insights, Adopt-a-Pet.com - "I need to find a new home for my pet" is a common statement we hear from pet owners each day. How can we help these pet owners when resources, money, and time are often spread thin? Adopt-a-Pet.com and the Petco Foundation came together in 2016 and developed a solution based on technology. The Rehome website was launched to provide an alternative to owner surrenders to Animal Welfare Organizations. The website was designed to allow pet owners to post pets to Adopt-a-Pet.com giving them access to an established audience of millions of prospective pet owners to view their pets. We've been collecting data from the beginning and now we're ready to share the detailed insights we've gathered. Insights into data such as how long pet owners are willing to keep a pet, what breeds are most likely to be rehomed successfully, and how long it takes a pet owner to find a new home for their pet. Attendees will be able to use this data to better understand owners looking to surrender their pets and can immediately begin a Surrender Intervention Program of their own by taking advantage of the Rehome website.

Litterbox Issues and Solutions with Pam Hill, Founder, thatcatgirl.com - Cat owners can develop an incredibly deep bond with their cats. But what happens when the cat doesn't use the litterbox? Cat owners feel confused at best and helpless at worst. The bond is in danger. In this session, you will learn about cat elimination behavior and the problems that arise when what cats need conflicts with what owners desire. You will acquire practical insights and tips on how to evaluate and address elimination issues that interfere with post-adoption success and drive cat owners to surrender. Lastly, everyone who attends can expect to leave the session with a better understanding of how to maintain adoptability in light of cat elimination concerns and with more ability to help cat owners with this issue and save more cat lives!

Livestock Cruelty & Neglect – Investigation & Rescue* with Andy Seltz, Vice President, Community Engagement and Field Services, Michigan Humane - This session will address the laws and regulations applicable to livestock, including the differences between and among laws, ordinances, generally accepted practices, and guidelines; and the 4th Amendment requirements applicable to searches and seizures. Attendees will learn how to secure a search warrant and an arrest warrant, the logistics of seizing livestock from initial seizure to disposition, and how to put together a strong, clear, professional packet for submission to the prosecutor's office.

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Animal Industry Division (MDARD-AID) Update* with Dr. Nora Wineland, State Veterinarian, MDARD-AID - MDARD-AID licenses and regulates animal control and animal protection shelters. Its mission is to protect, regulate, and promote animal health. This takes a collaborative effort, and shelters are important partners to MDARD-AID. This presentation will provide an overview of policy, areas of concern, and animal health updates for 2019.

New Hope for Fighting Dogs with Christina Lee, Behavior Program Manager, ASPCA - American Pit Bull Terriers that have been bred for fighting with other dogs are of particular interest to animal welfare organizations. Since the widely publicized Michael Vick dogfighting case, the public has made it known that it wants these dogs rehabilitated and re-homed whenever possible. But evaluating these dogs for suitability as pets is a risky endeavor. In this presentation, attendees will learn about the assessment procedures developed by the ASPCA Anti-Cruelty Behavior Team for victims of dogfighting.

Regulatory Liabilities of Operations* with Phil Seibert, CVT, Author & Consultant, SafetyVet - Animal rescue and shelter organizations must follow the same rules and regulations that any other business or organization must follow. Workplace safety rules, regulatory standards, and general business liabilities must all be absorbed into the operation. In this session, we'll discuss a broad overview of those issues.

Saving Orphan Kittens No Matter Your Budget Size with Jennifer Brehler, Executive Director, Humane Society of Sedona - Learn how to start saving newborn, orphaned kittens in your community with volunteer-driven programming. In 2009, San Diego Humane Society started the first high-volume, 24-hour kitten nursery designed to give orphaned, newborn kittens a chance. Now, 10 years later, the first-of-its-kind nursery is responsible for saving nearly 3,000 neonate kittens each season with staff and volunteer caregivers. If you are considering opening a kitten nursery, or if you're hoping to start or expand a volunteer-based neonate kitten foster program, this session shares all the secrets, tips, and protocols necessary to succeed, including bottle-feeding, socialization, disease prevention, population management, foster care considerations, and volunteer recruitment and training. This session is generously sponsored by The Association for Animal Welfare Advancement.

