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Saturday, January 24

10:00 AM - 10:15 AM.

Welcome

Stacy LeBaron, Founder, Host & Head Cat, Community Cats Central

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM

Pushing Upstream: Building Multi-Country Evidence-Based Strategies for Cat Population Management

Harry Eckman, Global Advisor for Cat Population Management, International Cat Care

This presentation explores how International Cat Care approached the task of developing long-term, evidence-based strategies for unowned cats across Australia, Portugal, Greece, and Cyprus by starting where most programmes don't... upstream. Instead of beginning with solutions, we began by trying to understand the conditions and systems that shape each country's reality, bringing together national research, public surveys, and wide-ranging conversations with veterinarians, animal welfare organisations, policymakers, local authorities, conservationists, and community members. What emerged was a clearer, more honest picture of the pressures, gaps, and possibilities within each system. This presentation shares how we built that understanding and what it is beginning to reveal about where meaningful change can happen.

About Harry Eckman

Harry Eckman is an animal welfare and population management professional with over 25 years of world-wide experience. He has directed programmes and campaigns on issues including humane dog and cat population management, disaster response and resilience, ending the dog and cat meat trade, protecting marine life, tackling wildlife trafficking and captivity, and improving conditions in shelters and veterinary facilities. He has worked to help strengthen animal welfare organisations around the world with a focus on upstream thinking and strategy, human behaviour change, and turning ideas into action. He currently serves in the role of Global Advisor for Cat Population Management for International Cat Care.

Originally from London, he lives in Portugal with his wife and three cats.

11:15 AM – 11:30 AM - Break

11:30 AM – 12:15 PM

Cat Acquisition and Care: Trends and Implications for Outreach

Megyn Scott-Hintz, Graduate Research Assistant, Program for Pet Health Equity

Delve into the data on cat households! Learn more about who has cats and the issues they face accessing care for their feline friends. Dispel some misconceptions and discover new paths towards improving the lives of cats and their human families.

About Megyn Scott-Hintz

Megyn Scott-Hintz is a graduate research assistant with the Program for Pet Healthy Equity and MSSW Veterinary Social Work graduate student with the University of Tennessee. She has an undergraduate degree focused in animal behavior and has 20 years of experience in animal welfare. She has worked

with various shelters in Arizona and Texas in many roles from a humane educator to a cat behaviorist to a specialist in neonatal kitten care. After specializing in neonatal kitten care for 15 years, she co-founded Critical Kitten Care Fund which serves critically ill and medically fragile kittens in central Texas. Coupling her experience in animal welfare with her studies in veterinary social work, she hopes to bridge the gap between human and animal welfare.

12:15 PM – 12:45 PM. - Lunch Break

12:45 PM – 2:00 PM

Feline Leukemia (FeLV), Just Where Do We Stand? How Can You Help?

Margaret Tompkins, President, Tompkins Foundation for FeLV Advocacy

20 years ago, we were euthanizing FeLV+ cats. 10 years ago, we were sending felvies to sanctuaries! We've learned a lot about FeLV in the last several years! Just where do we stand now? It's time to make sure that everyone knows about the latest research, science, and expert guidance. No cat should die just because it tests positive for a virus! It's time to dispel the myths of the 1970s with solid science and data!! We now know how to virtually stop the spread of FeLV!! We'll review what we've learned and how we can best apply that knowledge to the benefit of feluek cats and their owners. Join us in this crusade to let knowledge guide our way!

About Margaret Tompkins

Margaret Tompkins is President of the Tompkins Foundation for FeLV Advocacy. She is a tireless advocate for FeLV education and FeLV+ cats. She actively networks FeLV+ cats all over the country. She is active on social media, especially Facebook, in promoting adoptions and education. She is a huge proponent of TNR and supports shelter and rescue programs that provide positive outcomes for FeLV+ cats. Her email is Margaret.Tompkins@comcast.net. She is an admin of several FeLV+ cat groups on Facebook including Owners of FeLV+/FIV+ Cats.

2:00 PM – 2:30 PM - Break

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Full Circle TNR: Stopping the Cycle Where the Kittens Begin

Jackie Noble, Executive Director, Orphan Kitten Club

More than 1.5 million kittens entered shelters last year, and over 1 million of them were under 8 weeks old. About 80% of these underage kittens were brought in as "strays," meaning they were found outdoors.

By treating kittens as a critical entry point into TNR, we can use their presence to locate the colonies they came from, identify unsterilized adult cats, and intervene at the source. This proactive approach helps

prevent future litters, reduces shelter intake over time, and improves outcomes for both kittens and the communities they come from.

About Jackie Noble

Jackie Noble is a renowned expert in neonatal kittens and shelter programs, bringing over a decade of dedicated experience to the field of animal welfare. Jackie played a pivotal role in overseeing the first and longest-running shelter kitten nursery. Her leadership and innovative approaches have significantly contributed to the advancement of neonatal kitten care and shelter operations.

