

Getting to the Goal

Michigan's No Kill Conference



Michigan Pet Fund Alliance Presents Getting to the Goal Michigan's 2012 No Kill Conference

Lansing Radisson (111 N. Grand Avenue) – Thursday, September 20th
Lansing Center (333 E. Michigan Avenue) – Friday, September 21st

Featuring



No Kill Advocacy Center Executive Director and Award Winning Writer Nathan J. Winograd. Nathan is a graduate of Stanford Law School, a former criminal prosecutor and corporate attorney, has spoken nationally and internationally on animal sheltering issues, has written animal protection legislation at the state and national level, has created successful No Kill programs in both urban and rural communities, and has consulted with a wide range of animal protection groups including some of the largest and best known in the nation.

Two book signing opportunities will be provided at the conference with Nathan, author of **Redemption: The Myth of Pet Overpopulation & The No Kill Revolution in America** and **Irreconcilable Differences: The Battle for the Heart and Soul of America's Animal Shelters**; either bring your copy of the book(s) or purchase one at the conference.

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What people said about the 2011 Conference:



The networking was invaluable!

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

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

I even flew back to Mich. from my winter home in AZ for this conference, and I'm so glad I did!

This conference filled an unmet need - can't wait till next year's conference.

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

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

The conference afforded us all the opportunity to speak with people who have already implemented the changes and to learn from their experiences.

I've attended many conferences over the years and this is one of the best.

Truly inspiring!



Why a No Kill Conference? —————

Using the term “no kill” is a hot button for many and it will continue to be until as an animal welfare community we start using it correctly and uniformly. No Kill is about saving the life and rehoming ALL homeless healthy and treatable dogs and cats (treatable is generally defined as what the average pet owner would do to save their pet). Euthanasia is defined as ending life through an act of mercy. This year more than 100,000 homeless cats and dogs will be killed in Michigan shelters. It is estimated that over 90,000 of these homeless cats and dogs are either healthy or treatable. A recent Associated Press poll found that 71% of Americans believe that shelters should never kill animals unless they’re too sick or aggressive to be saved – the true definition of No Kill.

There is a 21st century approach – a new way of thinking and doing things – a formula that when implemented will save 90,000 or more of Michigan's homeless healthy and treatable cats and dogs. The purpose of the No Kill Conference is to:

- share the formula,
- identify and share resources,
- showcase those successfully using the formula
- provide opportunity for networking and establishing collaborations
- take a step closer to making Michigan a no kill state

Who should attend?

Shelters: Directors, staff, board members and volunteers

Municipal Decision Makers: County, township or city officials who fund and oversee animal control and shelters

Rescue organizations: Board members, staff and volunteers

Veterinarians: Working for or interested in working with shelters and rescue organizations or becoming involved in spay/neuter clinics

Animal Control: Officers

Animal Lovers and Advocates: Everyone who wants to save the lives of homeless cats and dogs in their community shelters and throughout the state

New this Year —————

There are two new exciting components to the conference this year: **Rescue Certification Training** and **Veterinarian-focused sessions**. Rescue organizations and veterinarians are both critical groups in saving the lives of homeless cats and dogs in Michigan.

Home-based – usually all-volunteer - rescue organizations provide space for homeless animals that is currently lacking at shelters. Rescues can also provide one-on-one hands-on rehabilitation for sick animals or those with behavior challenges. The Michigan Pet Fund has created a certification program for rescue organizations, which establishes organizational and animal care standards. Shelters and the public will be assured that a certified rescue is a partner that operates with appropriate practices. Sessions at the conference will explain the new certification program and offer training sessions in order to help rescue organizations become certified.

Veterinarians serve the homeless animals both at shelters and as the medical resource for hundreds of rescue organizations in Michigan. The conference provides three sessions directed to licensed veterinarians, opportunities to learn more about the problems and solutions surrounding dog and cat homelessness and offers the opportunity to network with shelter staff, rescue organizations, animal control officers and animal lovers and advocates.

The Sessions: —————

Thursday, September 20th – Radisson Hotel, Lansing

Noon – 5 p.m. Registration

1:30 – 3 p.m. Welcome & Opening Keynote: How do we get closer to the goal?

