



ONLINE KITTEN CONFERENCE

A blue cat silhouette is positioned above the word "ONLINE", a yellow microphone icon is above the word "KITTEN", and an orange cat silhouette is to the right of the word "CONFERENCE".

Saturday, June 7, 2025 | 10:00am – 5:00pm EDT

Sunday, June 8, 2025 | 10:00am – 5:00pm EDT

The 2025 Online Kitten Conference is proudly sponsored by:



2025 Online Kitten Conference

Quick-View Schedule: All times are U.S. Eastern Time

(Use [this link](#) to confirm your local time)



Saturday, June 7, 2025 (All times listed are U.S. Eastern Time)	
Time	Session Title
10:00 am - 10:15 am	WELCOME AND TECHNOLOGY CHECK
10:15 am - 11:15 am	FULL-CIRCLE TNR: STOPPING THE CYCLE TO IMPROVE KITTEN HEALTH AND ADOPTION OUTCOMES
11:15 am - 11:30 am	<i>BREAK</i>
11:30 am - 12:30 pm	THE JOURNEY OF PANLEUK PETE
12:30 pm - 12:45 pm	<i>BREAK</i>
12:45 pm - 1:45 pm	USING KITTEN DATA TO BUILD COMMUNITY SUPPORT
1:45 pm - 2:00 pm	<i>BREAK</i>
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	LITTLE LIVES, BIG CHOICES: ASSESSING KITTENS FOR SUCCESS
3:00 pm - 3:15 pm	<i>BREAK</i>
3:15 pm - 4:15 pm	USING SOCIAL MEDIA TO SAVE KITTENS: CREATING CONTENT THAT ENGAGES, EDUCATES, AND FINDS HOMES
4:15 pm – 5:00 pm	DAY ONE CLOSING SESSION - GIVEAWAYS, INTERACTIVE TRIVIA, AND Q&A
Sunday, June 8, 2025 (All times listed are U.S. Eastern Time)	
Time	Session Title
10:00 am - 10:15 am	WELCOME AND TECHNOLOGY CHECK
10:15 am - 11:15 am	PRACTICAL DECISION-MAKING FOR KITTENS IN A TNVR PROGRAM
11:15 am - 11:30 am	<i>BREAK</i>
11:30 am - 12:30 pm	BEING AN ANIMAL PERSON IN A PEOPLE PERSON WORLD: THE SHIFT OF THE HUMAN ANIMAL BOND
12:30 pm - 12:45 pm	<i>BREAK</i>
12:45 pm - 1:45 pm	KITTEN NUTRITION: ESTABLISHING A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR LIFELONG HEALTH
1:45 pm - 2:00 pm	<i>BREAK</i>
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	SILENT KILLER NO MORE! FIP: FROM FATAL TO CURABLE
3:00 pm - 3:15 pm	<i>BREAK</i>
3:15 pm - 3:45 pm	KITTEN PHOTOGRAPHY 101
3:45 pm - 4:00 pm	<i>BREAK</i>
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	EMPOWERMENT THROUGH ADVERSITY
5:00 pm	CONFERENCE CLOSING INFORMATION



Saturday, June 7, 2025 (All times listed are U.S. Eastern Time)

10:00am–10:15am

**STACY LEBARON, COMMUNITY CATS PODCAST
ROSEMARIE CRAWFORD, THE NATIONAL KITTEN COALITION**

Welcome to the 7th Annual Online Kitten Conference. The event will begin with a welcome address, followed by an overview of the technology and tools required for participation. We will also review the program schedule to ensure all attendees are prepared for the sessions. Please join us promptly to facilitate a smooth start to the conference.