3:30 PM – 3:45 PM - Break

3:45 PM – 4:45 PM

Extreme Trapping: Lessons From the Burn Zone

Bryan Kortis, National Programs Director, Neighborhood Cats

As Neighborhood Cats was faced with the challenge of trapping all of the cats in the Lahaina, Hawaii burn zone, the team needed to pull out all of the “tools in the trappers toolkit”. In this session you will learn about various new learned and developed trapping methods, and how they can be applied to everyday trapping. Topics like remote controls, trail cameras, drop traps as feeding stations, auto-drops, etc. will be covered.

About Bryan Kortis

Co-founder of Neighborhood Cats and current National Programs Director, Bryan is a leading advocate of TNR. He introduced a community-wide program in New York City, worked as a grants manager for PetSmart Charities, has authored several books about Trap-Neuter-Return and regularly presents live and online trainings, including basic training workshops and advanced webinars in partnership with the Community Cats Podcast. He has personally trapped thousands of cats and co-designed many of the most popular traps and TNR equipment available today.

4:45 PM – 5:00 PM

Cat Trivia

Stacy LeBaron, Founder, Host & Head Cat, Community Cats Central

5:00 PM - Close

Sunday, January 25

10:00 AM - 10:15 AM

Welcome

Stacy LeBaron, Founder, Host & Head Cat, Community Cats Central

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM

Building Capacity Where It Counts: How Veterinary Training Fuels Community Cat Programs

Brianna Lovell Myers, Executive Director, United Spay Alliance

Spay/neuter is the foundation of every successful community cat program—but rescues and TNR programs can only go as far as veterinary capacity allows. In this session, we will discuss how United Spay Alliance is expanding access to high-quality, high-volume spay/neuter (HQHVSN) through hands-on training for veterinarians across the country.

Learn how USA's wet lab training program works, what makes HQHVSN different, and why all veterinarians benefit so much from learning safe, efficient techniques. We will also highlight USA's other capacity-building tools, including the national spay/neuter directory, State Leader Network, grant programs, and collaborative partnerships that strengthen frontline TNR and rescue groups.

Whether you're a rescue, shelter, TNR group, or clinic leader, you'll walk away with a clearer understanding of how veterinary training directly impacts your ability to help cats—and how you can bring training to your region.

About Brianna Lovell Myers

Brianna Lovell Myers (Bri) is the Executive Director of United Spay Alliance, a national nonprofit working to create a future where every cat and dog has the opportunity to thrive. United Spay Alliance promotes affordable, accessible, and timely spay/neuter services, addressing pet homelessness at its source. The organization champions the expansion of high-quality, high-volume spay/neuter (HQHVSN) programs, supports grassroots organizations, and empowers communities with tools and knowledge to increase access to these critical services.

Bri joined United Spay Alliance in 2020 and was appointed Executive Director in 2025. Under her leadership, the organization is expanding its hands-on HQHVSN training program, growing national partnerships, and building momentum toward a stronger, more coordinated spay/neuter movement.

Bri holds a Master of Public Administration from West Virginia University and lives in Maryland with her husband, two-year-old son, and foster-fail pup, Blu.

11:15 AM – 11:30 AM - Break

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

The Cat's Meow: Using Data to Drive Feline Adoption

April Huntsman, Senior Director, Animal Welfare, Adopt a Pet

Millions of potential adopters are searching online for their new cat companion. But what really captures their attention and leads to an adoption? In this session, we'll use data to uncover the hidden factors that drive feline adoptions. We'll explore trends in supply and demand and reveal the critical impact of photo quality, personality descriptions, adoption fees, and marketing. You'll learn how to craft profiles that truly resonate with potential adopters and make your cats stand out. By understanding what adopters truly want, you can dramatically increase the visibility of your cats and find them loving, forever homes.

About April Huntsman

April Huntsman, CAWA, has spent 25 years making a difference for animals at organizations such as Maricopa County Animal Care & Control, Salt Lake County Animal Services, and Michelson Found Animals. Now, at Adopt a Pet, she's a master at using technology and sharing insights to make adoptions smoother and help more pets find homes. She's deeply passionate about helping animals through smart, modern approaches. You'll find her in Southern Utah, enjoying life with her beloved feisty senior Chihuahuas.

12:30 PM – 1:00 PM. - Lunch Break

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Access to Veterinary Care and Cat Families

Kaitlyn Andres MS, MPH; Kayla Anderson, LMSW; Claire Schuch, PhD, Katy Carpenter, MSIS

Access to veterinary care is essential to animal welfare and family health, yet many U.S. pet families face financial, logistical, and informational barriers. In September 2025, the Program for Pet Health Equity (PPHE) at the University of Tennessee published a report entitled “Access to Veterinary Care: Barriers and Insights from Pet Families.” In this presentation, we focus on the cat households and the challenges they face in accessing different types of care and how that varies by household age, income level, and geographic region. We also look at trends in vaccination rates, microchip status, and spaying/neutering across these demographic factors. We hope attendees will walk away with a better understanding of the needs in their community and how to best serve their cat families!

