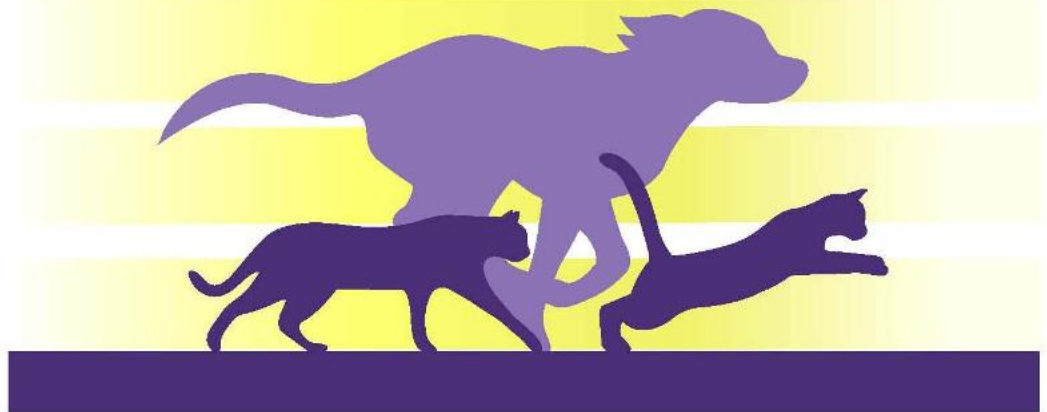


Getting to the Goal

1st Annual "No-Kill" Conference



Constant Contact Survey Results

Survey Name: Getting to the Goal Conference Evaluation Form

Response Status: Partial & Completed

Filter: None

4/3/2011 8:12 AM EDT

TextBlock:

The following questions will help us understand your general satisfaction with the conference experience. Please feel free to provide us comments after each question.

*

Please rate your satisfaction with the following attributes of this conference.

1 = Very Dissatisfied, 2 = Somewhat Dissatisfied, 3 = Neutral, 4 = Somewhat Satisfied, 5 = Very Satisfied

| Answer | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Number of Response(s) | Rating Score* |
|----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-----------------------|---------------|
| Location | | | | | | 91 | 4.2 |
| Price | | | | | | 91 | 4.4 |
| Quality of speaker | | | | | | 91 | 4.4 |
| On-site facilities | | | | | | 91 | 4.1 |
| Length of conference | | | | | | 91 | 4.3 |
| Conference content | | | | | | 91 | 4.4 |

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

* Do you agree with this statement? "The information learned at this conference was valuable."

| Answer | 0% | 100% | Number of Response(s) | Response Ratio |
|-------------------|----|------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Strongly agree | | | 64 | 61.5 % |
| Somewhat agree | | | 20 | 19.2 % |
| Neutral | | | 5 | 4.8 % |
| Somewhat disagree | | | 3 | 2.8 % |
| Strongly disagree | | | 0 | 0.0 % |
| No Response(s) | | | 12 | 11.5 % |
| Totals | | | 104 | 100% |

* Please tell us why you attended this conference? Select all that apply.

| Answer | 0% | 100% | Number of Response(s) | Response Ratio |
|---|----|------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Interest in conference topic | | | 84 | 91.3 % |
| Essential for your job | | | 19 | 20.6 % |
| Networking opportunity | | | 65 | 70.6 % |
| Interest in a particular session or keynote | | | 34 | 36.9 % |
| Reasonable price | | | 39 | 42.3 % |
| Convenience | | | 30 | 32.6 % |
| Other | | | 12 | 13.0 % |
| Totals | | | 92 | 100% |



Please tell us overall how satisfied were you with the conference?

| Answer | 0% | 100% | Number of Response(s) | Response Ratio |
|-----------------------|----|------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Very satisfied | | | 69 | 66.3 % |
| Somewhat satisfied | | | 18 | 17.3 % |
| Neutral | | | 0 | 0.0 % |
| Somewhat dissatisfied | | | 5 | 4.8 % |
| Very dissatisfied | | | 0 | 0.0 % |
| No Response(s) | | | 12 | 11.5 % |
| Totals | | | 104 | 100% |

What was your favorite part or thing about the conference?

84 Response(s)

What was your least favorite part or thing about the conference?

81 Response(s)

What did you like about the Exhibitor Showcase? What would you change?

76 Response(s)

If you attended the Networking Reception Thursday evening, what did you like? What would you change?

56 Response(s)

If you attended the Rountables, what did you like? What would you change?

66 Response(s)

If you attended the Awards, Closing Remarks and Raffle, what did you like? What would you change?

66 Response(s)

*
Would you recommend a Michigan Pet Fund conference to a friend?

| Answer | 0% | 100% | Number of Response(s) | Response Ratio |
|----------------|----|------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Yes | | | 86 | 82.6 % |
| No | | | 6 | 5.7 % |
| No Response(s) | | | 12 | 11.5 % |
| Totals | | | 104 | 100% |

TextBlock:

The following two questions concern the keynote presentations.

* Please rate the opening keynote with Deborah Schutt and Tanya Hilgendorf.

| Answer | 0% | 100% | Number of Response(s) | Response Ratio |
|--------------------------------------|----|------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Outstanding | | | 61 | 67.0 % |
| Good | | | 29 | 31.8 % |
| Average | | | 1 | 1.0 % |
| Below Average | | | 0 | 0.0 % |
| Poor | | | 0 | 0.0 % |
| I did not attend the opening keynote | | | 1 | 1.0 % |
| Totals | | | 91 | 100% |

* Please rate the luncheon keynote Susanne Kogut.

| Answer | 0% | 100% | Number of Response(s) | Response Ratio |
|---------------------------------------|----|------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Outstanding | | | 51 | 49.0 % |
| Good | | | 30 | 28.8 % |
| Average | | | 6 | 5.7 % |
| Below Average | | | 0 | 0.0 % |
| Poor | | | 1 | <1 % |
| I did not attend the luncheon keynote | | | 3 | 2.8 % |
| No Response(s) | | | 13 | 12.5 % |
| Totals | | | 104 | 100% |

TextBlock:

The next series of questions concern the breakout sessions.



Please rate the Spay/Neuter session.

| Answer | 0% | 100% | Number of Response(s) | Response Ratio |
|-------------------------------|----|------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Outstanding | | | 17 | 16.3 % |
| Good | | | 10 | 9.6 % |
| Average | | | 3 | 2.8 % |
| Below Average | | | 0 | 0.0 % |
| Poor | | | 1 | <1 % |
| I did not attend this session | | | 59 | 56.7 % |
| No Response(s) | | | 14 | 13.4 % |
| Totals | | | 104 | 100% |



Please rate the Saving Free Roaming Cats session.

| Answer | 0% | 100% | Number of Response(s) | Response Ratio |
|-------------------------------|----|------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Outstanding | | | 9 | 8.6 % |
| Good | | | 7 | 6.7 % |
| Average | | | 0 | 0.0 % |
| Below average | | | 0 | 0.0 % |
| Poor | | | 0 | 0.0 % |
| I did not attend this session | | | 74 | 71.1 % |
| No Response(s) | | | 14 | 13.4 % |
| Totals | | | 104 | 100% |



Please rate the Turbo Charging Pet Adoptions session.

| Answer | 0% | 100% | Number of Response(s) | Response Ratio |
|-------------------------------|----|------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Outstanding | | | 15 | 14.4 % |
| Good | | | 19 | 18.2 % |
| Average | | | 3 | 2.8 % |
| Below Average | | | 1 | <1 % |
| Poor | | | 2 | 1.9 % |
| I did not attend this session | | | 50 | 48.0 % |
| No Response(s) | | | 14 | 13.4 % |
| Totals | | | 104 | 100% |



Please rate the Pit Bull Dilemma session.

| Answer | 0% | 100% | Number of Response(s) | Response Ratio |
|-------------------------------|----|------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Outstanding | | | 11 | 10.5 % |
| Good | | | 6 | 5.7 % |
| Average | | | 6 | 5.7 % |
| Below Average | | | 1 | <1 % |
| Poor | | | 1 | <1 % |
| I did not attend this session | | | 65 | 62.5 % |
| No Response(s) | | | 14 | 13.4 % |
| Totals | | | 104 | 100% |



Please rate the Shelter Health session.

| Answer | 0% | 100% | Number of Response(s) | Response Ratio |
|----------------------------------|----|------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Outstanding | | | 9 | 8.6 % |
| Good | | | 12 | 11.5 % |
| Average | | | 6 | 5.7 % |
| Below Average | | | 3 | 2.8 % |
| Poor | | | 0 | 0.0 % |
| I did not attending this session | | | 60 | 57.6 % |
| No Response(s) | | | 14 | 13.4 % |
| Totals | | | 104 | 100% |



Please rate the Reducing Surrenders/Increasing Redemptions and Getting More Animals Home session.

| Answer | 0% | 100% | Number of Response(s) | Response Ratio |
|-------------------------------|----|------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Outstanding | | | 15 | 14.4 % |
| Good | | | 8 | 7.6 % |
| Average | | | 3 | 2.8 % |
| Below Average | | | 1 | <1 % |
| Poor | | | 0 | 0.0 % |
| I did not attend this session | | | 63 | 60.5 % |
| No Response(s) | | | 14 | 13.4 % |
| Totals | | | 104 | 100% |

*

Please rate Shelters/Rescues/Fosters - Working Together session.

| Answer | 0% | 100% | Number of Response(s) | Response Ratio |
|-------------------------------|----|------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Outstanding | | | 28 | 26.9 % |
| Good | | | 20 | 19.2 % |
| Average | | | 2 | 1.9 % |
| Below Average | | | 1 | <1 % |
| Poor | | | 0 | 0.0 % |
| I did not attend this session | | | 39 | 37.5 % |
| No Response(s) | | | 14 | 13.4 % |
| Totals | | | 104 | 100% |

*

Please rate Michigan Animal Welfare Initiatives (Puppy Mills) session.

| Answer | 0% | 100% | Number of Response(s) | Response Ratio |
|-------------------------------|----|------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Outstanding | | | 11 | 10.5 % |
| Good | | | 7 | 6.7 % |
| Average | | | 0 | 0.0 % |
| Below Average | | | 0 | 0.0 % |
| Poor | | | 0 | 0.0 % |
| I did not attend this session | | | 72 | 69.2 % |
| No Response(s) | | | 14 | 13.4 % |
| Totals | | | 104 | 100% |

*

Please rate Michigan Legislation to End Pound Seizure and Gas Chamber Euthanasia session.

| Answer | 0% | 100% | Number of Response(s) | Response Ratio |
|-------------------------------|----|------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Outstanding | | | 14 | 13.4 % |
| Good | | | 6 | 5.7 % |
| Average | | | 0 | 0.0 % |
| Below Average | | | 1 | <1 % |
| Poor | | | 0 | 0.0 % |
| I did not attend this session | | | 69 | 66.3 % |
| No Response(s) | | | 14 | 13.4 % |
| Totals | | | 104 | 100% |



Please rate the Successfully Using Social Media session.

| Answer | 0% | 100% | Number of Response(s) | Response Ratio |
|------------------------------|----|------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Outstanding | | | 16 | 15.3 % |
| Good | | | 17 | 16.3 % |
| Average | | | 5 | 4.8 % |
| Below average | | | 4 | 3.8 % |
| Poor | | | 1 | <1 % |
| I did not attend the session | | | 47 | 45.1 % |
| No Response(s) | | | 14 | 13.4 % |
| Totals | | | 104 | 100% |



Please rate the Mobile Workshop Shelter Tour.

| Answer | 0% | 100% | Number of Response(s) | Response Ratio |
|---------------------------------|----|------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Outstanding | | | 32 | 30.7 % |
| Good | | | 1 | <1 % |
| Average | | | 2 | 1.9 % |
| Below average | | | 0 | 0.0 % |
| Poor | | | 0 | 0.0 % |
| I did not take the shelter tour | | | 55 | 52.8 % |
| No Response(s) | | | 14 | 13.4 % |
| Totals | | | 104 | 100% |

TextBlock:

The final section of this survey will help us plan for the future.



Which day(s) do you prefer to attend a conference?

| Answer | 0% | 100% | Number of Response(s) | Response Ratio |
|-------------------|----|------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Monday | | | 6 | 6.6 % |
| Tuesday | | | 5 | 5.5 % |
| Wednesday | | | 10 | 11.1 % |
| Thursday | | | 23 | 25.5 % |
| Friday | | | 54 | 60.0 % |
| Saturday | | | 34 | 37.7 % |
| Sunday | | | 13 | 14.4 % |
| It doesn't matter | | | 25 | 27.7 % |
| Totals | | | 90 | 100% |



How much do you expect to pay for a one-day animal welfare conference?

| Answer | 0% | 100% | Number of Response(s) | Response Ratio |
|----------------------|----|------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Under \$40 | | | 5 | 4.8 % |
| Between \$41- \$60 | | | 53 | 50.9 % |
| Between \$61- \$75 | | | 15 | 14.4 % |
| Between \$76 - \$100 | | | 8 | 7.6 % |
| Over \$100 | | | 1 | <1 % |
| I don't know | | | 6 | 5.7 % |
| Other | | | 2 | 1.9 % |
| No Response(s) | | | 14 | 13.4 % |
| Totals | | | 104 | 100% |



I prefer breakout sessions to be

| Answer | 0% | 100% | Number of Response(s) | Response Ratio |
|---------------------------|----|------|-----------------------|----------------|
| One hour long | | | 46 | 44.2 % |
| 1.5 hours long | | | 20 | 19.2 % |
| 2 hours long | | | 9 | 8.6 % |
| I don't have a preference | | | 10 | 9.6 % |
| Other | | | 5 | 4.8 % |
| No Response(s) | | | 14 | 13.4 % |
| Totals | | | 104 | 100% |

What topics would you like to see covered at future conferences?

61 Response(s)

What presenter would you would like to see at a future conference?

43 Response(s)

*
If we produce a No-Kill Conference next year will you attend?

| Answer | 0% | 100% | Number of Response(s) | Response Ratio |
|----------------|----|------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Yes | | | 78 | 75.0 % |
| No | | | 1 | <1 % |
| Other | | | 11 | 10.5 % |
| No Response(s) | | | 14 | 13.4 % |
| Totals | | | 104 | 100% |

Do you have any suggestions for improving the conference?

48 Response(s)

*
Would you like to be on a future conference planning committee?

| Answer | 0% | 100% | Number of Response(s) | Response Ratio |
|----------------|----|------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Yes | | | 22 | 21.1 % |
| No | | | 68 | 65.3 % |
| No Response(s) | | | 14 | 13.4 % |
| Totals | | | 104 | 100% |

Please enter the information indicated below if you want to be on a future conference committee.

| Answers | Number of Response(s) |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| First Name | 34 |
| Last Name | 34 |
| Home Phone | 32 |
| Email Address | 34 |
| City | 34 |

Constant Contact Survey Results

Survey Name: Getting to the Goal Conference Evaluation Form

Response Status: Partial & Completed

Filter: None

May 21, 2011 11:02:04 AM

1. Please rate your satisfaction with the following attributes of this conference. - Comments

Answer

You may need a larger facility next time, so more people can come.