10:15am - 11:15am

**FULL-CIRCLE TNR: STOPPING THE CYCLE TO IMPROVE KITTEN HEALTH AND ADOPTION OUTCOMES
SARA JONES, PH.D., VICE PRESIDENT, FELINE ADVOCATES OF LEON COUNTY**

Kittens account for a large percentage of the cats in our rescue intakes annually, with most coming in as strays. Without intervention, these kittens often face malnutrition, disease, and a high risk of euthanasia in overcrowded shelters. Our Full-Circle TNR approach connects kitten rescue with targeted Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), ensuring every intake leads to lasting population control. By tracking the origins of rescued kittens, we TNR entire colonies to stop the cycle of suffering before it starts.

This session will cover how Full-Circle TNR improves kitten health by reducing disease spread and minimizing the number of sick and orphaned kittens entering rescue. We'll discuss how it leads to more successful adoptions—when we can tell adopters an entire rescue story, from where the kitten came from to how we helped their family, it creates a powerful connection and increases adoption rates.

Storytelling is one of the most effective tools both in marketing and in rescue, not just for adoption but also for engaging the community and fundraising. We'll share strategies for using social media, shelter and vet partnerships, and local outreach to raise awareness and support for this work. Attendees will leave with practical tools to integrate targeted TNR into their rescue efforts, leading to healthier kittens, higher adoption success, and long-term solutions to feline overpopulation.

ABOUT SARA JONES, PH.D.

Sara Jones is the Vice President and Medical Coordinator of the nonprofit cat rescue Feline Advocates of Leon County (FALC). With a Ph.D. in Biomedical Science and years of hands-on rescue experience, she has played a crucial role in ensuring the health and well-being of hundreds of kittens. Her expertise spans medical coordination, fostering, and nonprofit operations. She loves neonatal orphaned kittens and is a trained bottle/tube feeder and critical care foster. She is also actively involved in grant writing and runs the rescue's social media. She also contributes to the Full-Circle initiative, which tracks the origins of rescued



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kittens and implements targeted spay/neuter efforts to prevent future litters. As a scientist, she has a deep appreciation for data-driven solutions in rescue work and brings that approach to everything she does. She believes in the power of storytelling and has seen firsthand how sharing a kitten's full journey creates an emotional connection that helps adopters feel more invested.

11:15am - 11:30am

BREAK

11:30am - 12:30pm

THE JOURNEY OF PANLEUK PETE

LAUREN SNYDER, DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL OPERATIONS, JACKSONVILLE HUMANE SOCIETY

Follow the path of an orphaned kitten through 2 different shelter facilities - 1 that practices excellent biosecurity and 1 that....doesn't. The story shows how panleukopenia can easily spread through a shelter during the shedding period before clinical signs even begin. The audience will learn how every department plays an important role in hand hygiene, cleaning/sanitizing, population management, and prevention through immunizations to keep animals healthy in the shelter.

ABOUT LAUREN SNYDER

Lauren got her start in animal welfare in 2017, working as a part-time receptionist for the Jacksonville Humane Society Veterinary Hospital. In her first year, she became a leader in Jax Humane's foster department and cross-trained in other veterinary technician roles such as HQHV surgery, shelter medicine, and medical intake. She completed her Master's Degree in Veterinary Medical Sciences with a Concentration in Shelter Medicine through the University of Florida in 2022. Under her leadership, and with the guidance of Jax Humane's veterinarians, the shelter's numerous medical roles were streamlined into one to best serve the thousands of animals in their care each year and develop a team of 20 well-rounded veterinary technicians. Outside of work, Lauren enjoys spending time with her husband, 3 children, and 2 dogs.

12:30pm - 12:45pm

BREAK



Saturday, June 7, 2025 (All times listed are U.S. Eastern Time)

12:45pm - 1:45pm

USING KITTEN DATA TO BUILD COMMUNITY SUPPORT

TORI FUGATE, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, SHELTER ANIMALS COUNT

Kittens need all the help they can get—and data can be one of your most powerful tools to rally support! In this session, Shelter Animals Count will share insights from national kitten data and show you how to leverage your own data to drive action. We'll cover key data points that shelters and rescues can track, how to use dashboards to monitor trends, and why animal-level data is essential for telling your story.