Progress is being made on a number of fronts to advance Michigan to a no-kill state. A certification program with criteria and standards is being launched to provide more creditability to the rescue

community. The Puppy Protection Act, Puppy Lemon Law, Grant's Bill (end gassing), Registry Act (requiring convicted animal abusers to be registered) and Dog Fighting Penalty Act (increasing penalties for convicted individuals) are all steps in the right direction. The status of these items along with the need for a Companion Animal Protection Act will be presented at this session. Attendees will be provided information about what they can do to make these efforts a reality.

3:15 – 4:15 p.m. Conversations with the Experts: Nathan Winograd, Don Cleary and Stacy Coleman

How many times have you attended a workshop or conference and yearned for the opportunity to speak one-on-one with the experts? Well, here is your opportunity. Two moderated sessions will allow conference attendees to ask questions and the experts to provide answers and engage in problem solving for your particular situation. This is a rare and unique opportunity to converse with Nathan Winograd (No Kill Advocacy Center), Don Cleary (Canine Research Council) and Stacy Coleman (Animal Farm Foundation). Nathan will be available to sign books after the session.

5:00 – 6 p.m. Cocktail Reception

6 p.m. Awards Banquet

Join us for cocktails, networking, dinner and the annual awards program, recognizing Michigan's best and most-improved shelters, a legislator that has made a difference in animal welfare, Michigan's tireless volunteers and, new this year, outstanding rescue organization.

Friday: September 21st – Lansing Center, Lansing

7:30 – 10 a.m. Registration

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 8:45 a.m. Welcome

8:45 – 9:45 a.m. Morning Keynote: Imagine Greatness

Speaker: Nathan Winograd, No Kill Advocacy Center

1st Breakout Session – 10:00 – 11 a.m.

Rescue Certification Program Introduction and Animal Care Standards:

Why do I want my rescue organization to become certified? This session will answer that question and introduce the Michigan Rescue Certification Program, including various aspects of conducting a professional organization, the criteria for certification regarding care philosophies, and the what and how of reporting and record-keeping for each animal in your care, along with medical, behavior and spay/neuter protocols. **Speaker:** Courtney Protz-Sanders, Executive Director and Founder, Paws for Life Rescue

Compassion Fatigue of the Animal Sheltering and Rescue Workers:

Sandy Clark, in conjunction with Shana Bombrys, will address the causes and symptoms of compassion fatigue, including how to identify the symptoms and how to take care of yourself when experiencing the symptoms. Sandy is actively researching the role of compassion fatigue for animal caretakers in rescue groups and shelter environments. She has observed and evaluated the behavior of individuals in an open admission shelter and the relative apathy that initially existed. In 2007, Sandy subsequently began to volunteer at that shelter and has been instrumental in empowering the staff of that shelter. As a result, the welfare of both the staff and the animals has greatly improved. At this time, Sandy is pursuing advanced education in compassion fatigue issues. **Speakers:** Shana Bombrys, LMSW, CADC, ADS and Sandy Clark

How to Remove “Hard to Place” From Pit Bull Adoptions:

You can dramatically increase your adoption rates of pit bulls and other breeds that the shelter may have an abundance of through innovative and accurate marketing, all-inclusive adoption programs and information for both your adopters and staff/volunteers that will get the dogs into homes faster. **Speaker:** Stacey Coleman, Animal Farm Foundation

No Kill 101: It is a term claimed by shelters and rescues that are not. It is scoffed at by high-kill shelters and the public who claim that it is irresponsible to keep “vicious” and very sick animals alive. The term “no kill” makes some cringe; after all, don’t most shelters “humanely euthanize?” Animal welfare is filled with myths and misunderstandings, including what the no kill movement is all about. This session will cover

the basics and answer questions, including what are some of the myths and misunderstandings, what are the Asilomar Accords and how should they be used, which shelters are considered no kill and why and what are the programs of the No Kill Equation, which will raise a shelter's save rate. **Speaker:** Deborah Schutt, Michigan Pet Fund

Innovation in Animal Welfare: three 20-minute presentations on innovative ways of improving the lives and care of homeless pets in our community, including:

"Avoiding BSL and Adopting Innovative Dog Laws" will examine what one animal control officer did when residents and his elected officials believed they needed a ban on pit bulls. He used the opportunity to both educate and craft an ordinance that addresses many of the concerns that were raised, but is in the best interest of the dogs in the community.

"Shelter/Community Collaboration" demonstrates that reducing shelter intake of hard-to-place dogs can be addressed through legislative action, but only if it includes a reasonable solution for the pet owner.