This conference was inspiring for me. My county has so far to go and we don't have much help. The county government is not receptive to animal welfare and our only shelter is county operated, understaffed, underfunded and very sad. A handful of people are attempting to start an AC Advisory Board and that may help. Jill Fritz is helping with that. I need a mentor to help me start a foster program to work with AC. Any suggestions?

I enjoyed the conference. Some of the speakers I enjoyed and felt I got good info from, others where repeating the same info over and over could have used there time to get out more info on the subject.

I can't recall an event I enjoyed as much.

I was a speaker with a co speaker and felt there was not enough time for me to go over material. My co speaker interrupted me in the middle of explaining the program to talk about a class she teaches for TNR how to trap and build shelters. I did not have enough time to give details for shelters, rescues, individuals on who to talk to where to go ect. for information on how to get the program up and running and further information. I could have used more time to talk about more information.

I would put all "Very Satisfied" because it was more than AWESOME!!!

I just think that the rooms were a little small because everyone couldn't all sit down at times and the price was a little high. I'm sure that was what had to be charged to put on such a wonderful event, but maybe a student discount next year?

Other than that it rocked!!!!!!!!!!

I was very pleased and I walked away feeling I had really learned some things. And, things I was able to apply immediately. I thought there was a broad spectrum of content; a little for everyone. My only negative comment would be there was not enough seating in the break-out rooms, at least not the ones I attended. I ended up standing for several. And, maybe only use 1 speaker for each category.....in two of my sessions, the 2nd speaker didn't have enough time (1st speaker ran over).

I got a lot of information and it sure has pumped members of our staff and volunteers.

Overall, this was a GREAT conference. On the negative side, there weren't enough restrooms, especially for women (as usual)! Also, the two keynoters (Deb and Tanya) could have each had her own session, instead of sharing one session. (They both had so much important info to communicate but not enough time to do it - both were excellent speakers, though.)

The only trouble I had was over-hearing people from hallways and other rooms as one was speaking.

You could hear other voices talking above the speaker.

Some of the breakout rooms were very crowded. Hoping for larger rooms next year!

The location was 100 miles from me, but easy to get to via I-75. The speakers were superb! They were entertaining, motivating, and knowledgeable! The length perfect; I could have even done a couple of sessions on Thursday night.

The content was relevant and up-to-date. Really excellent.

I believe more people would be able to attend if the location was more central. Maybe you could consider Grand Rapids next year. The speaker for "Turbo Charging Your Adoptions" did not provide the information I was looking for.

The hotel was very nice, but please consider a pet-friendly location next year. Overall, I thought you did a great job for the 1st year. I look forward to attending next year.

a bit too long a day

I would invite all students in next year free. We would start another generation to continue in our dream.

We had several problems with our room and know of a few others that also did. Don't think the hotel was totally prepared.

Would have liked to have had more time between speakers...Was not able to talk to some vendors and use the bathroom before being late for the next topic.

Maybe an extra day.

I was very pleased with the conference. The Oakland County speaker was in a small room. I would have liked to have seen this session in a bigger room. Many could not get in. I however did and learned a lot!

You did an excellent job for the first conference. Next year will be better.

This was a great first conference. You were able to tap into a lot of local talent and bring the groups together. More time should be focused on the critical issues in our state (PitBulls euthanized in shelters) and community/feral cats who account for the bulk of the euthanasias that occur in the state. While Class B dealers and gas euthanasia are great topics to rally the troops around the reality is that they are a small issue that is dying on its own so we need to look at the bigger picture

A more central part of the state would be nice. Price fair for the length and content of the conference. Workshop presenters varied in quality - general assembly speakers all outstanding. Motel OK. My room was great but others didn't have hot water! Would enjoy a two-day "track" conference that includes topics such as fundraising, board development, administration, etc.

The awards portion was very nice, but was a little too lengthy.

I had a hard time choosing between the concurrent sessions. I wanted to attend them all.

I would have loved if it would have lasted all weekend and if each speaker would have spoke several times so I could have heard all of them.

It was a tight squeeze for the location. Sell out crowd is fantastic. but it was a bit crowded, especially in visiting the tables in the hallway.

Would like to see next conference in a more northern location.

You did an exceptional job. This was so well planned. You utilized time so well. And even the food was delicious.

I'm so glad that you taped all of the events.

One thing that I would like to have heard a bit more about would be a the process for starting a "No Kill" Facility and fundraising and grants and how to find that "perfect" director etc.

Thank you so much. This is the best conference I have ever attended. Everything was relevant.

The sessions I enjoyed the most were: "Turbo-Charging Pet Adoptions" and "Successfully Using Social Media"; the one that I felt was "not what I expected" was "Reducing Surrenders/Increasing Redemptions and Getting More Animals Home.

I thought for being the first conference it was well attended. With the amount of people, though, I don't believe it was well planned with the Holiday Inn.

The introduction speakers and lunch speakers were fantastic. The actual classes were very basic and elementary.

seminar rooms too small. needed more time for questions.

Would have liked more speakers on Spay & Neutering. Difficult to see all the speakers due to booking at the same time. Otherwise over all was a nice conference.

facility was a bit over crowded, but location very convenient. content was great start and hope to see more sessions in future with more specific "how to" and interactive topics.

I would have liked to have had the conference spread out over another day. Time constraints (I am sure) dictated session length and I would have enjoyed longer sessions...most were rushed with almost no time for questions at the end. My opinion on session length is also reflected in the rating for "quality of speaker."

I wish that there would be more talk from Animal Control Officers and their interactions at the county shelters. In my experience that is where the "Getting to the Goal" should apply a major part of the focus. One of the first contacts a stray dog or cat will have in most likely with an ACO.

We had a GREAT time....

I do wish we had the opportunity to attend every lecture offered, it was tough to choose between the topics I wanted to see (almost all of them!) and know that I only had enough time to see four. More repeated lectures would be my suggestion.

Would like to see 2 days so there is more time for the presenters to present their knowledge. They seemed very rushed and didnt get through everything they wanted to share because of time constraints.

1 speaker per hour or 2 splitting 1 1/2 hour.

water for speaker table.

less choices for round table discussions with larger groups. GREAT Conference!! LarryO

I was fine with the conference until the open-ended section with the round tables. Too difficult to discuss anything in that forum, and saw that piece as a waste of time.

Also, the awards took way too long. In general, I'm not in favor of any awards (especially for the work we all do since there are too many unsung heroes). But, if it had to be done, I'd recommend printing the info and leaving it out of the program otherwise. While worthy recipients, many others are as well.

FOr the price it was the best animal related conference I have attended. Would love to see it longer and more space at the facility, but realize this was the first one. Great Job!

Would have liked more question and answer time.

excellent! well organized and inspirational.

I enjoyed the conference so much. I learned a lot from it.

I would love to have more info on how small rescue groups can put together spay/neuter programs that the public can afford and the group can afford to administer.....it's a difficult one.

Well organized and valuable information.

As one of only three non-profit spay and neuters represented at the conference, I was wishing that there would be more of an emphasis on high-quality, high-volume spay and neuter as part of the solution to a "no kill nation." I suspect that is because setting up a non-profit spay and neuter clinic is so terribly, terribly difficult. With C-SNIP as a mentor, two people singlehandedly made it happen in Muskegon. We do 60 spays or neuters a week, every week. Others can do this too, with help!

I was unable to attend the full conference but what I was able to see and participate in was very impressed.

Disappointed with the award ceremony and the digs that were made about not bringing in animals from out of state from other rescues and there was no other mention of the other members that helped put the conference together.

I was somewhat frustrated because there were 2 or more sessions I would have really liked to attend, but couldn't be in 2 places at once. I will bring more people with me next year.

It's rare that I can't find room for improvement, but this may be a first for me. Kudos on a great event.

It was a great first event. To be able to dig deeper into certain topics/specifics for the next one will be even better.

i wish it was one more day and location doesn't matter since i would travel anywhere in state.

2. Do you agree with this statement? "The information learned at this conference was valuable." -

Answer

I was more than that! I learned sooo much!

While some of it was valuable, it was much too repetitive.

While not all content was pertinent to a rescue organization, I still gleaned bits of valuable information from all sessions. I.E. Huron Valley morning presentation.....we can sometimes be nazi's about the adoptive homes :)

Most of what was talked about - we already do - on a much smaller scale. We are very proud of the difference we make in our community!

The presenters were excellent, not only as presenters but as models of what we participants can be if we follow their examples. Truly inspiring!

As a student the conference was definitely geared towards shelters/rescues but it was a great way to learn about progressive shelters and shelter/animal issues in general.

I took plenty of notes with great ideas that will be easily implemented.

As said previously.....the content was very relevant to the "Revolution" going on today and the information was easy to understand and very current.

One of the sessions was not very helpful, and I left to go to another one. I can't remember the name of it, but it was about medical exams on animals and it was presented by a vet.

I now believe it's possible to become the first NO kill state...

The information i learned was very valuable. Although there was much literature available i still wrote out 30 pages of notes. I am in process of putting my notes together to share with my group. I will attach links to the MI Pet Fund Alliance, HVHS, Oakland and my group already knows that i love ICAC

We need to know more about fund raising and obtaining grants in addition to learning more about caring for our animals.

Randazo had information that was very helpful. We are about to reiew our community ordinances and we will look at theirs. Information about transport and the high volume spay/neuter operations was also very helpful and be a tool we will use to move forward in our group

I didn't learn a ton in the workshops, but the networking was invaluable!

The conference was meant to be basic info. Maybe next time have a few sessions where they are broken into Novice and Advanced categories or Into and Specialized. While I learned a lot, I would be interested in more advanced topics.

I learned so much and am so excited about the future!

To remain connected to the organizations present, I would have loved a list of the organizations, there address and their web site address.

I got some hard facts and figures which I did not previously know.

It gave me hope and direction to get back home to change our own shelter!!

I believe that the topics were good, but the speakers didn't have enough time to present the infomation they needed.

Most of the time you could tell that they were rushed and were repetative with information. There was no time for questions.

Only from the morning speakers and lunch speakers.

classes not long enough to get into more detail. alot was repeatative.

I would have liked to have had more time for attending the sessions. I learned a lot, but I am greedy and would have enjoyed more!

I was very impressed with most of the information.

I'd love to see more about the 11 programs of No Kill Equation. This was all new to me (I'm a small rescue group board member).

I think I learned more at the December conference. I also didnt get the third session because I went on the tour. The tour was great! but would have liked to have gotten a third session in.

Everyone seemed to focus on similar recommendations..Marketing, clean shelter, foster and volunteers.

Most of the sessions were productive, but I really did find the portion after lunch to be tedious and a waste of time.

Not one mention was made on day to day what I should do with my animals when my fosters and rescues and 120 dog shelter are full. And the fact that there is never room for my pitbulls

The Save Rate was so informative...thanks for dividing by open and limited admissions.

Would it be possible for you to forward the 2010 data in the same format?

I'm just not sure that the actual numbers and ratings of the shelters was totally accurate.

I was hoping for more specific grant information-How about a 1-hour seminar on this subject?

How about guidelines to set up a transport program to spay and neuter clinics?

How about asking those who have succeeded in setting up non-profit clinics tell how they did it?

How about showing how those who go into schools to talk about

animal care and respect and have developed a curriculum targeting domestic violence and cruelty to animals? (Ask me!)

Our shelter had 9 attendees and we've already started finding ways to apply the information received.

Just wish there was more time for actual discussion!

i wish i could have some most of the content on video to show our county commissioners, other board members and our volunteers. Being a somewhat new rescue it was great to hear from people who are doing so many things right.

3. Please tell us why you attended this conference? Select all that apply. - Other responses

Answer

I was a speaker.

Do rescue of animals.

learn how to chg our shelter

support the first Michigan Conference

inspiration

Volunteer for animal rescue group
Want to raise save rate at HSWM
proud of our achievements at UPAWS and wanted to be a part of the recognitions

Speaker
Shelter award winner.
Because it was organized by Deb Shutt
see comment...

3. Please tell us why you attended this conference? Select all that apply. - Comments

Answer

Empower citizens to change their local county shelters and do a better job as rescues.

Always looking for ways to improve what we do.

The title of it is what set me on going. It says it all! I knew I had to attend because that is my hope that MI will become No-Kill.

I want to pursue a career in saving animals so I found this another reason to attend to meet, listen and network with the people already doing this.

And I really wanted to go to the Online Networking session because I am the web designer and Web Manager for Paradise Animal Rescue Inc. in Columbiaville, MI.

Certainly the content is the priority but networking with people I have been emailing with for years also has tremendous value. We must all work together and "breaking bread" with someone forms a bond. Only knowing someone via email is limiting. I also specifically wanted to hear about the Pound Seizure/gassing initiatives. And, to hear about how we rescues can help shelters to "get to the goal."

We do consider our rescue a 'no-kill' and were excited that Michigan would have a conference that was affordable and located where we could have numbers attend!

I've already read Redemption, and I'm on fire to reform our local county shelter into No Kill. This conference showed me that it has been done in other counties and towns in Michigan (even the U.P.!), so I know it can be done here, too. I even flew back to Mich. from my winter home in AZ for this conference, and I'm so glad I did!

As the new President of our local humane society I felt the need to be as informed as I could. Also, I was very interested in all the sessions. It was a great way to "network" since I know that our local animal control is definitely NOT doing many of the things the other shelters are doing. I pressured our local shelter leaders to attend and they did! I hope it makes a difference to see what others are accomplishing. The price and convenience were excellent!

I was especially interested in the networking opportunities. We could do so much more if we all worked together.

We can make a difference. It takes a village and I feel I met this village on Friday. Thank you so much for bringing us together.

I attended this conference to help our group learn and grow. To get to meet people with the same goals as I do. I attended the conference because our shelter needs so much change and many of the volunteers leave the shelter in tears because of what they see. The animals sit in confined cages on bars, many get cage crazy, and the living conditions are inhumane. My goal was to learn all I can. The energy in that conference was a real boost. Those who attended, 6 in my group are ready to face the battle to make change along with many other members in the group. We hope to see changes similar to LCAC

I love animals and wanted to know how to take better care of them.

I try to be as informed as possible.

My community needs to be more progressive when it comes to being aware of the needs of animals. A new awareness needs to be brought to the consciousness of this community.

I wanted to know what is happening today in our shelters. Every year I donate to a shelter or two and I want to know my money is going to help the animals. I may have to look more closely, because I certainly don't want to be contributing to those shelters who don't support this "no-kill" goal.

Ours, like many shelters, want to become "no-kill"; this conference was essential for us to go to, and to learn what has to be done to improve upon what we already have.