You'll learn how to translate numbers into compelling messages that inspire your community to step up, whether it's by fostering, volunteering, donating, or advocating for kittens in need. We'll also discuss best practices for marketing and messaging that turn data into real-life impact. Whether you're a foster, shelter staff member, or kitten caregiver, this session will give you the tools to use data effectively and grow your lifesaving efforts.

ABOUT TORI FUGATE

Tori Fugate joined Shelter Animals Count as Director of Communications in September 2024, bringing over a decade of expertise in animal welfare and communications. Throughout her award-winning career, Tori has been responsible for managing comprehensive marketing strategies, public relations, social media platforms, events, and education initiatives across various sectors. She has developed and executed multi-channel marketing plans, overseen web management, and led media relations efforts, achieving national recognition in media outlets such as People Magazine, The Dodo, CNN, ABC World News, CBS News, USA Today, Queer Eye, and The Rachael Ray Show. Her contributions have consistently driven visibility and engagement for the organizations she's worked with, elevating their missions to new levels. Tori previously held the position of Chief Communications Officer at KC Pet Project, where she played an instrumental role in shaping the organization's brand after it took over the Kansas City, MO, animal shelter in 2012.

Tori currently serves on the Marketing and Communications Committee for the National Animal Care and Control Association (NACA) and is frequently invited to speak on various topics at both national and local conferences. In her role at Shelter Animals Count, she continues to apply her communications expertise, with a focus on audience engagement, data-driven strategies, and sharing the stories of what is happening in shelters and rescues across the country.

1:45pm - 2:00pm

BREAK



Saturday, June 7, 2025 (All times listed are U.S. Eastern Time)

2:00pm - 3:00pm

LITTLE LIVES, BIG CHOICES: ASSESSING KITTENS FOR SUCCESS

ALEXIS FINE AND SHYAH JOHNSON, WILLIAMSON COUNTY REGIONAL ANIMAL SHELTER

Every kitten is unique, and their journey through the shelter should be too. In Little Lives, Big Choices: Assessing Kittens for Success, we'll explore how to evaluate kittens as individuals to determine the best shelter pathway for their health, behavior, and overall well-being. From medical and behavioral assessments to socialization and foster placement strategies, this session will provide practical tools for making informed decisions that set kittens up for success. Join us to learn how individualized care leads to better outcomes—one tiny paw at a time.

ABOUT ALEXIS FINE AND SHYAH JOHNSON

Alexis Fine is a dedicated professional with over 25 years of experience in the field of animal welfare. Throughout her career, she has been on a continuous journey of learning and growth, driven by a deep passion for the well-being of animals. Currently, as the Operations Manager at WCRAS, she takes immense pride in leading and supporting a team that shares her commitment to making a positive impact in the lives of animal friends. At the core of her professional identity are values of compassion, advocacy, and continuous improvement. Alexis takes great joy in fostering a supportive work environment where her team is not just colleagues but a close-knit group of individuals who can depend on one another. Their growth and well-being are paramount to her, and she strives to create a culture that encourages collaboration, innovation, and a shared sense of purpose.

Shyah Johnson is the Animal Care Supervisor at a busy municipal shelter in Texas, where she has worked for nearly seven years. With a background as an Animal Health Technician in animal shelter settings, Shyah has performed thousands of cat and kitten assessments, helping determine individualized outcomes for animals across the friendly-fearful-feral spectrum. She has fostered injured and underage kittens, supported behaviorally and medically vulnerable cats, and is currently helping to develop her shelter's cat behavior program to ensure every feline receives the same thoughtful care and enrichment as their canine counterparts. Though she grew up in a dog-only household, Shyah's work in animal welfare sparked a deep love for cats—and a passion for learning, growing, and teaching others how to advocate for the best possible outcomes, one little life at a time.