Session Descriptions

Societal Liabilities of Adoption with Phil Seibert, CVT, Author & Consultant, SafetyVet - Our mission is to find home for unwanted animals. The trick is to sort out the ones who are good pets from the ones who are not suitable for adoption. In this session we're going to explore some of the ways organizations can find that balance.

Stretch, Don't Snap: Improving Your Resilience with Colleen Pelar, CDBC, CPDT-KA - There are good moments and bad moments in every single day. However, because your brain is wired to focus on the negative, it's easy to overlook the good stuff and get dragged into a cycle of gloom. Don't let that happen! Your job is hard enough without the added strain of absorbing other people's emotions and perpetually replaying sad stories in your mind. You can learn to train your brain's attention to notice and redirect your thoughts, feelings, and actions so that you bounce back better from challenging situations and feel like yourself again. In this interactive program, you'll understand why it's harder to focus on and recall positive events than negative ones; identify strategies that can help you be more productive and decisive; learn to notice, name, and navigate your emotional responses for greater peace of mind; and discover the five most common triggers of an emotional outburst to improve your interactions with others and quiet some of your negative mind chatter. You'll leave this session filled with new ideas to feel better every day. Come prepared to grow!

The Association: Animal Enrichment Best Practice* with Brad Shear, CAWA, Chair, The Association Best Practice Committee/CEO, Potter League for Animals and Kristen Collins, MS, ACAAB, Vice President of the ASPCA® Behavioral Rehabilitation Center (BRC) - The purpose of enrichment is to reduce stress and improve well-being by providing physical and mental stimulation, encouraging species-typical behaviors, and allowing animals more control over their environments. Enrichment programs mitigate the development and expression of abnormal and/or problematic behavior and contribute to the overall wellbeing of the animals in the shelter. Enrichment directly benefits the animals' physical and mental health and assists in maintaining this health throughout their shelter stay. This session will include tips for success and special considerations for individuals, sanitation and safety, what you should expect to invest, and the measures you can observe. This session is generously sponsored by The Association for Animal Welfare Advancement.

The Association: Companion Animal Transport Best Practice with Brad Shear, CAWA, Chair, The Association Best Practice Committee/CEO, Potter League for Animals - Animal transport is an important component in sheltering, and there are several over-arching issues that could significantly impede the ability to transport animals. Many state veterinarians have a serious concern about animals being moved across state borders without proper health certificates and the required vaccinations. Local authorities are concerned about unscreened animals that may pose a public health or safety risk entering their jurisdictions. All stakeholder concerns must be adequately monitored and addressed if transport programs are to be a widely-accepted tool in the effort to find homes for all healthy and treatable animals. This session will address the role of transport and potential models, key considerations and deciding if transport is right for your agency, the impact on your agency and community, and partnerships and general requirements for source and destination organizations. This session is generously sponsored by The Association for Animal Welfare Advancement.

The Power of Perspective: Finding the Silver Lining When It's Raining Cats & Dogs with Rachel Finney, CAWA, CEO, Columbus Humane - Sometimes a set-back is really a remarkable path forward. This is a story about shaping our best possible future by changing the lens through which we view our challenges. Get an inspiring look at how Rachel and her team leverage adversity and make the best of difficult situations by shifting perspectives. Conquer any challenge from catastrophic flooding to feline overpopulation with a journey to the bright side. This session creates an opportunity to consider the "up side of down." Rachel, a self-proclaimed "advantage-ist" teaches the audience to consider the advantages of experiencing hardship and the good that can come from otherwise bad situations. Attendees will receive an advantage inventory and a reflection activity ready for immediate use.

Zoonotic Disease* with Dr. Jeannette O'Quin, DVM, MPH, DABVP, DACVPM, Assistant Professor - Clinical, Department of Veterinary Preventive Medicine, The Ohio State University - Clinical, Department of Veterinary Preventive Medicine, The Ohio State University - Don't let zoonotic diseases get you down Our shelter animals encounter numerous people during their time in our care thus necessitating a proactive and up-to-date approach to mitigating the risk of zoonotic disease transmission. This session will provide updated information on zoonoses of concern in animal shelters utilizing recent outbreaks as examples to learn from.