It was great to see the interest in the no-kill. I believe that whomever collects the data for the percentages should look further into it and come up with a different way of figuring it out.

important to keep up with best practices and inspire support across organizations

It's essential for all of us who are working towards "no kill" to work together to help solve the problems we all encounter. We are fairly isolated in the UP and it's extremely gratifying to talk with other shelters/rescues who are operating towards the same goal. The opportunity for learning (and doing more) increases when the 'circle' is expanding.

Thank You for the chance to speak on an important issue.

I LOVE networking with other rescue groups and shelters. I enjoyed putting faces to names and introducing myself to groups close to me that I had heard of.

I'm from near Detroit, so it was local; easy for me to think about going. The pricing was fair for a conference with that much information. The topic is one that I am very interested in.

I was hoping for more concrete examples of how to connect with the 30% of pet owners who do not spay/neuter when we have 2 low cost clinics in a 35 mile radius

I had just read Redemption and this conference was "a must do" on my list!

We are a fairly new rescue group with grand plans to build our own shelter someday. And all info is valuable for me to build on.

Also attended to see Paws for life speaker.

Representatives needed from PetCo and PetSmart. While much is being uncovered with puppy mills and such, unfortunately some rescues/shelters not doing a good job either. There are many infractions and abuses that go on in the adoptions at PetCo and PetSmart, with very little oversight. Kittens too young being adopted; dog surrendered at store and adopted within hours; routinely declawing cats before adoption so they sell faster; people using a rescues 501c3 to do adoptions at store.

It's our duty to stay current and share information with the best-of-the-best.

ALL THE ABOVE

4. Please tell us overall how satisfied were you with the conference? - Comments

Answer

It met my expectations and was very well organized! I very much appreciate the work that went into this conference and the speakers!

As stated above I needed more time to discuss my program.

I am overall more than thrilled with the outcome!!! It was much more than I was expecting!

Great idea and goal, but not the best of choices for some of the speakers.

So well organized, reasonable price, good food, outstanding speakers, practical topics, overflow attendance - just shows what a huge demand there is in our state to establish No Kill as our standard for shelter care, along with TNR, low-cost S/N, fostering, accountability, etc. etc. This conference filled an unmet need - can't wait till next year's conference. Could you add another day for more sessions? I can't get enough of these wonderful speakers and role models!

I thought this was a great conference! Especially for the first year, this made a great impression on my.

Everything was truly excellent! AAAAA+++++ It was way beyond my expectations.

You did an awesome job. Thank you!!

Like I said earlier...would have liked more time to talk to the speakers and have question and answer after the topic.

Also would have like to seen it where you could have been offered to see each speaker once without having to choice one need over another.

It was a wonderful feeling being surrounded by people who share our passion and love for the animals. Together we can make change!

The speakers were great. Their love of animals and their job was very evident. They inspired me to do better and more. Thank you.

There could have been more substance, Some of the sessions were designed to play on emotions but really address problems that require a lot of energy and are very small issues in terms of total numbers of animals euthanized in the state (Gas chambers and pound seizure) Facts in those sessions need to be correct. MDA only has 2 licensed class B dealers in the state.

I walked out with a feeling of confidence that we can do more than we have been doing. Got great ideas for programs we should put into effect. Made good contacts for advice on implementing.

It was overbooked. Every session I went to was standing room only and people sitting on the floor. The speakers did not have the opportunity to give out detailed information.

I was not able to stay for the roundtable discussions due to other commitments, so only commenting on earlier portion of the day.

We have made substantial progress over the last 3 years, but there is more that we need to do. The conference afforded us all the opportunity to speak with people who have already implemented the changes and to learn from their experiences.

Facility was nice, majority of speakers were very good, food was plentiful, timing was done well, arrangement of tour and transportation was smooth. I would increase the vendors and their space. Also, the information leading up to the conference wasn't as direct as I would have liked. I got nothing and then was bombarded with info the last couple of days before the conference. It was hard to plan b/c we didn't know what was going on. I also would have like to see more lectures repeated.

I think longer sessions would be better. Maybe have 2 days instead of one to fit more sessions and learning topics in.

I'm generally not an individual who will complain about most things so for me to feel this way and to comment on it is significant (to me, at least). All others in my party felt the same way.

Good to see so many people interested in rescue.

It was AWESOME!!!

The content of the conference sounded good but I didn't learn anything because I already knew the content of the presentations. I went expecting to learn but learned that apparently I'm ahead of the game since I didn't learn anything new...

We enjoyed the conference very much. Agreed with all of the information presented. Especially agreed with the advice given regarding changing policies and procedures - particularly in regards to adoptions, and how to achieve a no kill state. The issues were confronted boldly and advice dispensed with good reasoning and supportive foundation. We left with lots of ideas to ponder and motivation to implement them. It was one of the few times I left feeling like we are all in this together.

keynote speaker excellent, lunch wonderful, breakout sessions that I attended were very helpful. However, wish there would have been more handouts at the sessions to bring home to share.

WHAT AN EXCELLENT JOB DONE !!

5. What was your favorite part or thing about the conference? - Responses

Answer

Information was valuable, everything was well done! I'm glad it was in Ann Arbor, good location. Metro-Detroit area would have been difficult for me to attend.

In light of what I see every day it did me a lot of good to see so many wonderful animal lovers.

I liked those who had printed info on the subject they where talking about, helps to refresh my brain later.

Keynotes presentation. Also the round table discussions. I really loved the shelter/rescue/foster - working together presentation.

Allie Phillips on gassing and pound seizure. Really learned a lot from her and great speaker. I think we were all in awe. You could tell she was very passionate about the topic from her own personal life events.

As a speaker being able to get the word out about TNR and why it is important.

The new things I learned about the no-kill solution and networking with other like minded individuals

My favorite parts were when Deborah Schutt spoke. She was such an inspiration and I loved listening to her! She made it fun and very, very, very interesting and kept my attention the whole time. I loved everything she said!!!

Debbie you are an outstanding, AWESOME woman!!!!!!!!!!!!

The Keynote Address by Susanne Kogut during lunch. That was one of the very few parts of the conference where original ideas were talked about rather than just repeating the exact same content over and over.

Since this was the first conference, I think the networking aspect was my favorite part. I finally met people I have worked with, some for years! As a rescuer, it was great to meet some shelter staff so we could share things that are helpful to all, i.e. issues with temp testing, pulling policies, etc.

Just the whole 'bringing together' a group of people passionate about the same thing!

I apologize but I can't remember their names but I really enjoyed the two women who took over shelters and turned them around.

The speakers who showed what great outcomes can be achieved with dedication and strong will. But I wish there had been some "how to" sessions, like "How to get rid of a politically appointed shelter director who's a jerk"; "How to rally the community to support a No Kill initiative"; "How to go from Winograd's No Kill blueprint to reality", etc.

The greyhounds! I loved the vendors at the event and if there were more time to visit them or if they had their own room that would be great. The speakers I attended had great presentations and resources available for everyone.

The food was really good, and I appreciate that you had vegan options!

Meeting the pit bull advocates.

Only one of my picks actually had a topic outline to hand out.

Meeting other rescue groups and people.

Excellent keynote speakers.

new ideas from inspiring speakers

Hard to pick a favorite, but the keynote speaker was excellent, as was Debbie (of course).

The conference was extremely well-organized. Everything was thought out clearly and in detail; this showed throughout. The speakers were motivating and interesting--the time flew by! I applaud all the people who put it together! As a retired teacher I could see how well planned and prepared everyone was which spelled success.

Networking and learning the "tricks" others use to increase adoptions and improve the quality of life in the shelter was most helpful.

The majority of the info was applicable to rescue groups without a shelter & shelters. I really, really appreciated the encouragement for cohesion not only among various groups, but within the group itself. Tanya's remarks about not being so rigid with adoptions & how to help animals get in homes was more than needed for our rescue group. I enjoyed the variety of lectures and that each one was offered more than once. Meeting other people that love to save the lives of unwanted animals. knowing how people can and need to work together as a team.

Listening to so many people with the same passion.

Believing we can become a No Kill State.

It is possible, thanks to so many people guiding us in the right direction. This is the start of an amazing dream!!!!

Being able to learn so much and meet so many people who love and want the same as I do for the animals.

The great group of people who put this all together...You guys are AWESOME, SUPER and WONDERFUL !!!!

Thank you so much for this great conference. Can't wait for next years.

Listening to the opening speaker. She was full of positive energy. I also enjoyed the speakers that were Directors for shelters.

Being with a group of people who respected and cared about animal life.

Debbie Shutt! What an impressive lady!!!!!!!

She is definitely someone I would like to network with and develop a working relationship with. I think she would be a great resource.

Meeting fellow animal advocates

Awards ceremony. To see what people could do under given circumstances. Deb Shutt is an inspiring speaker.

Networking. General assembly speakers. HSHV tour (wonderful staff and beautiful shelter - they are doing a terrific service to the animals and public and serve as the poster child of how anyone entering a shelter should feel - warm, uplifted.) And while they are already doing so many things right, they are still trying to learn from others.

Networking. Conference organizers (Debbie). Touring a state off the art shelter.

The opening keynote session was great. Tanya was very inspiring

Learning what other shelters are doing.

The keynote address by Susanne Kogut.

I LOVED IT ALL!!!

The upbeat atmosphere and positive messages

Touring the HSHV facility.

The knowledge that the speakers had and visiting the Humane Society of Huron Valley Shelter.

Hope! I saw people who did achieve, being among like minded people, the speakers - bringing in the speaker from VA, all of the speakers.

I really enjoyed the opportunity to meet other shelter professionals and what the meaning of "No Kill" really is. Also, the gas chamber and puppy mill sessions were awesome.

Networking with people with the same passion as mine.

Seeing the HVHS facility - Amazing!!!

The tour of the Humane Society of Huron Valley!

The sharing of ideas between shelters.

My favorite part was the networking.

Seeing so many people working toward the same goal. Plus we came away w/some workable/new ideas

Morning speakers and lunch speakers.

seeing that our shelter has been doing it right for 10 years.

Speakers

Hearing, seeing enthusiasm in so many people who share same passion and struggles. Knowing there are many examples of success to inspire and people willing to help.

I really think the networking on Thursday night was great. There were not so many people, so it was easier to talk, make acquaintances... put faces to names.

Love the keynote speakers! In addition, it was wonderful to meet other people with the same goals that we have and to learn how we can do better. For every adoptable/healthy animal, there is a home -- we just need to work together to find it!

As a speaker, I was able to speak with others on a few topics. Becoming motivated and inspired!!!

What a great opportunity for rescue groups and shelter's to come together and understand the mission of each. And that truly our mission is the same. I hope the next conference will attract more rescue groups.

Joanie Wazney with The Buster Foundation

Networking. Dr Adams (Jackson County AC) and Deb Schutt's talks. Such energy and such passion! Loved them. HVHS tour was outstanding.

I enjoyed all of it.

Seeing Debbie!!

Meeting people from Michigan interested in animal welfare and bettering the current system.

Shelter tour

I would have to say the speakers....all from the opening session, the breakout sessions, the noon speaker were so inspiring!

The shelter tour was amazing, along with all the speakers. I enjoyed meeting others that are involved in saving the lives of animals. The information provided was great.

Since we want to build a shelter some day, the shelter tour was valuable, interesting and has given me great ideas to think about.

variety of speakers/topics

The keynote speaker at lunch

Experience/knowledge of presenters.

I enjoyed the large general sessions at the beginning and the lecture at lunch.

networking opportunity

Meeting new people and learning some new ideas for use at our shelter.

The keynote speaker.

hearing about the puppy mills and what they are doing to help close down the mills.

The motivation and practical advice.

The topic of the conference itself, and the individual sessions.

The presentation by the shelter coordinator from Virginia.

Impossible to choose between the various elements which were all so very well done. The breakout (concurrent) topics were diverse, well presented. The common time we spent together listening to speakers was fun and all was good...

I found the session on legislation of pound seizure and inhumane gassing of animals was very interesting and I want to help in getting these bills passed

Meeting so many people.

Being able to network with other people/groups.

The key speaker.

to hear the speakers from successful groups, was very motivating. also to be able to network and share ideas and problem solve.

6. What was your least favorite part or thing about the conference? - Responses

Answer

I really hate getting up at 4:30 AM! :-)

Running out of time, seams like each session ran late, then you had to run to the next, and get your bathroom break in there too.

Not enough room in sessions some people had to sit on the floor.

The other two sessions I attended were not very informative at all. Social media didn't cover anything new for me, and was not very interesting.

Turbo charging pet adoptions was a little bit informative if you were a shelter, but for rescue volunteers like myself, there was nothing to take back from it.

Nothing.

None

Had 2 speakers in one 45 minute session. One person was left with barely any time, it felt very rushed during that session between the 2 people. Should have just been one person.

Really, nothing. If I had to say something, just the cost was a little high because I'm a high school student but I understand after going and seeing what you had to do to put this conference on.

How unnecessarily repetitive and basic it all was. When a dozen speakers repeat what has already been said a dozen times before them, it just turns into a waste of time.

Honestly, I don't have a least fav. Well, maybe that there wasn't enough seating in some sessions :)

Breakfast - I am a diabetic and thus was a very poor choice of foods. I wish I had known about and gone to the hotel breakfast buffet.

The awards presentation. It got to be too long, everyone in our group was tired, and had a 3 hour drive home yet.

Awards ceremony was too long. Please consider spreading the awards over 2 days or over the course of one day.

The shelters that won awards were wonderful examples of what we can aspire to create ourselves, though.

The hotel was a little drab, but really the conference was great.

Round tables. Hard for everyone to see the speaker.

The lack of handouts with reference to the speakers topic.

The hallway commotion heard above speakers.

Long restroom lines.

a little crowded

The final roundtables weren't as productive as I had hoped. However, even with that, I met some great people and had good conversations.

The food choices. I couldn't eat the breakfast because of blood sugar issues....needed some protein and fruit. Lunch was o.k.; snack needed more fruit and healthy choices like what was offered on Thursday evening; that was great!

Location! Also, I was particularly disappointed with the session on Turbo Charging Adoptions.

The lunch. And I'm not a fussy eater. I eat everything. The lunch was not really very good. No choice; no variety.

Weird menu.

length

none

I loved it all!! Thank you, thank you!!

The time not seeming to be enough and feeling very rushed. I know of several people who had a hard time getting to sessions on time and not being able to speak to vendors.

HHMMM not winning the raffle :)

I don't like crowds or loud noise but that is part of a successful conference.

The presentation in the pound seizure session. Changes cannot be made if rescue continues to treat the veterinarian as the enemy. We all want the same thing. Rescue and veterinarians need to begin a conversation and come to an understanding. You need to tap into that community and make vet alliances. Contact the drs at the meeting as a start.

Site. had to get up at 4:30 to be there for registration.

Round Table discussions.

The

The awards ceremony was a little too long (though the concept is great). Also, the round table discussions didn't seem very well organized - like we all didn't know what to do. Maybe it was just the table I sat at, but it was kind of a waste of time.

The food. I think it should have all been vegan. The circle of compassion needs to be increased to include farm animals. There are vegan foods that are acceptable to all such as pasta with marinara sauce. There are vegan restaurants with tremendous options. It could have been a learning experience for the meat eaters.