3:00pm - 3:15pm

BREAK



Saturday, June 7, 2025 (All times listed are U.S. Eastern Time)

3:15pm - 4:15pm

USING SOCIAL MEDIA TO SAVE KITTENS: CREATING CONTENT THAT ENGAGES, EDUCATES, AND FINDS HOMES

SAMANTHA BELL, M.ED., CAT INFLUENCER AND CONTENT CREATOR, SAMANTHABELLCATS AND BEST FRIENDS ANIMAL SOCIETY

Social media is one of the most powerful tools in kitten rescue today. When used effectively, it can help save lives by finding adopters, educating the public, and supporting fosters. In this session, you'll learn how to create engaging, easy-to-digest social media content that boosts adoptions, teaches kitten care, and keeps cats out of shelters. Drawing on her experience in creating cat content for Best Friends as well as her success as a cat influencer, Samantha Bell will show you how to capture and maintain the attention of today's kitten-loving audience in a way that can reach millions, and make a real difference.

You'll discover the secrets to choosing viral-worthy topics, crafting compelling hooks, filming and editing videos, and embracing authenticity to connect with viewers. Samantha will also demonstrate how to present key kitten care and behavior topics such as bottle-feeding and socialization in social media-friendly formats that are easy for the public to understand. Finally, knowing that your time is limited, this session will help you streamline your content creation process, and even make it fun! Whether you're a rescue or shelter staff, a kitten foster, or a kitten advocate, this session will provide practical strategies to help you maximize your impact and save more kittens through social media.

ABOUT SAMANTHA BELL, M.ED.

With over a decade of experience working with shelter kittens and cats, Samantha Bell, M. Ed. combines her background as a former teacher and Disney performer to inspire the public to adopt, foster, and better understand felines. Samantha began working with shelter cats at Best Friends in 2013, transitioning from kitten caregiver to the organization's first cat behavior lead. Currently, as a cat expert and content strategist, she educates the public through speaking engagements, TV appearances, and social media. Her expertise has been featured at CatCon, Cat Camp, The Today Show, and in her cat lifesaving course at Southern Utah University. Beyond her professional work, Samantha mentors shelters, serves on the boards of Mission Meow and Thrifted Kittens, and is a recognized cat influencer. She lives in Los Angeles with her three rescued cats - Yohan, Desmond, and Maurice - and many foster kittens.

4:15pm – 5:00pm

CONFERENCE DAY ONE CLOSING SESSION

Get ready to wrap up the first day of the Conference! This closing session will be packed with exciting giveaways, interactive trivia, and a dynamic Q&A opportunity.



Sunday, June 8, 2025 (All times listed are U.S. Eastern Time)

10:00am - 10:15am

STACY LEBARON, COMMUNITY CATS PODCAST

ROSEMARIE CRAWFORD, THE NATIONAL KITTEN COALITION

Welcome Back!

10:15am - 11:15am

PRACTICAL DECISION-MAKING FOR KITTENS IN A TNVR PROGRAM

ADELLE LOUISE, CERTIFIED TNR TRAPPER, FERAL CAT ADVOCATE, DIRECTOR OF TRAVEL ANIMAL RESCUE, TRAVEL ANIMAL RESCUE

Decision-making on behalf of an animal is always complex, especially when encountering kittens in a Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return program. Being a small organization or volunteer in a resource-deprived situation in a region of the Global South makes this decision-making much harder. We will discuss the intricacies of high-volume TNVR programs, what this means for kittens you encounter, evidence-based implications of choices, and methods for making practical decisions when out in the field and time is of the essence. I will share insights from one full year of intensive, high-volume TNVR in Athens, Greece, and how we've improved our decision-making process around kitten rescue.

ABOUT ADELLE LOUISE

Adelle Louise embarked on a journey of a lifetime in 2021, leaving the United States to travel the world while dedicating her life to animal rescues. Working with sanctuaries and community animals, she quickly recognized the overwhelming need for help, especially in the Global South. Adelle shifted her focus to Cat Population Management, employing Trap-Neuter-Return projects to prevent animal suffering and reduce the need for rescue efforts.