"Reducing Intake through Home-to-Home Program" is a re-homing program that allows pet owners who need to surrender their animal to take a more active role in their pet's placement, while providing an additional benefit to potential adopters to have firsthand information about the pet.

Speakers: Jeff Randazzo, Sterling Heights Animal Control; Jenny Paillon, Director of Operations, Humane Society of Huron Valley; Lareina Van Strien, Executive Director of UPAWS.



TNR Networking: There is both an art and science to trapping for Trap, Neuter and Return. Are you successful at trapping even the best "escape artists?" Or maybe you have never trapped but would like to give it a try. We would like to set up a state wide collaborative network to tap knowledge and share expertise with those who want to learn and help our community felines.

2nd Breakout Session – 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Rescue Certification Organization Standards: The session will discuss creation and maintenance of municipal requirements, maintaining financial records, processes that pertain to volunteers, fosters and adopters, including applications, manuals, contracts, criteria and job descriptions. **Speaker:** Courtney Protz-Sanders, Executive Director and Founder, Paws for Life Rescue

Building Bridges: Developing Good Relationships Between Veterinarians and Animal Care and Control Agencies: Animal shelters, humane societies and rescue groups face many challenges, including high euthanasia rates, staffing shortages and a lack of funding. Veterinarians struggle to get pet owners to maintain responsible pet health care, to pay off their enormous debts from veterinary school and often lack an understanding of shelter challenges. The purpose of this session is to teach participants how to build a cooperative relationship between veterinarians and animal care and control agencies. In addition, the session will:

- Identify realities of each group with definitions and statistics
- Clarify misunderstandings
- Identify common goals
- Identify perceptions and vocabulary that present barriers to collaboration
- Promote the development of trust through mutual understanding and respect

Speaker: Cathy Anderson, DVM

Start a Shelter TNR Program for Feral Cats: The Cascades Humane Society's "Forgotten Felines" program is a management plan in which feral cats in Jackson County are humanely trapped, evaluated, vaccinated against rabies and sterilized. The cats are then returned to their familiar habitats under the lifelong care of a caretaker. Other than the \$10 fee per cat, the program is funded entirely by the proceeds from the sale of catnip pillows. Thousands of pillows are made by volunteers and sold throughout the county, bringing in more than \$5,000 each year to support this program. The public may borrow traps and carriers for a refundable deposit. Learn how your community can implement these strategies to make an impact on the number of unwanted felines in your community. **Speakers:** Debra Carmody, Executive Director, Cascades Humane Society; Sue Chambers, Director of Veterinary Services, Cascades Humane Society

Working for Change: A panel discussion with representatives from four areas of Michigan will discuss their roles in creating positive change for animals in their local shelters and/or community, including the challenges and obstacles, successes and failures, what worked and what hasn't. Time will be allowed for audience questions.

Speakers: Cyndi Urbancic, Livingston County; Richard Angelo, GRACE (Genesee County); Amy Johnson, Macomb County; Dee Bishop, Bay County

Save Rate Report: The Michigan Pet Fund Alliance has issued the Save Rate Report in 2009, 2010 and 2011. Join this informal discussion to understand how the report is put together, what it means and what it doesn't mean. Learn how you can build on the report to make the case for your community and offer input for changes and improvements.

Speaker: Deborah Schutt, Michigan Pet Fund

12:30 – 2 p.m. Lunch Keynote: Rethinking "Pit Bull" - Breaking the Cycle of Discrimination: Stereotypes based on breed or appearance, in shelter policies, commercial policies or law, lower the value of all dogs and destroy the human-canine bond. Donald Cleary, Director of Communications and Publications of the National Canine Research Council, will present



a brief history of discrimination against different groups of dogs, and explain how attitudes, not facts, created the crisis confronting "pit bull" dogs, resulting in discrimination, barriers to adoption and breed specific legislation. A truer understanding of dogs can inspire us to break this cycle of discrimination. Shelters, rescues and pet owners break the cycle when they abandon stereotypes and hold themselves to higher standards of accountability and care for all dogs.

Speaker: Don Cleary, National Canine Research Council

3rd Breakout Session – 2:15 – 3:15 p.m.