The least favorite part was people having to get up for their lunch while the Keynote speaker was speaking. I think this was a disservice to her and those trying to hear and follow her presentation.

The days that were chosen for it. A Friday thru Sunday would have been better in my opinion.

Each session should have handed out either copies of their presentations or some kind of handouts. I received information from only one of the sessions.

too few womens' restrooms and lunch menu

The award ceremony dragged on. It was an important aspect but could have been handled more efficiently.

Everyone is tired and it has been a long day and some people had a long drive home. The MC gave a big description of each and then the speakers repeated it. Either give a shorter intro or limit the acceptance speech.

That the save rate report was misrepresentative of actually what occurred, admitted so by a MI Pet Fund member but wasn't highlighted. The report is flawed in that it did not show carry overs from prior years. The save rate really should be calculated on how many animals left the facility, be it adopted, euthanized, or return to owner.

At the end when we were sitting at the round table, there was no one at our table who had knowledge on the topic.

There was no least part or thing.

The awards part at the end went a little bit too long.

Waiting to be taken back to the conference site from the HSHV.

Content - I was hoping to come away with more knowledge, tools and resources for my particular rescue group. I felt that it was aimed more towards pounds/shelters than animal rescue groups.

I would have liked to see more content for the various shelters to be able to network more, maybe with planned activities, instead of just "on our own"... Maybe some time devoted to learning how/what other shelters are doing, and what works/doesn't work for them.

The venue

Overcrowded.

It is a lot of sitting for us older folks!

Actual classes

sitting on the floor and not having enough time to ask questions.

Speakers booked at the same time.

facility was overcrowded

I have to say, trying to listen to people talk and share useful information while I was eating was my least favorite part of the conference. I didn't feel like I was able to give my meals or the speakers the attention they deserved!

The length of sessions and the conference. As I said, I am greedy and wanted more!

I feel those shelters that are failing, should have to explain on why??

Exhibitor area.

Well me personally it was hearing Huron Valley Humane Society speak but thats just me - I have mixed feelings about them.

I really think the facilities could be improved for next year. The space just wasn't enough - hallways too crowded, bathrooms too crowded. But Ann Arbor was VERY convenient for me, so no complaints there!

That the keynote speaker talked during lunch, b/c I had a hard time eating and facing the back of the room at the round table, and having her speak behind me. I would have rather had long tables that all faced forward so we didn't ever have our backs to the front of the room.

Sessions too short.

Dry mouth

Already discussed. I think honoring people in our field is difficult and touchy. There are many who do a lot, but because of the nature of what we do, it will go unnoticed. I will speak for myself and say that had I been one of the honorees I would have declined.

Space. But again, first time and probably did not expect the response received.
wish I had been there on Thursday for the round table discussions

At some of the breakout sessions, there was standing room only....perhaps you will need a large facility next year. I would have liked more time for question, and answer time.
some of the sessions should have been offered more than once; had to choose between a few things I really wanted to learn about.
My lack of learning
Crowding

Lack of topics I would have liked to see in the small sessions.
Session topics were too broad - can not cover in ____ minutes. But speakers did the best they could
None noted.

Disappointed with the award ceremony and the digs that were made about not bringing in animals from out of state from other rescues and there was no other mention of the other members that helped put the conference together.

With all of us basically from the same state, it would have been nice in the opening segment to have us stand up county by county to show the representation from each county. It would have been nice to have a list of attendees in our packet. Many of us work together and know each other by name, but would not recognize each other.
Location and venue.
Can't think of one... I've attended many conferences over the years and this is one of the best.
nothing but would have liked to have a list of attendees and their affiliations
Wish that more sessions could have been repeated.

Most of the sessions I attended were too rushed with too much information thrown at you to really learn anything. It would have been nice to have handouts about topics covered in case we missed anything in the rushed atmosphere.
Sitting too long.

just would have liked more more day to really network.

7. What did you like about the Exhibitor Showcase? What would you change? - Responses

Answer

Exhibitors were nice, more of them next time would be ok too.
I am sure that there will be more exhibitors in the future.
Nice, lots of friendly information shared.
The Scentsy table was great, and I really loved their adoption books that they brought with them and had at the table!

I also loved the greyhounds who were there. Cannot think of anything to change.

Loved the greyhounds!

Did not look at.

more exhibitors

I really liked it. Lots of great info being giving on animals!

I sort of think it was a little cramped with everyone walking around it a lot but it wasn't that bad.

Would be great to see more exhibitors present and have there be more space to walk around in rather than everything being cramped into a small hallway.

I thought it was great!! Exhibitor content was great. Maybe a little tight for walking space.

We needed more exhibitors!!!

It was okay, I would have like to have seen more.

The location was not ideal - the hallway was too narrow for the large numbers of participants to peruse the displays comfortably. Maybe more Exhibitors next year? It was very good for a first effort, though.

It was pretty crowded there in the hall.

To get different groups to have a table so that we could find out more about their organizations and how they could help in our endeavors.

Too much noise from this area during speakers time.

Loved the greyhound dogs and the tee shirt sales.

Offered great information.

crowded

Informative. A little more space would have been nice.

I liked the updates on legislative issues. I thought there would be more vendors i.e. sales of things; dog food companies (better ones) with samples to take home to pets. No big deal really and it certainly didn't diminish the success of the conference.

I would like to have seen more vendors there.

No one was pushy. Good variety.

it was a bit too crowded in the hall way. I would have a seperate room and invite a few more exhibitors

Getting information on event and classes are able.

I would invite more!

I think it was great...Would like to see more and have a little more time for them. Hard to talk and pass by them when in a rush.

I was very pleased that Attorney Richard Angelo was there. I loved seeing the greyhounds! Possibly a table could have been set up with literature on surrounding rescues.

I thought there would be more exhibitors.

I would have it in a room rather than out in the hall way so that people are able to move freely through that area

Love free samples :) Always like to see what is new. What was there was good, but would always welcome more. More companies there for shelter resources and partnerships, such as Petpoint. I loved the Petfinder and Specialties, Inc.

Would be nice to have more vendors, but I know that's difficult.

I enjoyed talking to the exhibitors and picking up their materials. But it was too crowded in the hallway. They should have been setup in a room and the hallway used for what it was meant to be used for.

The only thing I would change is having more room to browse.

They were nice. Hopefully next year there will be more!

it was fine

Too crowded to really check everything out.

I enjoyed visiting with the vendors. Wouldn't mind having more things for purchase.

It was a bit crowded.

I liked the exhibitors featured, but it would have been nice if they was more space for them since it was just in a small hallway.

I am not sure if I saw all of it or just some of it.

Give us more room to check everyone out. I missed out on a lot of things due to lack of space.

Nice selection - Was GREAT to see the greyhounds there, too! Glad they could be a part of things going on! Met some great people at the booths, and what they do and represent!

It would be wonderful to have more exhibitors, such as ones involved in the animal movement. I would have loved to have more time in between the sessions to visit with the exhibitors.

Needs more exhibitors & much more space--possibly not in a hallway.

could have sold michigan pet fund alliance t-shirts. needed more exhibitors.

More exhibitors.

I would just get them out of the hallway. It wasn't very easy to stop, talk, see, what they had then you were also worrying about blocking the flow of traffic.

The variety of exhibitors.

have it in a larger area, not a narrow hall way.

Not enough info to offer. Bigger area as well.

It was GREAT

Well done, but would like to see more next time. And more space for them, of course.

It needs to be larger with more vendors.

I would add a Vet in a "Ask a Vet" booth.

I was an exhibitor and the exhibits were well-placed and convenient for attendees. Again, space was only (somewhat) issue. Would like to see the exhibitor showcase be open on the evening of the reception.

It was fine. Maybe should have been a place for all of us to set a stack of business cards for exchange.

Would love to see more exhibitors come.

Have more space.

I liked that they were there all day so that I had several opportunities to see different booths between meetings.

I would have more exhibitors...

Offering of that which is germane to our concerns.

I did not find the Exhibitor Showcase to be a valuable part of the conference.

all people were very accessible.

It was quite crowded

Expand it.

More participants would of been better.

I liked the groups represented, but it was way too crowded

Having it in the hallway made it slightly constricted

I thought there would be more exhibitors. Those that were there were fine. It was a little crowded though, in between the sessions with everybody in the hallway.

Need more vendors and exhibitors. I would change the location of the booths, too crowded in hallway.

Nothing... I liked the setup and the availability from beginning to end.

Would have liked to see more exhibitors

MORE!

Shelter Tour was awesome, thanks! Would like to see more exhibitors, but I understand if space was limited :-)

I would like to see more.

i thought it was a good mixture. if you had more I don't know what it could cover - probably a microchip company or michigan based companies that do any type of supplies used by rescues/shelters.

8. If you attended the Networking Reception Thursday evening, what did you like? What would you change?

Answer

Did not attend.

Did not attend

did not attend

No, sadly I wasn't able to attend. Hopefully next year I can! I would love to!

Darn it! I couldn't attend that!

It was great - however more seating - not everyone can stand around for 2 hours.

It was pleasant, but there wasn't much networking going on.

Standing around was not comfortable. Try starting out with the room laid out like a map of Mich, asking participants to stand in the location of their home city, so we could see who was there from our general area and plan to connect when we got home. Then, the participants could spread out "across the state" to mix with folks from other areas.

There was not much networking. Everyone was in with their own groups. Plus there was a total lack of seating

Did not.

I really liked it. I think something that would be better would be to give us a list of names of the groups in attendance so they could be search out, but everything else was wonderful. I enjoyed meeting so many interesting and informative people!

I very much enjoyed Thursday evening. I think it was what you made of it. People were congregating in small groups with people they already knew, but when I approached a group, they were always welcoming and willing to share information about their organization.

I didn't attend but will the next time.

n/a

Learning how to get your groups name out on facebook, twitter and other networks

Didn't get in until late.

I liked being able to meet and greet people. I think a few more table and chairs would have been nice.

N/A

Didn't attend.

n/a

Didn't like lack of seating. Otherwise, very good.

The food was great, but my feet were sore so more tables and chairs.

Did not attend.

I enjoyed the reception. I met a few very nice people who I hope to keep in touch with. More tables and seats would have been nice.

Maybe something could be done to get more people to attend the reception?

did not attend
didn't attend.

More places to sit.

Have a large map of Michigan and have people put in a little pin into the map showing where they are from. I don't know my counties in Michigan and often when people said where they were from, I couldn't relate to it.

N/a

I did attend. Did not network. Met four women in the field.

Could not attend due to work conflict.

It was a nice, relaxed setting, with the drinks and appetizers and all, but I felt that the folks from each shelter/organization pretty much stayed within their own groups - Would be nice to have a key person from each shelter represented there to go around and promote more interactions amongst the various organizations that were there.

It was a great opportunity for the rescues to network even more than we already did at the actual conference.

\$6.00 for a glass of wine. too much . could have found a sponsor for the reception to save money.

Didn't attend.

See #5

There was just not enough time to meet and talk with everyone! I should have researched all of the groups before I came so that I could identify those groups/people that I felt I should talk to so that I could pick their brains!

I did attend. It was a good opportunity. It would be great if it attracted a larger audience.

Have non-alcoholic drinks available serve yourself, in addition to the cash bar. Also, there wasn't much food for as many people who showed up. It would help to have someone there to direct the first bit of the evening--to get people laughing and talking. As it was, most people hung out with who they came with.

Did not attend.

NA

I did attend and it was wonderful. Would not change a thing.

Did not attend

I did attend in the hopes of networking and it was perfect for networking.

I don't know how you could improve...bar, snacks created a very friendly environment.

I didn't attend

Did not attend as not available.

NA

Was unable to attend.

Give each topic a discussion guideline.

Perhaps more chairs.

Did not attend.

It's hard to get people to mix and if you "push" it, people will likely push back. It was simply nice to be in the company of others that share our interest (passion) for helping the critters.

did not attend

n/a

Not enough sitting room; snacks were good.

I wish more people had attended, but I met alot of good people. I think if the conference was 2 whole days - more people would have been there thursday night and might have attended.

9. If you attended the Rountables, what did you like? What would you change? - Responses

Answer

I loved that so many people talked at the roundtables. It was great to see such interest in the goals.

We didn't have a leader but I did meet a trainer and she gave me some info about helping my 2 new pack members.

Little noisy I have a hard time keeping up with our discuss for all the noise around me.

Very nice to talk to people who are interested in the same thing you are. Though I wish more than 3 other people would have participated in the discussion.

I would like to be the only speaker participant for my program at the round table.Had a co speaker at the round table was a bit to much.This person was more interested in teaching a class to the participants then giving them direction on where to go and to whom in order to get a TNR program up and working.

did not attend. It seemed unorganized.

It was sort of short. The time to talk did not last very long but I did learn a bit from it.

Some interesting people to talk to, but unfortunately you get to talk to only half a dozen people that are sitting with you at the table, completely ignoring the rest of the people who came.

I was on the exhibitor floor so could not participate.

We were tired - our group just grabbed a table - but the faciliator was great and we enjoyed the discussion.

Enjoyed it, we got to talk about puppy mills, something our group doesn't have a lot of experience with.

I was burned out by the time the Roundtables started.

They were to informal and a lot of people who sat at the tables did not realize that we were supposed to be talking on the subject at the table.

Did. No changes.

Mentioned above.

I did not find the Roundtables very helpful. I'm not sure what the remedy would be, but I found that people were chatting about a variety of topics, instead of discussing the topic assigned to the table. In addition, I wanted to get information regarding a number of topics, but people did not seem to move around, making room for others.

It gave us a chance to talk to each other.

it was a bit too informal.

Learning how other groups work and do networking with other groups

I love we were able to spend one on one time with issues I was concerned about. The questions were addressed.

I like being able to discuss things with the speakers...Would have liked to talk to several of them tho and was told we had to pick one.

I did not attend the roundtables. I had 30 plus pages of notes and felt as if all the speakers were clear and to the point

The roundtables were informative. But it was so noisy and difficult to hear and everyone was speaking loudly to be heard.

Too many topics. I could not get to all of the ones I was interested in.

No formal "Get ready, get set, go!" People were waiting around not knowing how or when to get started, mostly, I think, because there was no facilitator/moderator. Then only a couple were on topic, others at the tables just chatted, or held a bitch session. These were a total waste of time and could have been valuable.

I was supposed to conduct a roundtable, but I don't think anybody at my table really knew what a roundtable discussion was. I was only able to connect to two people at my table.

It would be good to have a facilitator for each topic. As I said, we all sat there and since nobody took the lead, it was kind of a waste of time.

I must have missed the instructions because I didn't understand what was going on.

I thought there should have been someone at each table who could have helped each table get started. Maybe some of the speakers.

would change nothiing

Opportunity to talk about a topic but I would provide more structure or have a leader at each group. Also difficulty to pick just one. Someway to capture the learnings

I would like to have seen one person at each table with knowledge of the topic who could answer questions. We were at the medical issues table and there was no one there to lead a discussion.

