Feline Behavior Summit

Saturday, March 13, 2027

All times are U.S. Eastern Time

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10:00–10:10 AM ET

Opening Remarks

Stacy LeBaron, Founder of Community Cats Central & Host of Community Cats Podcast

10:10–11:30 AM ET

Scaredy Cats: Training Techniques For Fearful Cats

Tabitha Kucera, RVT, CCBC, KPA-CTP, VTS (Behavior) & Founder of Chirrups and Chatter and Co-Founder of Small-Paws Education

Helping a fearful cat feel safe starts with understanding their behavior and moving at their pace. In Scaredy Cats: Training Techniques for Fearful Cats, we'll explore how to recognize signs of fear, create a supportive environment, and use positive reinforcement to build trust and confidence. Designed for fosters and cat rescuers, this session offers practical training techniques that give cats choice and control, helping them feel more comfortable with people and everyday care.

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Identify subtle signs of fear and stress, as well as behaviors that indicate a cat is becoming more comfortable.
- Identify environmental changes that help fearful cats feel safer in foster and rescue settings.
- Apply positive reinforcement techniques to build trust and confidence around people and everyday care.

About Tabitha Kucera | Tabitha Kucera is an Elite Fear Free– and Low Stress Handling®–certified registered veterinary technician (RVT), a Certified Cat Behavior Consultant (CCBC) through the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants, and a Karen Pryor Academy–Certified Training Partner (KPA-CTP) and one of only 32 Veterinary Technician Specialists in behavior. She is the owner of Chirrups and Chatter Cat and Dog Behavior Consulting and Training and the Co-Founder of Small-Paws Education.

An award-winning educator and international speaker, Tabitha lectures at regional, national, and international conferences, helping animal care professionals and pet caregivers deepen their understanding of animal behavior and strengthen the human-animal bond. She is a Fear Free Certified Speaker, a Fear Free Practice Certification Consultant, and the host of the podcast Tails from a Vet Tech.

Tabitha has held leadership positions with the Society of Veterinary Behavior Technicians, the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants, and the Pet Professional Guild's Cat Committee, and she currently serves as President-Elect for the Academy of Veterinary Behavior Technicians.

In addition to working directly with clients, Tabitha consults with veterinary hospitals and animal shelters, focusing on education, implementation, and the development of practical training, behavior programs, and SOPs that improve animal welfare and team success. Her contributions have helped create comprehensive onboarding, training, and behavior resources for organizations across the industry.

11:30–11:45 a.m. | Break

11:45 a.m.–1:15 p.m.

Play It Safe for Cat's Sake!

Arden Moore, Pet Health and Safety Coach & Founder of Pet First Aid 4U

Get ready to be schooled on cat safety in this lively presentation delivered by Arden Moore, a master certified pet first aid/CPR instructor. She will be joined by Pet Safety Cat Casey, identified by AI as the world's busiest pet safety cat.

One of the best ways to be an ally to felines at home, an animal shelter or a cat rescue group is to know what to do – and what NOT to do – in a cat emergency when minutes count.

You will learn to:

- Understand the life-saving importance of learning cat first aid
- Recognize fear, anxiety and stress in cats
- Think and act like a cat detective, especially at meal time and potty time
- Keep yourself safe from claws and teeth
- Effectively towel an injured or sick cat
- Safely transport cats in carriers
- Aid cats who are choking
- Identify potential household hazards to your cat
- Take the yowl out of medicine-giving time
- Identify poisons and other hazards to cats
- Perform a head-to-tail health checkup on your cat

Arden encourages attendees to watch and learn during this session. And, if they have a cooperative cat, please practice some of these cat first aid tips. After all, practice does make purr-fect!

About Arden Moore | Arden Moore's mission is to bring out the best in pets…and their people. Known as America's Pet Health and Safety Coach, Arden happily wears many "collars" in the pet world. She is a master-certified pet first aid/CPR instructor, founder of Pet First Aid 4U, and director of education for Pro Pet Hero. Her veterinarian-approved classes reach thousands all over the world and feature three well-mannered shelter alums: Pet Safety Cat Casey and Pet Safety Dogs Kona and Nova 6 Toes. Arden and her four-legged assistants make learning fun and practical. Her classes are attended by pet parents, pet professionals and first responders from all over the world. Pet First Aid 4U offers in-person, interactive ZOOM and two self-paced online courses, including one that is cat specific for first aid and CPR.