Her work spans multiple countries, including Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia, India, Turkey, Albania, France, Greece, Montenegro, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Currently, she concentrates her efforts in Greece, both on the mainland in Athens and on various islands. As the director of operations for several animal rescues and the founder of Travel Animal Rescue, a UK-registered charity, Adelle has facilitated the TNVR of over 1,500 cats across 13 cities in 6 countries, rescuing numerous pigeons, fish, and cats since 2021.

11:15am - 11:30am

BREAK



Sunday, June 8, 2025 (All times listed are U.S. Eastern Time)

11:30am - 12:30pm

BEING AN ANIMAL PERSON IN A PEOPLE PERSON WORLD: THE SHIFT OF THE HUMAN ANIMAL BOND

MEGANN SMITH, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, FORMER Board MEMBER, OHIO ANIMAL ADVOCATES

“I’m an animal person, not a people person. That’s why I work with animals!” There’s a good chance we’ve all said that at some point in our journeys. We soon discover a little secret no one lets you in on before starting your journey in animal welfare: there are people attached to every animal you help. This has been a part of animal welfare all along, but during these changing times it is more important than ever to recognize and show compassion and trust within those people. We are all feeling the strain and struggle of changing pet expectations, changing societal needs, and changing financial limitations. This is impacting not just shelters, rescues, nonprofits, and businesses. It is also heavily impacting individuals including pet parents both potential and current. Approaching those who visit our organizations with an “animal person” lens is no longer effective in helping animals. We need bi-focals to view our days through the lens as “animal person” and a “people person”.

This session will discuss how we can use sociological and psychological techniques to help ourselves and our teams work towards becoming “people people” by providing strong communication tools and approaches and building confidence in trust in the information you provide. These techniques include: inclusive conversation, avoiding blame, alternative word choice and their impact, and how an average visitor sees things. Naturally, as a caregiver for so many downtrodden critters who have been failed by people time and time again, it can be difficult to not approach people with bias, prejudice, and preconceived notions. We’ll work through reframing exercises that provide an example of how we can reshape our view of the people behind the animal.

ABOUT MEGANN SMITH

Working at a local limited admission facility in Wood County, Ohio for 10 years, Megann Smith dived into the various aspects of sheltering and animal welfare. Using her BA in psychology background combined with trending patterns over time, Megann strived to improve the animal/people bond and shelters' abilities to keep pets with their families and out of shelters. With an affection for felines, Megann soon became very familiar with feline behavior. Allowing the opportunity to work one on one with adopters and pet families to navigate behaviors that may have led to homeless cats. Further down the road, Megann became a Certified Pet Loss Bereavement Specialist working with co-workers, foster parents, and owner surrenders to navigate the grief of the various forms of pet loss. Leaving the shelter environment due to health, Megann took her knowledge and skills that next step to sharing and educating both based on experience and information.



Sunday, June 8, 2025 (All times listed are U.S. Eastern Time)

12:30pm - 12:45pm

BREAK

12:45pm - 1:45pm

KITTEN NUTRITION: ESTABLISHING A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR LIFELONG HEALTH

KARA M BURNS, MS, MED, LVT, VTS (NUTRITION), VTS HON (INTERNAL MEDICINE, DENTISTRY),
FOUNDERS, ACADEMY OF VETERINARY NUTRITION TECHNICIANS

Kittens are dependent on the queen to provide food during the nursing period. The transition from queen's milk to solid food (weaning) is a gradual process and is an integral part of the nursing period. The post weaning period through the first year of life is also a critical time for development. It is important to ensure a strong nutritional foundation to help to support the growth and development of the kitten throughout the demanding neonatal and post weaning period. This presentation will discuss feeding nursing kittens, feeding orphaned kittens, and integrating the weaning process. Additionally, we will discuss nutritional assessment, key nutrients for a healthy kitten, and feeding to achieve healthy growth, optimize trainability and immune function, and minimize obesity.