I came in late so I really had to hunt for the table I was looking for. Maybe some kind of insert showing where the tables were located would be helpful. I was happy to have found my table on TNR. We had good leaders.

N/a

Just enjoyed talking to three women at my table. I was impressed by the caliber of the women.

Well, I was at the Petfinder roundtable and our speaker never showed up until someone went to find her. Once we began, it was over.

I didn't get much out of them - Maybe I missed any instructions given as to what to do, but I spent my time with the folks I came with, talking about what we would like to do to make our own shelter better - Really didn't know "what to do", if that makes sense...

The chance to visit several roundtables rather than just one for 45 minutes.

Not enough time to get to various groups--perhaps a 10 minute round--then a chance to move on--ring a bell or something--that stops the person monopolizing the conversation.

Didn't attend.

I was not able to attend, but would like to in future.

Wow, the roundtables were a bit of a headache for me, but that could've been because there were SO many people, talking about SO many different things and trying to be heard over their neighbors.

Very unorganized. There needs to be a 'facilitator' at each table to guide the discussions. I ended up at a Roundtable that spent the majority of time complaining about MHS and difficulties at their rescue. I ended up trying to direct the discussion back to the topic and ended up leaving the Roundtable.

We sat at the BSL table and it was GREAT

I really wondered if this would be as helpful instead of another session slot, but I sat at a table and continued a great discussion on spay/neuter clinics and networked some more. So I really liked that. (Half of the table was from one group and was just chatting off topic, but that's no big deal).

We didn't have anyone show up to direct our roundtable (Petfinder.com) and we wasted a lot of time waiting for someone b/c there was no one to say "okay go!"

There was no one or expert at the table "pediatric spay/neuter"

See above

Not have it.

I thought this was the best part of the conference actually. It was a great way for people interested in specific topics to discuss with others with the same interest. Great thought here and I hope it continues in the future.

More time in the round tables. I was rushed getting back from the tour of HSHV and by the time I checked the schedule the round tables were wrapping up.

I was very interested in feral cats. I attended breakout sessions, but that gave me more opportunities to ask questions.

The only issue was the noise level. It was hard to hear at times.

Loved the interaction with other groups.

I would somehow make different tables with different "topics of discussion". You didn't know who you were sitting with until after you'd chosen a table and maybe there were others that I might have liked to sit with to get different information. Don't really know how you'd put that together....

it's nice that people had an opportunity to discuss what they had learned about.

I didn't attend - we left early

Obligation(s) removed from Conference left me unable to attend.

this was disappointing ... I suggest the subjects be pre-announced and that participants be allowed to provide one or two questions in advance - so participants can be prepared

Did not attend. Wasn't sure how organized it was.

Loved the roundtable idea.

Did not attend.

The breakouts got off to a slow start as we weren't sure what we were to do??? Perhaps I missed it, or possibly there wasn't an explanation of the signs on the tables. We did discuss the topic however. Another way might be to have various topics that the table could discuss. But that comes with a catch; our facilitator was an expert.

did not attend

Allow for more time, for people to move about.

Our table did not have a mediator and one had to be found. They couldn't find a Vet so a representative from All About Animals Rescue came and she was awesome and very informative!

I think the roundtables should have been better explained so you could have special tables to cover certain subjects then people could go to meet with people to really gain information they need.

10. If you attended the Awards, Closing Remarks and Raffle, what did you like? What would you change? -

Answer

Did not attend.

It was a perfect wrap up!

Took the time to acknowledge the good being done

When at the closing remarks the speaker said that we should focus only on working with rescues and shelters in MI and temporary close our doors to out of state shelters I totally disagree.

Toledo Humane and Paws for Life have put so much effort into what they do, and what was said at the end seemed to really offensive.

This was very nice, change nothing.

Nothing. All was very good & clear.

It was awesome!!!

Was much too stretched out. In the closing remarks the 'don't help anyone from any other state' was rather ignorant.

Loved it; wouldn't change a thing!

It was great!

Again, it was too long.
See number 6 above.

I had driven 2.5 hours to attend the conference and had to leave right at 5 to get home. I would have liked if the ending was as on-time as the rest of the conference. The raffle was great! My friend won and she was so excited. Awards were to along. And in the closing remarks I thought it was rude to make any reference about not pulling animals from out of state when you had a speaker from Ohio who was at your conference and in the room.

Awards were great.

Awards were inspirational. Debbie's closing remarks were excellent.

It must have been very difficult to determine which organizations got the awards. There were many on the "save rate" list that appeared to be just as deserving, or more so, that were not mentioned. Also, how did you determine which organizations were "open" admission. I believe our shelter was in the wrong category.

Like: I really appreciated knowing why each person was receiving the award.

Change: I thought there should have been at least a brief speech about the two volunteers who received honorable mention.

it was very nice, but it was a bit too long

How far groups have come from the time they were started to today. How hard they work with the community.

Loved it all!!!!

I think you guys were AWESOME. You did a GREAT job and I can't wait for next years. I have 2 more new people ready for it already.

It was all nice

Shorten the closing remarks. By that time we were all ready to go home. It is an hour and a half drive to go home. It was a long and very informative day.

Try to shorten them a little. Also explain the criteria for the shelter awards better. It was not clear why the shelters that were chosen were chosen over others.

Deb Shutt for president! It was all well done. Would like to get out a little earlier.

Outstanding. Good categories. Criteria and choosing recipients seemed to be well thought out.

It was upbeat and a nice summary of what the conference was all about. Truly awesome!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Again, shorten the awards. It's a really nice thing to do, but just took too long.

I enjoyed it other than it ran too late. I had a long drive in front of me and wanted to get rolling.

I thought it was wonderful the way it was!

nothing

I liked the opportunity to honor organizations that have accomplished major steps toward the goal. for dislikes see no. 6

Everything!!!

I really liked the awards session. It was good to see successful leaders

I think giving out awards is a wonderful idea, but it should probably have been much shorter than it was. The intros for each person were a bit lengthy and then each gave a little speech, which was also a bit lengthy. Also, because that was longer, the closing remarks were cut short, which was unfortunate. But, other than that, it was nice.

I enjoyed seeing who won the awards, hearing what they had to say about their facilities and progress, and witnessing their dedication and energy and enthusiasm.

Very touching. Glad to see the hard work of those who won the awards recognized

Enjoyed listening to the speakers, and the winners, and seeing the folks representing each winning shelter. Hearing Deborah Schutt was excellent!! Was a bit drawn out, but not bad for what was covered.

I would not change anything.

Didn't attend.

I was not able to attend, but would like to in future.

The only thing I would change about this would be the scheduling. Most shelters/rescues wanted to sit together but because the Roundtable discussions preceded the Awards, many people were either sitting at a Roundtable they had no interest in or people were separated from their group.

I enjoyed the awards, but missed the closing remarks because they happened after 5:15pm. I was really worried about picking my kids up on time, so I had to go. I was bummed to miss even a minute.

These were fine. The people who put this on seem like they are fun. It helped the time go by, to be entertained by them.

I liked but the Thanks You got a little to long.

Not have it.

Great closing remarks. I think you should have patted yourselves on the back a little more. Only change would be to have a program with the awards and recipients listed with background info.

More time networking small groups. Don't tell me in broad strokes how fine it will be, tell me what to do with the dozen dogs a week we have to last day, today, and next week. PBR became open admission the same day we tookover county shelter ops. Our fosters and rescues are bursting, our shelter is full. I had hoped to find some help. shorter

I have been to many conferecnes on a Friday and I was amazed on how many people stayed to the end. I think the Awards and the Closing Remarks are important..we needed to celebrate with those that have made the mark!

You kept the raffle drawing short...and that was greatly appreciated.

I was very inspired by the speakers and what other groups were able to do. This is the first one I have attended, as our group has just taken over the shelter we have, so we have a lot to learn to improve and grow.
It was good.

raffle was a good idea!

I didn't attend - we left early

N/A

very nice gestures, but a it too long at the end of a long day

Participated in the Awards; was moved by the stories of the other award winners and closing remarks

I would ask for professional remarks to be made and the school girl cracks to be left at home.

Everyone that worked on getting the event together should of had an honorable mention not one person.

Seemed fine to me !

Did not attend.

Nothing to change. Could perhaps provide Kleenex because it was a very heart-warming, sharing experience.

did not attend

Nothing, everyting was fine. It was nice to see people getting recognized for their hard work.

I would change it to be my shelter winning an award. Our AC is rated very poor. We need HELP!

I thought the awards were great, even though the numbers used don't tell the whole story but it was inspiring.

11. Would you recommend a Michigan Pet Fund conference to a friend? - Comments

Answer

Our rescue plans to send as many of our volunteers as possible next year.

I all ready have!

well run.

Yes and No. I think getting to the goal of being no-kill is important but there is a lot of things I completely disagreed with.

For sure!!!!!!!!!! You all rock!!!!!!!!!! I love you all!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Love,

Emaline Martin

Maybe. Really only if the friend is just getting started with animal rescue related activities. But for people who have been in the field for even a year, unless they've been living under a rock, everything that was being talked about, was completely elementary.

Overwhelmingly and already have recommended! You did a FABULOUS JOB!!!

Absolutely! In the future, how about a spring conference on the east side of the state and a fall conference on the west side? The visit to the Huron Valley shelter was awesome, too. Thanks so much to Deb and the conference planning committee for a wonderful conference - it was truly outstanding in every way.

Absolutely! There was a lot of great information and the feel of the conference was very proactive. Great experience. Already have.

I was even thinking about having one in the Tri-City area which would be a central location for "northerners" as well. I would love more training on how to advertise animals for adoption using technology; I'm weak in that area, but learning a little as I go along.

I'm so excited to have the opportunity to meet with other organizations that have the same mission as ours. Thank you for making this happen, and I'll look forward to next year.

I am motivating people who weren't able to come. I hope they get excited to be able to join in next year's conference? Absolutely !!!! I have 2 new people ready to come next year...Ready for a date so we can plan and get a larger group to come. I also want to offer to help with the planning of it next year.

Teresa Monroe

Director of Special Events for
H.A.N.D.D.S. to the Rescue
rescueddoglover@yahoo.com
231-620-1454

I recommended them to all the fans on our group and my personal facebook

As a forum to connect with other rescues. It also provides great information for people new to rescue.

I guess it would kind of depend on content, but if anyone was looking to network, outstanding opportunity!

I have already suggested it to many people. I will be anxiously awaiting next years conference!!!

Looking forward to next year!

If you do not do so already, I would send invitations and info to every shelter and animal control director in the state!

I had a great time!

Yes, I have already and I will to others. It was very interesting and definitely worthwhile.

Although, I would make sure that they know that I felt it was geared more towards pounds/shelters rather than individual rescue groups.

Was an awesome experience for me - I'll definitely want to attend the next one! And to remember to bring my camera if we visit the HVHS again (Oops!).

A friend that has little or no shelter experience. Or just tell them to go for the beginning and for lunch.

would be good for volunteers.

But honestly, my friends don't need to come. We need to get the shelters/rescues who are failing to attend if there is going to be any substantial changes in our state.

I already have recommended it to another rescue group. I think there is value in getting information out between AC's and Rescue's--as well as networking with people who are all working towards the same goal.

I signed up to be on the committee for next year. Will you also have the normal December conference again. I really enjoyed that one also.

I only say no because if I knew there would be an awards ceremony I personally would not go or recommend it. I already have. I would bet you would get repeat attendees next year plus additional folks. Can not give you enough praise. Great job!

Look forward to the next time.

also the food was great!

ABSOLUTELY!!!!

To anyone concerned w/the issues of Animal interests.

depends what that friend is looking for in a conference

I am hoping our shelter will be able to send a delegation to the conference next year.

Yes, definitely

Already have.

Absolutely...wish more of our group could have attended.

Only disappointed it sold out so quickly!

Great job!!!!

I would have loved for our whole board and some volunteers to attend. our county shelter should have been there, but we have learned alot and will now go to our county commissioners and tell them all the things our country SHOULD BE DOING.

12. Please rate the opening keynote with Deborah Schutt and Tanya Hilgendorf. - Comments

Answer

I loved the frank conversation and related to some of the same struggles seen locally here.

If I could I would rate it +10000 more then outstanding!!!!!!!!!! Because I thought it really was!!!!

Did rather enjoy everything Tanya Hilgendorf had to say.

What a great kick-off to the day. It was educational and kept my undivided attention.

As I said before, Deb and Tanya each needed their own separate session. I could have listened to either one of them all day. I was sorry they had to rush to stay on schedule.

Both were very passionate and clear in their points.

They were both awesome! I loved the humor, the stories, and the facts entwined together. Both speakers were enthusiastic, motivating, interesting, and experienced in the topics discussed.

Both are dynamic speakers. I very much enjoyed their presentations.

They had us laughing when we needed and crying to remind us why we were there

These ladies are my heros.

Both OUTSTANDING! I would love to see them back next year. They were so positive and made my group realize we can make that break through when our shelter.

Debbie was outstanding. Tanya was good. I would have preferred to hear Tanya at a different time because her story is compelling but this was not a keynote presentation.

It is clear to me that a leader with a strong vision and the ability to articulate it, makes all the difference.

Especially loved Deborah's style, but both were outstanding.

Both were truly inspirational and great speakers.

Both Tanya and Deborah were great and very inspirational. Deborah talked tough but that was needed

I was thrilled with your insight and dedication. You give us hope.

Both ladies gave great information, and were very uplifting!

Loved their "straight" talk! All of us need to engage in this type of conversation if we want to move forward in making Michigan no-kill. I would never advocate harsh language, but that doesn't exclude speaking the truth when necessary.

Deb Schutt was dynamic.

Tanya's slides were very time consuming. I'd rather listen to her more than wait for her slides to slowly show the talking points. I wish Deborah could have finished discussing each point in the eleven programs.

Thought both did very well, entertained, dropped gems of info, and I enjoyed listening to them both.

A little long...Duplication of some of the individuel concurrent sessions.

Both are effective speakers and made good points.

Deborah Schutt was outstanding. Ms. Hilgendorf was good.

I could listen to the Deborah & Tanya all day.

Wonderful, motivating speakers. Poignant, sound advice.

I wish that the video of the keynote could be made available. I doubt that there were many county commissioners in attendance, and probably a number of shelter directors who REALLY SHOULD have a chance to get the message.

Bravo!

Deborah was great

I would love to have both of them attend a meeting with us and our county commissioners.

13. Please rate the luncheon keynote Susanne Kogut. - Comments

Answer

Same as above. It is good to learn others face the same exact struggles and to know not alone.

I think it was very good.

Excellent presentation, ideas and examples.

In all fairness, I think I was just too distracted by hunger :)

She's an excellent speaker and role model. Loved her video clips, too!

She was very good. However, I would have liked to hear her AFTER we ate. I was really wanting to talk with those at the table to hear about their morning sessions etc. Half of the room had their backs to her in order to eat so I didn't hear everything. People were still getting their lunch after she began speaking.