About the Team

Kaitlyn Andres is a Research Associate with the University of Tennessee's Program for Pet Health Equity. She is a public health researcher with master's degrees in biomedical science and public health whose work focuses mainly on using qualitative research methods to overcome health inequities and improve the wellbeing of the people and animals around her. Her passion for cats specifically is inspired by her cat Miyuki, the "foster failure" she took in for a friend for "two days" over 3 years ago!

Kayla Anderson is a veterinary social worker for the Program for Pet Health Equity. Her experience includes in providing grief and loss support for families concerning the death of a pet in addition to hosting workshops on compassion fatigue, burnout, emotional regulation, and boundary setting for animal welfare professionals. She also serves as mental health consultant within a peer-support application for veterinarians and veterinary support staff.

Claire Schuch is a community-engaged researcher and evaluator. For the past 15 years, she has been involved in a wide variety of public health, social science, and education-related studies. In August 2025, she joined the University of Tennessee-Knoxville's Program for Pet Health Equity (PPHE) as the Associate Director of Research. Current research projects cover topics such as the roles of pets in a variety of residential settings (e.g., sober living, senior care homes), access to veterinary care and behavioral training for pet families, and the impacts of temporary foster pet care programs.

Katy Carpenter serves as the Editorial Operations Manager for the Journal of One Health Systems (JOHS), where she oversees submission workflows, peer review coordination, and copyediting to ensure a smooth, responsive editorial process. From initial screening to final publication, she guides manuscripts through each stage with precision and care. She holds an MS in Information Sciences from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where she also contributes to the Program for Pet Health Equity.

2:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Grants Chat

Stephanie Mathers, CEO, Grants 4 Animals

Is there a place for grant writing in your fundraising efforts for community cats programs and spay/neuter funding. Stacy and Stephanie are going to share the real story about grant opportunities and what our strategies should be.

About Stephanie Mathers

Stephanie is the Founder and CEO of Grants 4 Animals, LLC. Stephanie Mathers has been involved in animal welfare since adopting her first cat, Shakespeare, in 2002. As her love for animals grew, she rescued more cats (along with a few house bunnies) and became involved in TNR for community cats in Williamston, Michigan. In 2021, after over 20 years in education, Stephanie began devoting more time and energy to her work writing grants for animal-related nonprofits and officially launched Grants 4 Animals LLC. Quickly, she recognized a deep need among animal-related nonprofits for grant writing assistance. Today, Stephanie works with a small group of grant-writing clients and enjoys providing training, tools, and courses for animal-related nonprofits looking to earn grants and curate additional income streams. Since its founding, Grants 4 Animals has earned, managed, and reported on over \$5 million in grants, all for animal-related nonprofits.

2:30 PM – 2:45 PM - Break

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

Raising the Bar: Strengthening Community Cat Program Leadership

Elizabeth Finch, Strategy & Content Cat, Community Cats Central

This panel offers an inside look at the Community Cat Program Management Certification Course at the University of the Pacific at Benard College and its role in elevating leadership across the field. Join co-instructor Elizabeth Finch and course graduates to learn why the course was created, what gaps it fills, and how structured training supports stronger, more effective community cat programs. Expect candid insights, practical takeaways, and real-world examples of how informed leadership improves outcomes for both cats and communities.

About Elizabeth Finch

Elizabeth has worked in animal welfare since 2015. She led Good Mews, a metro-Atlanta feline rescue, as board president and directed marketing that expanded the organization's reach. She developed its community cat program in 2020, which went on to serve more than 4,000 cats a year in partnership with local shelters and the broader community. She now co-instructs the Community Cat Program Management Certification Course at the University of the Pacific, contributes to the Community Cats Podcast, and advises animal welfare organizations nationwide. At home, she answers to three demanding feline supervisors.

3:30 PM – 3:45 PM - Break

3:45 PM – 4:45 PM

What does it take to start and run a cat cafe?

Stacy LeBaron, Founder, Host & Head Cat, Community Cats Central

Uri Harel, President, Kitty Cat Cafe and Adoption Lounge

Anne Beal, Founder, Meow Cat Lounge

Stacy will facilitate a fascinating conversation with several cafe owners about how to start and run a cat cafe around the country.

About Anne Beal

Anne has been an avid volunteer in the cat community for over 30 years. She has done TNR on my own as well as with local rescues and has fostered hundreds of cats over the years. She started Meow Lounge in July 2023 - they are a non-profit foster home for adoptable cats from over 10 different rescues from

around the state of Maine. As of today, they have had 831 cats adopted. They also make sure to have the Lounge accessible for anyone who would like to spend time with cats - so they offer the space for free or discounted rates to adults with disability groups, nursing homes, schools and other nonprofits in the area. The number one feedback they get is that it's the most relaxing experience they've ever had.

About Uri Harel

Uri Harel is a retired teacher and principal who started the Kitty Cat Cafe, a non-profit, with his wife in 2022. They were mentored by other cat cafes and are committed to helping mentor other cat cafes.

4:45 PM – 5:00 PM

Cat Trivia

Stacy LeBaron, Founder, Host & Head Cat, Community Cats Central

5:00 PM - Close

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