ABOUT KARA M BURNS, MS, MED, LVT, VTS (NUTRITION), VTS HON (INTERNAL MEDICINE, DENTISTRY)

Kara Burns is a licensed veterinary technician with master's degrees in physiology and counseling psychology. She is the Founder and Past President of the Academy of Veterinary Nutrition Technicians and teaches nutrition courses globally. As Editor in Chief of Today's Veterinary Nurse, she also serves on various professional boards, including President-Elect of the EveryCat Health Foundation and President of the Pet Nutrition Alliance. Kara has authored approximately 200 articles and books, and is an internationally invited speaker. She has received numerous accolades, including the Bridge Club 2024 Industry ICON Award and North American Veterinary Conference Technician Speaker of the Year (2013, 2016, 2021). Kara was the 2010 NAVTA Veterinary Technician of the Year and has been featured in several professional journals.

1:45pm – 2:00pm

BREAK



Sunday, June 8, 2025 (All times listed are U.S. Eastern Time)

2:00pm - 3:00pm

SILENT KILLER NO MORE! FIP: FROM FATAL TO CURABLE

JENNIFER BLEDSOE-NIX, DVM, VETERINARIAN, COMMUNITY ANIMAL MEDICINE PROJECT (CAMP) LA

Feline Infectious Peritonitis was previously a fatal diagnosis for cats. Now, there are legal treatment options available, making this previously devastating disease curable. During this session, we will discuss the disease process of FIP, discuss the legal treatment options, and detail the monitoring of cats in treatment and observation. Case examples will be discussed, and monitoring spreadsheets will be shared with attendees. Learn how to be a FIP champion!

ABOUT JENNIFER BLEDSOE-NIX, DVM

Dr. Jennifer Bledsoe-Nix obtained her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree from the University of Tennessee in 2004. She devoted the initial 12 years of her career to working full-time in general practice and part-time in shelter medicine in Tennessee. During this period, she developed a strong interest in shelter medicine and access to care through her collaborations with rescue organizations and animal shelters.

She subsequently served as Medical Director at SAFE Haven for Cats in Raleigh, North Carolina, where she provided medical care for shelter cats and supervised the Spay/Neuter Clinic. After four years in this role, she transitioned to a larger shelter organization as Medical Director and later advanced to Lead Veterinarian at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary.

Currently, Dr. Jennifer holds the position of Access to Care Training Project Lead Veterinarian with the Community Animal Medicine Program (CAMP) in Los Angeles. Her areas of expertise encompass kitten medicine, high-quality, high-volume spay/neuter (HQHVSN), and shelter medicine. In her leisure time, she enjoys spending time with her husband and their numerous cats, including three with varying degrees of Cerebellar Hypoplasia.

3:00pm – 3:15pm

BREAK



Sunday, June 8, 2025 (All times listed are U.S. Eastern Time)

3:15pm - 3:45pm

KITTEN PHOTOGRAPHY 101

ARICA DORFF, PPA PHOTOGRAPHIC CRAFTSMAN, ARICA DORFF PHOTOGRAPHY, LLC

Learn how to capture beautiful kitten photos with pro tips from Traveling Pet Photographer, Arica Dorff. Whether you are using a fancy camera or just your cell phone, Arica will teach you her natural lighting tips and attention-getting techniques that she uses in her professional pet photography sessions. We all know the impact that high-quality photography can have on your website and social media pages, ultimately raising awareness and support for your organization's mission. Leave this class armed with useful photography knowledge that you can implement right away to take your kitten photos to the next level!

ABOUT ARICA DORFF

Arica Dorff is a Traveling Pet Photographer who treks across the country every fall for her annual Pet Photography Road Trip. After a decade as Las Vegas' top pet photographer, she sold her luxury studio and hit the road in her home on wheels - a custom built Ford Transit campervan. With 19 years of pet photography experience and her PPA Photographic Craftsman Degree (Cr.Photog), Arica enjoys speaking and teaching in the photography and animal communities. Past workshops include CreativeLIVE, the National Photography Convention ImagingUSA & Animal Image Makers Conference.