Beyond outstanding. Her ideas and what she does for the shelter she runs was unbelievable. My mouth just dropped open. Incredibly helpful. The slide presentation was great.

Bravo!!

Had a hard time hearing her over people talking about the speakers they had seen or were going too and the dishes and servers taking dishes away. Think she should have been able to have less distractions while she was speaking. Susanne was also wonderful! I hope to see her back again next year!

I really don't remember much about it. Everyone was eating and talking.

Very interesting. Her tools were incredible. Her presentation was engaging and definitely had usable information for us.

I did miss a good chunk standing in the food line and was disappointed in that, because the part I did get, left me wanting to hear more.

She spoke well, but I thought was a little flip with some remarks (the one about not being responsible for others obeying the law, for example).

I was disappointed that I couldn't hear her when I was getting my food. I would rather not have a speaker while I'm eating. I couldn't focus on either and felt rushed. At a recent conference I attended they had two lunch times with a concurrent session going on with each. it worked well.

It would have been better if every one could have gotten their lunch and then had her start her presentation.

Great to hear about a success story. I would like to have heard more about their funding.

I love to hear success stories.

I felt like Susanne was there to brag instead of inspire or teach.

I wasn't able to hear her complete address, but from what I did hear, I enjoyed her greatly!

did not agree with her low ranking of spay-neuter and no respect for the law. coyotes are a problem in northern michigan.

Very enthusiastic speaker.

I would have given this talk an 'outstanding' but it was delivered while I was eating and b/c of the way the tables were situated, I had to turn my back on her to eat. It wasn't ideal. But the content and her ability were outstanding.

I could have listened to her longer.
She had an uphill battle @ her facility and handled it very well.

Would love to hear a keynote from someone in Michigan next year, not to downplay Ms. Kogut's accomplishments. I think if rescues and shelters in Michigan see a peer doing good things, they will be inspired.

people talking in the hall was distracting

She was fantastic!

I thought having people in the other room getting their lunch was a difficult way for her to give her presentation. And, those people completely missed 10 minutes or more of what she had to say.

Timing is everything.....

I really liked seeing some of the videos and flyers to get ideas on creative activities to increase adoptions

It was hard to hear at first and pay attention because of the activities of lunch.

Will the video of the luncheon keynote be made available?

Hard as you might try, I think it was all outstanding.

you just learn so much from people who have done things successfully and motivate you to keep trying.

14. Please rate the Spay/Neuter session. - Comments

Answer

Would have liked more information on starting our own.

I did not attend this session because we know the importance of the spay/neuter. There were other sessions we could not miss out on

very informative. Good Speakers.

Great to get 3 different perspectives

Handout with Name, organization and website would have been good since they all had a lot of information.

No new information presented. Already knew about CSNIP and multiple transport organizations.

no time

The contingent from UPAWS split up the sessions so that we had at least one representative in each session. I took the sessions that no one expressed an interest in attending.

This was the session I was most hyped about when I left the conference. Mostly because of the DVM from C-SNIP. I'd love to attend a session with Humane Alliance and ground-roots start-ups to learn what you need and what it takes to get a high quality, high volume Spay Neuter clinic going. I am very interested in more of the logistics. Again....more info on how us small rescues can help offer low cost spay/neuter to our small communities.... Dr. Adams was excellent. I was very disappointed that there was not more interest in spay and neuter. There wasn't even a "spay and neuter" sign on the tables as a discussion topic. (I did see "pediatric spay and neuter"). You guys at the Michigan Pet Alliance are wonderful, but you aren't focusing on the whole picture of need when you fail to emphasize low-cost spay and neuter.

15. Please rate the Saving Free Roaming Cats session. - Comments

Answer

Our rescue is in the process of expanding TNR, would like more handouts and how tos.
I wanted to attend but I have a very different take on TNR, and knew that I would disagree with what would be taught to us. I personally do not believe in "feral cats" I think there is a way to socialize and adopt almost all cats. There are some that would be happier outside but I do not consider them feral. I am all for the T and the N, just would much rather socialize verses return.
I have been trapping for 3 years and still learned my new ideas or wrong things I was doing.
Was not able to get to this one because it conflicted with another session. Would like to be able to attend all sessions next year. Able to have be able to schedule to see all would be great.
I personally did not attend this session but a member in my group did. She said it was very informative and has share the info she learned
I learned a lot. Speakers were very good.
I had an interest but All About Animals is near my home and I was able to attend this from home.
I was very interested in the topic, but it went on a little too long logistically, and some folks had to race to the bus for the tour, and I had lots of questions that I didn't get to ask. There wasn't enough time allowed for that. She needed to change up her speech to be less detailed and allow for the time given.
Kathryn & Kimberly were great speakers. I came to the conference with feral cats in mind and they answered so many questions.

I am planning on attend a training session at Kitty Fixers.
I like that it was so uniformed that you couldn't ask questions during the presentation. It was wonderful to see the cat houses that can be built, to know we can borrow traps and knowing there are more day clinics available to learn more.

16. Please rate the Turbo Charging Pet Adoptions session. - Comments

Answer

I would have liked to attend this session. Please offer it next year.

Lots of good ideas.

Hated it. The first speaker from the Oakland County Pet Adoption Center was very uninteresting. Nothing he said would be useful for a rescue volunteer like myself, for a shelter on the other hand it may be a bit useful.

Both speakers focused only on ways to improve shelters not help everyone improve adoptions.

Too rushed. 2nd speaker did not have time to fully expound on her subject and it was clear she was way more prepared (and more informative) than the first speaker. Should have just been her speaking.

The actual session had almost nothing to do with the description of it. Rather than talking about, and presenting good ideas and examples. Half the session was spent talking about a relatively mediocre shelter (and yes, I was there just a couple months ago) which is in no way like what it was being described.

Again, we are a small rescue - about 50 volunteers and 6 part time staff.

Most we already do - open evening hrs. and Sat. hours - we do have an open house tho' once a yr. - we do advertise in several papers and are on Facebook. We can improve and get a few ideas.

I loved this session, it was my favorite. The pictures of the shelters and the transformations they went through were really inspiring.

This could have been two sessions; there was so much good information to share

We just had our first "off-site" adoption event at a local pet supply store. I now have many more ideas for an event like this. I really enjoyed the session and came away with a lot of knowledge and ideas!

I was disappointed in the content. I didn't gain new information or knowledge from attending.

Was not able to get to this one because it conflicted with another session. Would like to be able to attend all sessions next year. Able to have be able to schedule to see all would be great.

I really enjoyed this!

Some good advice but could have heard more about programs.

Since this wasn't a session that was repeated I did not have the opportunity to attend this one, I was at the Shelter. I thought it was extremely important that everyone have the chance to see this one! I felt all sessions should have been repeated at least once.

Was very impressed with what Oakland County has done, and the impact their shelter has on their community.

Both speakers had great experiences to share, but not enough time. Each one needed / deserved full hour or should have combined their presentation by topic to compare/contrast some common or different aspects. Focus was more on broader "shelter image" which was very good, but I was expecting more specific ways to promote individual pets. Maybe a future session on this would be helpful.

I expected this to be more about unique adoption programs (like Suzanne K showed at lunch time). I didn't realize it was more of "what your shelter can do to improve".

Had more information but had to rush through with time issues.

It was informative and showed how some ACs see themselves in a positive way. Unfortunately, there are still some in MI that do very little to promote animal adoption. OCAC has done an excellent job in this regard, but always room for improvement.

would've liked more general ideas that anyone could use - a lot of it focused on Oakland and how they specifically function. Most of us don't have prisoners to clean for us!

Any chance that some of these ideas (or the video of the session) could be made available for others to see, and to refresh our memory?

17. Please rate the Pit Bull Dilemma session. - Comments

Answer

I would have liked to attend this session. Please offer it next year.

This was a subject I was very interested in and Bless Diana and Joni!! They may not be the best speaker choice but that's not their fault; they save bullies and are not public speakers.

I was a speaker

Wish there was more time for them to be able to finish there slide show and talk.

I love the pit bulls. I decided this is such a big battle at GCAC as they will not adopt out pits or pit mixes. GCAC euthanizes many per week. It is so unfair and so overwhelming. Even the babies are euthanized. We know groups that are continuously contacting the commissioners regarding the pit bulls. I support them 100% but can only fight so many battles

Another one that I wasn't able to attend because it wasn't repeated

Audience members were interrupting the speakers and the speakers were running out of time near the end, so they had to speed through it. Also, I was hoping that the speakers would de-bunk some myths about pit bulls and have more background on the breed.

Presenters did not seem very educated. Just hard headed that they were the end all for pit bulls.

needed more time and room

I was hearing mixed messages from the presenters during the session, i.e., pit bulls should not legally be treated differently from other dogs, BUT you have to be very careful in adoptions since they can "change" at adulthood even with proper socializing/training through the puppy stage. I ended up talking with the 2 presenters later in the day to clear up my confusion. They agreed that part of their presentation was sending mixed messages and clarified the issue for me.

My fellow volunteer RAVED about this session.

This was one I had wanted to see but had to give up on, b/c we didn't have enough slots!

Could not have had two better speakers at this session.

No time for questions

They spent WAY too much time discussing babesia and not enough time talking about Pit Bulls and the dilemmas we all face to find them good homes...

Informative for those in favor of and unsure of.

18. Please rate the Shelter Health session. - Comments

Answer

I would have liked handouts explaining more - devil in the details. It was a bit repetitive.

Lot of repeat info.

Good - a little 'boring' content, but learned some points that will definitely help. Again, a bigger shelter with in-house vets - we don't have that - so much of what he talked about was from a bigger shelter view.

It was boring for me, but I don't work at a shelter; I help a rescue group, but I am a key foster for a lot of their cats. I didn't find the info helpful. I left halfway thru it.

Was not able to get to this one because it conflicted with another session. Would like to be able to attend all sessions next year. Able to have been able to schedule to see all would be great.

The members in our group know that the cages must be cleaned properly from corner to corner. We decided that other sessions would be more informative due to time restraints

Informative. Good speakers.

Not working in direct care of animals, I learned a lot, however, I did think it could be organized a little differently because the "bullets" under each category were repeated but the info was the same. Made note-taking difficult and redundant.

Could not attend due to it not being repeated.

Great speaker, however the information was old. I've read the new shelter guidelines so most information was repetitive.

needed more time and room.

Good overview. Would like to see sessions in the future that cover sources for "best practice" procedures and how to evaluate / audit your own environment.

Would love to have attended. Future topic request: foster home / rescue health. I think we should hear from vets about what quarantines, treatment, timing of vaccines is appropriate for rescue animals in our homes (already pulled from shelter).

He stayed within the time period, but most of what he said was very basic. I already know to keep kennels clean and wash hands and teach staff well, what I needed was HOW the best way to do this was. Otherwise, he was a very entertaining speaker.

DVM (sorry can't remember his name!) was very informative and welcomed questions - lots of basic info covered in such a short time.

too broad a topic for the time provided

Don't think the presenter truly understands the concept of NO KILL as Nathan Winograd has expressed it in his book.

While not wanting to encourage killing, there is a different passion when one embraces the No Kill Equation with understanding of the broad concept.

Like that the speaker invited us to email him with any questions we might think of later.

19. Please rate the Reducing Surrenders/Increasing Redemptions and Getting More Animals Home session. -

Answer

I would have liked to attend this session, please offer it next year.

Excellent!!!

The content was not what I expected, but I really enjoyed (and learned from) Jeff.

Excellent. The speakers were very good. I liked the ideas presented and could see how they could be implemented anywhere.

Give us new ideas to keep the pets in their home and not at the shelter.

Was not able to get to this one because it conflicted with another session. Would like to be able to attend all sessions next year. Able to have be able to schedule to see all would be great.

This was my favorite breakout session

Randazzo was excellent. A whole session on community legislation would be of great benefit.

Jeff Randazzo's presentation was excellent.

Case study of Sterling heights wasn't connected well with the topic.

Was different than what I was expecting...

Another one I didn't want to miss, but didn't have an option to see.

Speakers were so encouraging and offered some great insights into their situations.

this was very good for us since our county is both humane society and animal control, both run poorly.

20. Please rate Shelters/Rescues/Fosters - Working Together session. - Comments

Answer

really wasn't what I was looking for , and seemed to stay on one area of working together.

Courtney was a wonderful speaker and shared a lot of informative info. They had a great presentation, and you could see that they cared about what they were doing. Jodi also shared a lot of great info, though she seemed a little shy to speak in front of everyone.

I applaud their efforts and the work they do, and the speaker who said that we should close our doors to out of state shelters and only focus on MI should be ashamed.

Courtney Protz-Sanders was a good presenter and actually talked about something that was relevant to the topic. The examples were great and the slideshow was quite good too. Jodi Harding on the other hand needed to talk a lot more.

Thought this was going to be more about networking between shelters. The speakers were good, but we the content was about pulling dogs/cats from other shelters and we thought just more about working together in the community. This session was a little repetitive, they tended to only speak on communication.

I learned some helpful things, but would like to have heard more from the shelter perspective. The majority of the presentation was given from the rescue perspective, which has different challenges.

I found we have lots of work to do but once we are on the same page we will start something big.

Wish they had more time for there topics. The session before ran long and they had to cut their time short.

Maybe this was my favorite breakout session! It was all so informative.

Not enough discussion at this table, although I did get lots of good info from the discussion leader.

Probably above good, but not quite outstanding. They kept my attention and while there was not a whole of lot "new" info, their comments inspired further thought and questions.

I would have rather attended some of the other ones that weren't repeated.

This was the only part of the conference that directly applied to an organization such as ours.

Great presenters and well organized. (This was one presentation where UPAWS had 2 representatives.)

Great working relationship this shelter and rescue have. This is dynamic and a wonderful example of how the two can work together, with respect.

This session wasn't as professionally run as the others I attended. It was more "you need to do this, I always do this" and not very objective.

These two speakers played very well off each other. They had a good speaking technique. Questions were answered, and while they didn't get to cover everything, they sent us away with some new ideas. Well done.

It was well done and showed the importance of all of us working together to get things done and to stop the turf wars. Seemed geared toward rescues and fosters, not much help for the shelter side.

Our local shelter will not work with us, but we have reached out to two shelters within an hour and a half drive and they both work with us. It's always good to work toward the same goal...

This was good to get both sides (a shelter and a rescue) of a successful partnership

Any chance of getting notes or video from this session?

This area is one of the most difficult to manage. For some reason we have difficulty playing nice together and I simply do not understand why.

coming from a successful shelter (in another county) and now starting a foster based rescue it reinforced the good we do and gave me new ideas.

21. Please rate Michigan Animal Welfare Initiatives (Puppy Mills) session. - Comments

Answer

I'm glad this was offered.

But I was impressed with the speaker as I attended her round table discussion

Pam was very inspirational. Great story to show how one person can make a difference. You don't have to be with a shelter or have the experience as long as you have the DRIVE to make it happen.

Was not able to get to this one because it conflicted with another session. Would like to be able to attend all sessions next year. Able to have be able to schedule to see all would be great.