Rescue Certification Obtaining IRS Non-profit Status: A 501(c)3 IRS designation is required for a rescue organization to become certified. This session will provide information on how to obtain and keep the IRS tax-exemption status for your rescue organization. **Speaker:** Lester Thompson, Ernst & Young and HSUS

Safe Humane Chicago: A community-wide alliance to replace violence by promoting compassion and caring for people and animals and providing positive, beneficial activities and needed resources. It educates the public about responsible pet ownership and safety, promotes programs that stop the violence associated with dog fighting and animal abuse, and connects pet owners to available resources and expertise. By taking steps to instill kindness and to reduce violence in our communities, the campaign works to create safer, more humane neighborhoods across Chicago. In recognition of this powerful initiative, Best Friends Animal Society, as a national partner, is taking this Chicago model to other major cities as Project Safe Humane. Comprehensive Safe Humane programming targets neighborhoods most affected by violence and most in need of resources using schools, churches and community groups. It partners with government, professional associations, nonprofits and individuals in components that address children ("Kids, Animals and Kindness"), high school students (Safe Humane Youth Leaders), at-risk youth ("Lifetime Bonds"), Justice Support (training for criminal justice professionals, Court Advocacy for animal-related court cases) and Court Case animals, providing assessments and protocols for socialization and training aimed at helping them find forever homes.

Speaker: Cynthia Bathurst, Ph.D

Reducing Shelter Intake: The easiest animal to place is the one that never goes into the shelter or rescue. Sounds silly; however, efforts directed at helping owners keep their pets when circumstances might seem to require they “give them up” is money and effort well spent. The obvious programs include food distribution and low-cost vaccine clinics, but there is more information that may assist the owner, other resources they may not know about. In 2011, All About Animals Rescue received a grant to operate a Pet Support Line. After its first year in operation, they will share their successes, frustrations, observations and lessons learned. **Speaker:** Lisa Pick, Chair – Board of Directors, All About Animals Rescue

Case Study – Elk Country Shelter: In 2002, when the number reached four, the Montmorency County Sheriff called the Class B Dealer to come pick-up the dogs for sale to research. This unacceptable practice gave impetus to mobilize animal advocates into action. The advocates made a deal with the sheriff to provide food, vaccinations and promote the animals for adoption if he would not make that call. Seven years of hard work and the advocates opened their own shelter, closing the sheriff's kennel and providing contracted services to the county for stray and abuse holds. The new shelter includes a surgical suite and provides low-cost spay/neuter to the community – 500 procedures in 2011. However, the struggle is not over as the county wants to reduce their financial commitment for stray/abuse holds. Pauline Hancock will present the journey of the Elk Country Shelter. **Speaker:** Pauline Hancock, Elk Country, Shelter Director

A New Social Contract with Animals- Living Property: If it is accepted that some uses of animals by humans should continue, then the legal system needs to change their status. Presently, animals are simply considered personal property with only modest acknowledgement that they are living beings. What the future might bring for animals will depend upon whether or not we continue in the current mode of animal welfare or if there is the possibility of change to some form of legal rights for animals. The concept of Living Property provides the best path forward for society, the animals and the law. **Speaker:** David Favre, MSU Professor of Property and Animal Law and Editor-in-Chief, Animal Legal & Historical Web Center

3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Panel Discussion with Award Winners – The panel will discuss how they achieved the state's best “save rates” or how they were able to make the greatest improvement in saving lives this last year.

4:30 – 5 p.m. Closing & Raffle

Rescue Certification
Veterinarian
Shelter
General

Registration

Registration includes the FREE bonus of the Thursday September 20 Welcome and Opening session, discussion of Michigan's current animal-related legislation and breakout sessions with the three expert speakers. Early registration before May 31 is ONLY \$79- after May 31st \$90 per person. Award banquet \$30.00 per person.

Groups of 5 or more are eligible for a 10% discount. All members of the group must be entered at the same time.

Student price is \$50. School name and student ID number must be provided on the registration form and student ID presented at conference check-in.

Accommodations

Blocks of hotel rooms have been reserved for conference attendees at the following hotels:

Howard Johnson East Lansing: Rate of \$73.72 through August 20 or until block of rooms is gone using Rate Code “CGARC”. Book your room here or call (517) 351-5500.

Radisson Hotel Lansing: Rate of \$105 through August 20 using rate code “PETFUN”. Book your room here or call (800) 333-3333 or (517) 482-0188.

Parking

Lansing Center \$6

Radisson \$10

(self-park or valet; indicate that you are with MPFA conference)

North Grand Parking Ramp \$10

(connects to Lansing Center via pedway)

conference@michiganpetfund.org

877-387-7257

Exhibitor and sponsor information is available by contacting

conference@michiganpetfund.org