In addition, Arden is a Fear Free certified speaker and host of the award-winning weekly shows called Oh Behave on Pet Life Radio that also airs on YouTube. The "Oh Behave" show on Pet Life Radio ranks as the longest, continuous pet podcast (on the air since 2007). This best-selling author has written more than two dozen cat and dog books. Recent titles include The Cat Behavior Answer Book, The Dog Behavior Answer Book, A Kid's Guide to Cats, and A Kid's Guide to Dogs. She is former columnist for Catster Magazine and former editor of Catnip Magazine, a national monthly magazine published by Tufts University.

Arden shares her home in Dallas, TX with the Furry Brady Bunch which includes two orange tabbies cats and three feline-adoring dogs plus she feeds and provides safe bedding for a handful of community cats. She has been a feline advocate since childhood, when her first cat, Corky, happily swam with her and the family's dogs in the backyard lake. Learn more at ArdenMoore.com and www.petfirstaid4u.com. .

1:15–2:00 PM ET Lunch Break

2:00–3:15 p.m.

Stranger Danger: The Feeling is Real

Dr. Rachel Geller, Certified Cat Behavior and Retention Specialist & Founder of All Cats All the Time

When a strange person visits your home, does your cat disappear under the bed or sofa? Or does she hiss or growl when an unknown visitor approaches her? If she feels cornered and does not see potential for escape, does your cat turn into Cujo and scratch or bite your guest? Or what if you have a visitor that, as it turns out, is not leaving! This could be a new significant other or roommate, and now your cat is showing her anxiety by peeing or pooping outside the litter box. She may be peeing on or spraying items that belong to you such as your clothing on the floor or bedding. Fear of strangers is common because cats are both predators and prey, and an unknown person can be perceived as a threat. These are all natural reactions to people who don't smell familiar. While we may not be able to get your fearful cat to gleefully embrace new people, there are steps you can take to help your cat feel relaxed in the presence of others. A scared cat doesn't necessarily dislike your friends, relatives and other unknown people, she may just need time and some gentle interventions. In this session, we will go over methods such as gradual exposure, desensitization and counter conditioning to bring out your cat's inner social butterfly - or at least tolerance!

About Dr. Rachel Geller | Rachel Geller, Ed.D. is the Founder and President of All Cats All the Time, Inc. which is a 501c3 nonprofit dedicated to promoting the adoption of cats and preventing their surrender and abandonment by helping shelters, rescues and cat owners access cat behavior counseling free of charge.

Rachel is certified as a: Cat Behavior and Retention Specialist, Surrender Prevention Specialist, Humane Education Specialist, Pet Chaplain, Fear Free Shelter Specialist, Cat Friendly Veterinary Advocate, DEI certified and RedRover Reader. She is currently a cat behaviorist for shelters and rescues all over the world, including working with adopters, training shelter staff and volunteers, and instituting surrender prevention programs. She also provides individual cat behavior help to cat parents.

Rachel has given presentations for the Humane World for Animals, the Massachusetts Animal Coalition, and the New England Federation of Humane Societies on topics involving cat behavior, cat behavior and retention programs, and surrender prevention.

Rachel's books, Saving the World, One Cat at a Time and All Cats All the Time were written to help resolve cats' behavioral and emotional problems with the goal of creating harmonious relationships between cats and their owners. All of the proceeds from book sales are donated to her nonprofit, All Cats All the Time. Rachel is the author of the webinar "Activities for Inclusion" for the Association of Professional Humane Educators which provides instruction to animal shelters on including the special needs population as volunteers. She was a contributing author to "The Ark Project – Jewish Initiative for Animals" which focuses on the humane treatment of animals. Her cat behavior videos have received the "Certificate of Excellence" from the Cat Writers' Association. She has won the Michael W. Brim Distinguished Service Award and the Champion Humane Award.

Rachel was a behavioral specialist for grades K–8 in the Waltham (Massachusetts) Public Schools for over 20 years. When not helping cats, she enjoys Boston sports, especially the Red Sox. An avid runner, she has run (and finished!) eleven Boston Marathons.

3:30-3:45 p.m. Break | 3:45–4:00 p.m. Cat Trivia

4:00–4:45 p.m.

Tough Questions Panel

Stacy LeBaron, Founder of Community Cats Central & Host of Community Cats Podcast (Moderator)
Dr. Rachel Geller, Certified Cat Behavior and Retention Specialist & Founder of All Cats All the Time
Arden Moore, Pet Health and Safety Coach & Founder of Pet First Aid 4U
Tabitha Kucera, RVT, CCBC, KPA-CTP, VTS (Behavior) & Founder of Chirrups and Chatter

Stacy and the audience will bring their toughest questions to the panel for a conversation around Feline Behavior. We will also do some frequent polling of the audience to understand the greatest challenges in this area for cats today.

4:45-5:00 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Stacy LeBaron, Founder of Community Cats Central & Host of Community Cats Podcast