A member of the group attended this. She is also member of Puppy Mill Awareness. We are all very informed on puppy mills. They should all be out of business! GCAC has a Family Puppy Store in our local mall. What a disgrace this was allowed.

It's good to step outside our comfort zone.

22. Please rate Michigan Legislation to End Pound Seizure and Gas Chamber Euthanasia session. -

Answer

I'm glad this was offered.

They getting the word out.

My Favorite!

Again, allowed me to feel that I can make a difference and gave me good, concise info on what to do.

This was one of the topics that drew me to the conference and Allie did a fabulous job.

Everything was very current. I learned a lot about pending legislation and will begin writing letters to Congress to get these laws passed that are so desperately needed for animals. The speaker was very dedicated to the causes and very well-informed about all the issues. I was shocked at some of the groups opposing these issues.

Was not able to get to this one because it conflicted with another session. Would like to be able to attend all sessions next year. Able to have be able to schedule to see all would be great.

I did not attend this one. Luckily GCAC does not gas. I would have been in tears during the session. I have signed the petition

The facts need to be accurate. Do not paint the veterinarian as the bad guy.

I intended to attend this session, but ended up spending the time talking with the Pit Bull presenters. Frankly, I was unaware the Michigan still had shelters operating with these programs. Very disheartening and I plan to do more research on this topic to determine how I/we can have our voices heard.

Very effective and passionate speaker. I certainly understand more about the situation now than before and appreciate the willingness of these folks to speak up for the voiceless.

I went right out to their table and asked for petitions to be e-mailed to me.

I was moved!

I enjoyed this session the most

Near and dear to me, was so glad this was a topic!

23. Please rate the Successfully Using Social Media session. - Comments

Answer

So important for success, many people are unaware of potential though. Please offer next year.

Decent for older people who are not familiar with how to use social media, but nothing new for younger people. No good advice, and mainly just a repeat of what we should all already know.

I was very sorry I didn't get to attend this one on Thursday evening :-(. Wish it had been offered at a time the next day that I could have made it to.

Jessica Stout seemed to know (for the most part) what she was talking about, but the actual presentation was dumbed down to such a point that it basically came down to "did you know that there is this website called facebook?"

And while I understand that yes some people can be a bit technology illiterate, not everything needs to be aimed at the lowest end.

She is a good speaker, has great information and ideas - probably the best session I attended

I really liked that petfinder came to speak at the event. I knew most of the ins and outs of facebook and twitter but hearing more about their importance was valuable.

This was great too, but there was SO much! My age group (50s) is trying to get into this, but it was rather mind-boggling. I would like further training on how to post photos and descriptions on websites to further increase adoptions.

Wow! Overwhelming! The speaker, as most of the people in the room, had much more experience than I regarding this topic. I took lots of notes (would love to have had handouts), and hope to find someone to help me figure out what all of it means.

Was not able to get to this one because it conflicted with another session. Would like to be able to attend all sessions next year. Able to have been able to schedule to see all would be great.

Learned some new tools. Great speaker. Very explanatory. Hope she comes back next year!

Was a good overview, but may have been too elementary for most.

Perhaps because our shelter already does almost everything presented, I ended up bored. I think I only picked up maybe two or three little tidbits to bring back. I'm not faulting the speaker, just probably the wrong workshop for me and our shelter.

I thought I knew so much about this already. I learned a great deal.

Very knowledgeable but covered a very wide range of topics so that people experienced with social media didn't get as much as the rank beginners.

I thought this would be about how to use social media to enhance and increase traffic flow and adoptions. Instead, it ended up being a "how to use" Facebook and Twitter. I couldn't taught that session.

Jessica Stout did an awesome job - She has a high level of public speaking skills, explains her topic well, is very thorough, and takes needed time to answer any questions/concerns - - This was my favorite session!

best speaker

Not much useful info and assumed everyone was already using the tools.

This was very discouraging because the presenter did not have extensive knowledge about social media (and if she did, she didn't present it). She said numerous times that she didn't have experience using certain tools and she couldn't explain some basic concepts of social media. When I looked at her Twitter account, she hasn't used it since September 15 - she probably shouldn't be the social media "expert" at the conference...

speaker knows her subject, it was just over my head (and interest level)

I went to the Thursday evening session. Since I am not really familiar with the ins and outs of the social media, I was a bit overwhelmed. I plan to purchase the books like Facebook For Dummies so I can get up to speed.

We came home and immediately started working on this. Great information; well presented.

not being too familiar i had plenty of information and suggestions to pass on regarding facebook & petfinder. we will probably be contacting people that I met during this session to get more help.

24. Please rate the Mobile Workshop Shelter Tour. - Comments

Answer

Very good speakers and it was good to attend and learn all items. Great handouts with links to others available.

Please offer this next year!!!

My husband was impressed!

Incredible!

I did not go but I will hopefully will go! It looks awesome!

What a phenomenal facility! We can all dream of having one like it some day! I got a lot of ideas on improving our cat rooms, and on promoting our pets. Please extend my gratitude!

I did the Thursday Tour and the ladies were awesome. Would have liked to had just a little more time. But went back on Saturday before we left. They were very helpful and friendly.

I did not attend this tour because i decided i could drive to the shelter and do a visit. I wanted to attend as many breakout sessions that i could

My only complaint is that it was too short. We are in the beginning stages of building a new shelter and had a million questions on the nitty gritty, including what they would do differently. Again, wonderful staff, beautiful facility.

It can be done!

That experience will always be with me. What a goal.

Beautiful facility. Hard work and commitment put into the building!

OMG! Was simply AMAZED at this facility, the pleasant atmosphere, professionalism, and quality of people there - BRAVO!!! This is one of the ultimate shelters in my opinion, and gave me (and our group) the encouragement to go after what it will take to improve on our own shelter here in Muskegon!

I live nearby and had already visited the shelter on my own recently ... AWESOME and inspiring!

Loved the new shelter! We are in the early stages of looking at a new shelter so it was great to see innovative ideas to possibly incorporate into our (still yet to be decided) plans....first we need to figure out how we are going to get the \$\$\$\$ to accomplish our goal.

This was the highlight for me. It was the first tour on Thursday and it was very well done. Transportation was easy, folks who gave the tours were very knowledgeable on what they had built and why, pointed out lots of details they planned for, told of the path they took to get there, shared ways to raise money, and allowed for questions and plenty of time in each area. Well done. (Kelly Schwartz was our guide)

I really enjoyed!!!

WOW

Gave me great information and insight. Our tour guide was wonderful and really answered questions, took time to make sure everyone saw what they wanted to see.....

I didn't think it was very informative - seemed more like a general tour a girl scout group or something would get than a tour for other rescue/shelter workers.

heard this was one of the best offers

I have been to the shelter on several occasions and think it is GREAT !

Out of this world. We just went through a major shelter addition and we could put our shelter into the indoor exercise area (not really). A beautiful example of what you can do.

gave my spot to another attendee from my group. I hope to contact the shelter for a personal tour soon.

25. Which day(s) do you prefer to attend a conference? - Comments

Answer

Not Sundays

I think any event important as this is okay to be on any day because I will go!

Our facility had to close for two days - a Wed/Thurs would only be one closed day.

Now that I'm retired it really doesn't matter.

It is hard for some of us to attend on week days, because some of us need to work. It is hard to get time off.

It really does not matter. If it falls on a work day i will take the day off

I am retired.

It doesn't matter.

I was unable to take 2 days off of work in a row.

Attaching a future conference to weekend just makes it easier for staff/board members to attend.

Its my only day off from work

I think your Thursday into Friday worked awesome.

I'd have to take days off anyway, I work afternoons.

I think it should be 2 days.

I am retired and I have no preference.

Any day can work for me....

For us this would make it a long weekend for traveling purposes.

Saturday is our regular adoption event day, so would not be as good. Friday's are a bit harder, but any day except

Saturday would be fine.

You nailed it spot-on.

we live in a very summer orientated community - so in summer it would be hard. any other time of year any day

26. How much do you expect to pay for a one-day animal welfare conference? - Other responses

Answer

If worth it, cost does not matter.

between \$50 - \$100

26. How much do you expect to pay for a one-day animal welfare conference? - Comments

Answer

I would expect a bit more if lunch is included....perhaps \$75 or so.

Bec I took the shelter tour on Friday, I only had time to attend two breakout sessions. I guess I should have gone on the Thurs afternoon/evening session to catch one more breakout class. This could easily have been two days. You can probably repeat all or most of these sessions bec people could only go to two.

It was well worth the \$49 when you factor in the Nathan Winograd book.

\$40 would be nice.

Maybe higher, depending on content, take-aways, and food.

I don't know.

I think there should be separate prices for students though, and also market the conference to students! It would be great to see more there!

or 2 day for under \$100 if more sessions were offered and evening networking opportunities

But...it also depends on how valuable the topics are to our future (all of Michigan, not just the UP) and how much can be accomplished.

I sincerely appreciated the \$59 cost. It made the conference accessible for all of our volunteers.

In animal welfare we are always of the mindset 'low cost' --and city Animal Controls probably don't have excess funds. Everything in rescue 'goes for the animals'...but I also go to medical conferences, and they are loads more expensive for not much more than what you gave us. I think somewhere in the middle is fair, or if you can get grants to help cover, under 40\$ would increase your attendance by leaps and bounds!

For 2 days I would pay \$100-125.

You offered an incredible value. A huge thank you to your sponsors.

depends on where the conference is, what the topic is, what's included

I would have gone even if it was more expensive. However, getting multiple attendees from rescue groups and shelters would definitely impacted by higher costs.

You did this at a very reasonable cost and this allowed us to send more people. There was NOTHING wrong with the quality of the food or facility. Very nice job!

This was very value orientated!!! well worth the money paid.

27. I prefer breakout sessions to be - Other responses

Answer

1-2 hours

1 or 1.5 hours

Depends on topic

Do not have them!!!!

1 - 2 hours

27. I prefer breakout sessions to be - Comments

Answer

It seemed really rushed, and I think the presenters should get more time to speak.

1 hour sessions everyone was running over so I think if it was a little longer that would be perfect and leave time for questions.

It may be that more time could be used as there was never much time for Q/A.

I prefer not to have more than two speakers per session - too confusing with more than 2 speakers, even on the same topic.

It depends on the topic. Some can be handled in one hour, some can not.

One to 1.5 is good. If needed, topics could be 2 back to back sessions.

I think it sometimes depends on the topic.

It seems like the breakout sessions were rushed, and we did not have time for questions.

I think they need more time so no one feels rushed but needs more time between them too. One hour was fine but i would hate to see the speaker rushed. They were all so informative Over 1 hour and I tend to get information overload and bored. It might help to establish breakout groups by region as well. There are lots of folks in my area that I would like to get to know.

I would prefer to have only two sessions to choose between. One hour long.

I don't feel 1 hr. was enough time to cover the topic throughly enough and have time for q/a. The one hour length is good - Unless there's additional time for various activities associated with a session. speakers should structure content to allow at least 15 min for Q & A within the hour I don't really have a preference. I would just like the presenters to have the time they need or to be able to trim their presentations to the time they have. At the very minimum, it should be 1.5 hours but I strongly suggest having a facilitator at each table to guide the discussion. I was at the volunteer breakout session and since no one was there to 'guide' the discussion, I started it. The first 2 people who were asked to talk about their volunteer program ended up complaining about their personal experiences/issues within their volunteer program. I wanted to say "pull up your big girl pants, it's not about you", but instead I left. I found that I knew much of what folks were talking about b/c they had to cover a lot in just 45m-1h by the time they got talking about the topic--so it was all basics. 1.5h might allow for more details and more q&a also. Q&A is important andit takes time. I liked the 1 hour sessions...just right for sitting comfortably! This time frame would probably allow for people to get more sessions in.

depends on the subject; some topics like shelter medicine may be better served with 2 hours. If I know my specific questions will be address, the lenght does not matter Or 1 hour to allow more sessions. It seems that an hour would not give the presenters enough time to allow for questions. I think some of them felt very cut short. Even with enough time for presentation, not enough time for Q/A Sessions should be as long as it takes to relay the information without being rushed and still provide question and answer ability

more topic specific so you could go discuss and get help where you really need it.

28. What topics would you like to see covered at future conferences? - Responses

Answer

Rescues helping pets still in homes find homes prior to surrendering them to shelters. Promoting home to home adoptions more through rescues. We've tried this over the last two years and it has both saved lives and brought in fund raising dollars

https://richlandanimalrescue.org/Home_to_Home.html

Working with local governments.

The topics were all great topics, but you should get better speakers who can share more useful info that will benefit rescues as well as shelters.

Fund raising-marketing-advertising

Not sure

n/a

I cannot think of any because there was a very good variety chosen there. But maybe something on big successful fundraising.

Basic psychology and human behavior.

More shelters/rescues working together, temperament issues with pit bulls, BSL, maybe breed specific experts?

Example: there must be a Neopolitan Mastiff BYB near certain areas because there have been a lot recently. Certain breeds have traits that make them "not for everyone"

Something more directed at the smaller rescues. We feel a little overwhelmed when we hear of 70 employees and 550 volunteers. Would like to also hear more about how a small rescue - not animal control or humane society manages.

The "How to" sessions I mentioned above. (I tried to go back to find the question number where I explained this, but I couldn't go back and now I may have messed up the whole survey!)

Education to irresponsible pet owners.

Feral cat colony care.

Pet safety - (microchips,safety tags)

how to overcome adversity, take down a bad director / shelter

Technology training....slowly :) I would like to learn one specific thing; how to put photos and descriptions on a site so that we can increase adoptions.

Social Networking

Grant Writing/Research

Fundraising

Volunteer Retention/Recruitment

Foster Home Development

Even tho it was already in some of the material covered at this conference, I think it's important to continue emphasizing being less judgmental so more pets can be adopted. Some rescue groups function with a ton of rules, with no room for any exceptions. They don't look at the overall family; they try to change the people & tell them what to do.

Microchipping, Vet cost, petstores

The same as this year...things are always changing.

1) I would love to know how to break through to a shelter director and shelter employees that bad mouth the volunteers and have zero respect for the animals that are in the shelter. 2) I would like to learn how to get the Commissioners and MDA to listen and make change 3) I would also like to know how to make the employees do their job or be fired

Fund raising, Grant writing. How to identify common pet illnesses. How to administer medications to animals. More hands on information on animals.

Free roaming cats. I would like this to be a large focus. we know that 70% of the euthanasias in this state are cats. The greatest predictive indicator for euthanasia for a cat is to go into a shelter. We need to get together as a state and come up with a way to change that.

Best practices. We all invent the wheel - save us time getting there. Regional cooperation could be productive. Fundraising, Board Development, Administrative, Grant Writing/Resources, Shelter Sponsorships, Volunteer recruitment/management/training, adoption programs, how to change boards and community thinking to a no-kill mentality, how to write interesting, eye-catching and effective newsletters.