3:45pm – 4:00pm

BREAK

4:00pm - 5:00pm

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH ADVERSITY

COLETTE JUNOD, LCSW, AND ELIZABETH YOUNG, ED.M., LPC, JUSTICE FOR PAWS ANIMAL RESCUE

Embark on a transformative journey with our session "Empowerment in Adversity: Cultivating Strength Through Loss and Fatigue," tailored for the heroes who care for neonatal kittens. This enlightening presentation delves into the unique challenges faced by caregivers, offering a sanctuary of knowledge to combat burnout and stress. Discover the intricate link between brain function and stress, and arm yourself with practical, evidence-based strategies for emotional regulation. You'll learn to craft a personalized stress management plan, integrating coping strategies with insights from neuroscience to navigate the demanding world of feline rescue. This session is designed to support your mental well-being, ensuring you're equipped to continue your invaluable work with these fragile creatures while also safeguarding your own resilience.



Sunday, June 8, 2025 (All times listed are U.S. Eastern Time)

ABOUT COLETTE JUNOD, LCSW, AND ELIZABETH YOUNG, ED.M., LPC

Colette Junod, a dedicated military spouse in Fort Belvoir, VA, holds a rich career spanning over 20 years in social work and community service. With degrees from the University of Michigan-Flint and Wayne State University, specializing in Innovation in Community, Policy, and Leadership, Colette serves as the Administrator Coordinator of Social Work for Prince William County Schools. Her commitment to vulnerable populations extends through roles such as Human Trafficking Prevention Specialist, Foster Care Liaison, and Supervisor positions at the City of Alexandria Child Protective Services. Furthermore, she has extensive experience in various healthcare settings such as inpatient psychiatric care, inpatient substance abuse care, and served as the director of a court-based victim advocacy program in Flint, Michigan. Throughout her career, Colette has observed the profound interconnectedness between animal welfare, child welfare, and mental health. Her dedication to both animals and humans motivated her to establish Justice for Paws Animal Rescue where she serves as the President, showcasing her unwavering commitment to animal welfare. In addition, she leads an innovative Animal Professional Wellness Curriculum that underscores the intricate relationship between animal and human well-being, demonstrating her holistic approach across a wide range of welfare domains.

Elizabeth Young is a seasoned licensed professional counselor with three decades of experience in mental health and school administration. She has led and supervised a large team of school social workers in critical areas like human trafficking, foster care, special education, and child protective services for two large school districts near Washington, D.C. Holding a Master of Education specializing in counseling psychology from Harvard Graduate School of Education, Elizabeth is certified in equine assisted growth and learning (EAGALA) and provides equine therapy services. She conducts training and consultation for veterinary clinics throughout the D.C. metropolitan area, focusing on work-related trauma prevention and real-time coping strategies using eye movement desensitization and reprocessing (EMDR) resourcing techniques. Elizabeth believes there is a direct connection between best practices in social work that can benefit animal care workers. Both professionals are direct responders who are vulnerable to being profoundly affected and possibly damaged by their work through burnout and compassion fatigue.

5:00pm

CLOSING REMARKS



Thank you for being a part of the 7th Annual Online Kitten Conference!

We are thrilled to offer this unique event, where participants have the opportunity to learn from leading experts in kitten care and rescue. The Online Kitten Conference is made possible by the invaluable expertise and insights of our speakers, as well as by the generous support of our sponsors. The National Kitten Coalition and The Community Cats Podcast extend heartfelt thanks to our speakers, sponsors, and participants for trusting us to provide these valuable education opportunities.

Together, we can make a difference in the lives of kittens everywhere.

THANK YOU TO THE 2025 ONLINE KITTEN CONFERENCE SPONSORS