Volunteer programs and retention. When is euthanasia OK. Specific breakdowns of programs to help end killing. Board involvement and responsibilities. Behavior Programs. Successful employee recognition.

Fundraising, grant writing, media relations

A session devoted to cats. Some of the speakers made great points on increasing cat adoption rates, how to keep them healthy in a shelter, and how to increase the spay/neuter numbers. It would be nice to have all that information in one session.

These were very good topics. I was sorry I had to miss some due to time constraints.

bookkeeping

Grant writing.

Steps toward creating a "No Kill" Animal Facility

Something like a Financial Annuity set up for the facility so that the money always continues to be there on a monthly basis.

Animal rescue

Rescues working with pounds saving animals from euthanization

How to build our rescue. Recruit more volunteers and fosters. Get more pets adopted, quickly.

Maybe something on successful shelter management...

Somewhat of the same topics as this just different presenters. Such as ones with different organizations.

fundraising

I like learning all aspects but the topics need to be more informative and in depth.

Spay & Neutering.

Maybe an advanced and basic social media presentation, maybe some sort of break out to help build cooperation by regions, maybe a Q&A session where organizations can ask marketing/social media/PR people about their public awareness campaigns, and a basic PR crash course (how to make contacts, what to share in a press release, etc.).

How to effectively reach out to shelters with high kill rates to change the entire state. There is a lot of work to be done, but how do you approach shelters that kill about alternatives and actually change them. I advocate getting personally involved on the board and changing from within but I'm sure there may be other methods.

healthy wildlife being euthanized at county shelters.

Animal Control Officers vs: County Shelters.

BSL,How to start a rescue,Pit Bulls,maybe something about farm animals and maybe something about animal friendly diets (vegans)

See my other comments, then also:

1. How to work to remove a non-compassionate leader at an animal control facility? Further, how to find and hire a compassionate leader

2. More discussion on "too strict" adoption requirements. I wonder if we really are helping our adopted animals with our strict vet checks and 100% sterilization policy.

I'd still like to see the lectures I missed at this one! :) Pit bulls, feral animals coming into shelters, legislation to get behind, no kill plans for city pounds that don't have support or funding, etc.

Customer Service

Working with Volunteers

Grant Writing and finding Grants

All Cat issues (I'm a cat person)

Just rescue related issues (secrets to working with pounds and animal control)

Basic assessment techniques used by shelters for intake of animals.

Common behavioral problems and simple solutions.

Pit bull adoptions, low cost spay/neuter programs, temperament testing/evaluation, intake record-keeping issues

Find a way to dissolve this organizational poison, the thing that keeps us sniping at each other. Maybe even bring in a consultant.

We know the pieces that must be in place, the rescues, the fosters, the sterilization, but where to begin. How can we break this down into manageable pieces?

topics covered here were all good.

Grant application writing/format(s).

How can we bring a low-cost spay and neuter clinic to our area?

Considering the established link between violence against animals and violence in society, what types of educational programs are available that members of the animal welfare community could bring into the schools for brief interactive sessions.

enrichment ideas for cats and dogs,

training new volunteers

Getting the most out of your volunteers.

Finding NO KILL leadership. Promoting "new thinking" candidates for shelter and animal control leadership.

First aid for dogs or some sort of medical class for dogs.

Transport as a separate session. Rules, regulations and advice for adoptions

Customer Service, volunteer recruitment, retention, and recognition, team building

Progress made by shelters who attended this conference. Some type of voluntary "certification" for non-shelter rescues who have the animal's best interest at heart : eg: Non-profit, 501c3, Vaccinations and sterilizations prior to adoptions, adoption applications and contracts VS Puppy mill pups sold for \$400 cash and no vet care or paperwork.

Getting shelter volunteers to abide by a motto such as "it's all about the animals" (and not just me). My biggest frustration is the sniping and back-biting amongst shelter staff and volunteers.

more on pet overpopulation and how to prevent it

More rescue-friendly, or relationship-building topics. Most were geared more to shelter environment.

Behaviour assessment for cats and dogs, how to work with city councils to change shelter hours to be more public friendly.

dealing with local government - long term shelter directorates. Gaining community support.

29. What presenter would you would like to see at a future conference? - Responses

Answer

Courtney, Jodi, Susan and Tanya. They were my favourite speakers.

I wish Debbie Schutt would have talked longer.

Myself Kathryn Hancock TNR program Coordinator for Huron Valley Humane Society this will give me the chance to have people understand the program why it works and why it is so important for all of us to do it!

I loved the people who spoke and everyone's choices on who to pick to speak!

See previous question.....maybe AKC person for a certain breed each year? Or, a group of breeds? More geared toward difficult breeds?

Nathan Winogard

Nathan Winograd

A pedigree representative.

Petco rep

Larry Obrecht

Jeff Randazzo

Debbie Schutt

Any and all were truly excellent. I really think Deb Schutt was my favorite!

Cesar Milan!

Tanya, Debbie Schutt; anyone who has run a successful shelter with regard to a lot of adoptions, with emphasis on what they look for in an adopter.

All of them they were amazing.

Deborah Schutt

Jamie Mcaloon

Diana McKay & Joanie Wazney

Susanne Kogut

Dayna Kennedy

Jodi Hading

Allie Phillips

Jessica Stout

Richard Angelo JR PLLC

Humane Society of Huron Valley

I enjoyed all the presenters and hope they all would return!

Don't know

Someone from the veterinary community who is versed on the veterinary community's official position on rescue. My hope is to begin to foster a relationship between these two groups.

??????

Myself, Dayna Kennedy:)

Also, Debbie Schutt.

Courtney Protz-Sanders.

Maybe the Directors/Managers of the shelters who had the highest save rates

ALWAYS Ms. Shutt!

A Michigan lawyer who is active in the ALDF.

Don't really have anyone in particular in mind.

The ones who did the Pitbull Dilemma session!

More DVMs or other people with long careers in animal welfare that can give interesting insight.

?

Peter Shankman, HARO founder. Possibly myself (and I promise, I'm not saying as an ego trip, but because I think I probably could do a good job as a speaker) on a basic social media front, possibly on how to network, or as part of a panel to discuss pr/social media.

Beyond the people who presented at this conference, I would really have to think about that..

Myself, Jeff Randazzo

Topics: Animal Control Officers, and their important roles for "Getting to the Goal"

Joanie Wazney and also The speaker from the SPAC in Virginia she was AMAZING

Humane Alliance

more Shelter Health sessions

more Deborah Schutt and her experiences/successes

? Not even sure! But you did good picking this time...

Another person for an SPCA or similar doing an excellent job and than telling us how they did it. Being some who is approachable.

Christine Conklin, Michigan Weimaraner Rescue (behavior evaluator)

Dr. Michele Finateri, Michigan Dept of Ag

Rebecca Huss, Valparaiso University (Vick dog special guardian)

Ledy VanKavage, Senior Legislative Attorney, Best Friends Animal Society

Tim Racer and Donna Reynolds, BAD RAP (Pit bull rescue, both originally from Michigan)

Nathan Winograd!

No specific preference. Feel those presenters provided to be excellent in their presentation and in the knowledge on subject(s) they represented.

A person talking about targeting schools where violence against animals and people is a problem, and suggesting ways to send out an "army of peacemakers" from the animal rescue community, armed with puppets (for younger children), and an appropriate, interactive curriculum. Ask me!

Courtney from Paws for life

Representatives from PetCo and PetSmart giving advice on adoptions in their stores and their expectations.

Guidelines that all rescues adhere to.

Deb Shutt

Debbie Oberle

Can't help here.

Deborah again. Someone from Best Friends, Animal Farm Foundation

Cesar Millan, Victoria Stilwell, Sarah Wilson, Gary Wilkes, Ian Dunbar.

30. If we produce a No-Kill Conference next year will you attend? - Other responses

Answer

Maybe

Hopefully!!!!!!

maybe
Probably.
Probably

Not sure
Depends

not sure
Would depend on the agenda.
depends on price, content and location
Not sure depends on who is on the committee

30. If we produce a No-Kill Conference next year will you attend? - Comments

Answer

Will have several volunteers attend.
Yes for sure no doubt! (unless no one else from my rescue goes because I'm not old enough to drive yet lol but I'm sure they will because they loved it too!!)
If it would be merely a repeat of the exact same topic as this year, honestly no.

However if there are some good new presenters talking about excellent ideas rather than just recycling what the person that came before them said, then yes.

Most definitely!

Did we reach out to other states? Might be interesting to hear how their rescues/shelters work

I can't wait for next year's conference!

I would say yes at this time.

And I hope to bring several members of my Board!

Wouldn't miss it!

Yes and have several new people coming with me already...just need a date.

Our group will be doing a fundraiser so those who cannot afford to go can attend. This year 6 members attended.

Next year there should be no reason for at least 20 plus to attend

Definitely.

yes

Definately!

Please keep me informed!!!!

Would have to see the class listings and who the presenters would be.

I would LOVE to! I was very grateful to Debbie for accepting my late registration. Next year, I will register early! If I'm local in MI, I will attend (and if you have it in the UP, I'd love to plan a vacation around it!)

I would come again.

I would definitely attend and I hope that next year my community is committed to being a "No Kill Community!" Absolutely!

and would bring more attendees

31. Do you have any suggestions for improving the conference? - Responses

Answer

Focus more on rescues too, this conference seemed way to focused on shelters and not enough on rescues.

Not at this time.

no. I really enjoyed myself and can't think of a way to make things better.

Just maybe bigger session rooms, longer session hours, little bigger menu.

Consider that a very large portion of your audience were in rescues, not shelters, and yet the whole conference seemed to revolve around nothing but shelters, shelters and more shelters.

Nothing other than small items mentioned throughout the survey.

I made a few suggestions in answering the above questions.

I missed out on a few sessions that I would have loved to attend but they were in conflict with another. Repeat more of the sessions would be my suggestion.

Have more people speak who do hands on animal care daily.

Just...healthier food choices (fruit!); and not eating lunch while a speaker is speaking....if time is the issue then do the round table discussions then or something.

Again, it would be helpful to have the location more toward the center of the state. And having a pet-friendly location would be great for those of us who have dogs we can't leave behind. In our profession, we often adopt the ones with issues!

There were enough classes I wanted to attend that I think it could go into two full days.

CHANGE THE FOOD.

You did an amazing job putting this together.

I would encourage more Vets, students, vendors with a reduced fee to attend next year.

Longer sessions, more time between them and maybe even a extra day.

If i have the opportunity to answer this at a later time i may have an answer. At this time i cannot think of a way to improve other than more vendors

Larger veterinary conference to open lines of communication

Focus on how to spay/neuter Pit bulls.

Focus on free roaming cats.

More regional networking to build stronger bonds in certain areas.

Already addressed. The only other thing is that I would really like to see is a list of shelters/attendees attending prior to the conference. It might allow for carpooling, and also alert us to look try to meet up with those we might have talked to on the phone, or would particularly like to talk to for other reasons.

Two full days.

More room for main presentations and exhibitors. Also, less confusion and noise during keynote presentation.

Longer!!! I could have stayed a few days!

nope. you are doing a great job!

More items for breakfast. It doesn't have to be elaborate, but there wasn't even any juice or fruit.

You did an excellent job.

Maybe more activities for the various attendees and shelters to get to know each other - Little games, Q&A sessions, etc.

Longer breaks in between each session to visit the exhibits and use the rest room or grab something to drink etc

More informative speakers.

bigger rooms and more time

Try not to book speakers at the same time.

have you considered an "open space" concept for defining topics of interest and creating working sessions for people to network and share more ideas on "how to implement"?

Having a dedicated space for exhibitors that isn't a hallway, signs pointing to presentations/rooms that weren't in the "main corridor," and maybe having the round tables in a couple of different locations, so that different groups aren't competing to be heard.

Breakout sessions should be in separate rooms as it was sometimes too noisy to hear each other. Again, facilitators at each table or I will have to get mean in order to keep the group on topic. LOL! Also, we need to really refine the definitions of 'open' and 'closed' admission and allow for some different categories.

March was really good timing. Snow wasn't bad and no one is busy yet with summer. Perfect!

Just do more repeats of the lectures or have less lectures. I hated missing some of the topics.

Longer.

None already not mentioned. Primarily space and lengthen it. People would love it.

I do not....for a first time conference you have raised the bar very high!

I would like to make it a two day conference maybe having three or four sessions a day.

I would have like an email before giving me info on the sessions so I would have had more opportunity to think about the sessions that I wanted to attend.

As stated, well organized and information provided to be most valuable.

Yes, see my other comments.

try to address the one or items, or specific questions each participant provides (if it is submitted in a timely fashion)

Keep the school girls at home

I would like to see high school/college students invited. I would like the governor to be invited.

Should be in the Detroit area at a bigger venue

have a list of attendees and affiliations so that we can get an idea of who is attending

More space, more time.

could you bring it to northern michigan so local govt officials and community leaders could attend. we're near

mackinac bridge and would love to have something up here so more people could attend --

32. Would you like to be on a future conference planning committee? - Comments

Answer

I have to say no because I'm underage for something like this. If this is still going on when I am older I would be thrilled to help!!!

Hmm... Yes, it wold be rather interesting, and I have tons of great ideas, but at the same time, I would want to do it only if others involved would be interested in making the conference the best it can be rather than stroking their own egos.

Example: If someone says to someone else "I do not think that this or that is a good idea because of, and here is my reasoning", others can take it like mature adults rathe then going "boo hoo hoo, how dare you critique my flawless ideas"...

As a rescue rep, I don't know that I would know enough about what shelters and humane societies need

I do not believe that I am knowledgeable enough at this time. But maybe in the future.

I wish I could, but have no extra time.

Maybe. It depends if I'm working or not.

Not at this time. I work full time at a dental office, foster cats, rescue, transport 20-40 cats every week to CSNIP before work, adoptions every weekend at PetCO. and at night T/N/R.

I would love to help and plan in anyway you need it. Willing to travel for meetings.

My schedule does not permit me to do much else

I would have no clue what it would entail, but I am always open.

I really don't know what I have to offer but would not object to helping in some way, if there was a way I could help.
Thanks anyway.
Not sure what it would entail, but if I can help in any way, I'd be up for assisting!

Please contact me at either jessmay83@gmail.com or 231-645-0394, I would even love to volunteer at it as well!
possibly
Yes please! :)
Being so far from everyone else might make it harder for me, but I would like to help in whatever way I can.
I already indicated my interest at the message table.
Maybe one day, but not now! :)

I signed up already.

I would certainly contribute if asked, but not really my strong suit.
I would be happy to work at the event, but not be part of the planning committee.
Unfortunately my time just doesn't allow for this...
a member of my organization has already volunteered to be on the committee
As much as I would like to be involved, unfortunately my current obligations do not allow for adequate time to devote to another project.
I am not sure I want to be in on the planning, but would be willing to help with the arrangements.
I sincerely wish I could...
I wish I had the time!

unfortunately at this time I'm unable to donate any time to this..

33. Please enter the information indicated below if you want to be on a future conference committee. -