

# Getting to the Goal



## Michigan's NO KILL CONFERENCE

2016 Conference Schedule \* Register at <http://www.michiganpetfund.org/>

**Thursday, September 15, 2016**

**Registration 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Main Lobby**

**Preconference Trap, Neuter and Return Training Workshop 9:30 a.m. – Noon**

All About Animals Rescue will teach and empower you to start TNRing the cats in your area with their 2.5 hour Trap, Neuter and Return Workshop. Once you have taken the class you are entitled to major spay/neuter discounts for all ferals: \$25 each. This includes sterilization, mandatory ear tip and a rabies vaccine (rabies vaccine for cats 12 weeks and older). This workshop teaches the best practices in management and trapping. Gain access to the benefits of our TNR program, including the discounted feral cat spay/neuter, trap loans and networking. *Catherine Garrett, All About Animals Rescue*

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Transparency and Accountability** – What does the word “transparency” mean for a shelter or a rescue organization? How transparent is your operation? Does everyone know the conditions or criteria that would result in euthanasia? Do you post all of your performance results? Are your financials available for public inspection? Transparency and accountability help build trust with your supporters, contributors and taxpayers. Listen as a panel of speakers from a shelter, rescue and not for profit explain how they define transparency for their organization. *Cheryl Gault, Michigan Pet Fund Alliance*

**Million Cat Challenge Overview** - The Million Cat Challenge is a shelter-based campaign to save the lives of one million cats in North America over the next five years. The core strategy of the campaign focuses on five key initiatives that offer every shelter, in every community, practical choices to reduce euthanasia and to increase live outcomes for shelter cats. This life-saving campaign is a joint project of the UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program and the Maddie’s Shelter Medicine Program at the University of Florida, led by Drs. Kate Hurley and Julie Levy. *Christie Keith, Million Cat Challenge*

**Stories of change:** Several large shelters have had dramatic turnarounds in the last two years. Three such shelters will be highlighted, two animal control shelters: Genesee County Animal Control and Detroit Animal Control and Care and one Humane

Society – Macomb. Learn what led up to the change, the challenges they face, and their vision for the future for their shelters. *Paul Wallace, Genesee County Animal Control; Melissa Miller, Detroit Animal Care & Control; Ken Kempkens, Humane Society of Macomb*

**ACO Certification - Is it time to up the requirements** –To become a certified Animal Control Officer in Michigan, a person must first complete the required 100 hours of training /field work, such as a day shadowing a current officer, a day with a veterinarian, a half day with the local authority, county commissioner, or city manager discussing local policies and procedures, and a day spent with the sheriff or police chief discussing laws, enforcement policies, how to issue a summons, serving of warrants, and public relations. Once training is complete a summary of activities is submitted to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for certification approval. Substantial change and complications have occurred in animal welfare since these standards were established. Hear three Animal Control experts give their perspective and launch the dialogue for change. *Becky Neal, Michigan Association of Animal Control Officers; Matthew Pepper, Michigan Humane Society; Jeff Randazzo, Macomb County Animal Control*

**BREAKOUT SESSION 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Improving potential for successful adoptions - Understanding Canine Body Language (2 hour session)** - The more your staff, volunteers and fosters know about how to read and interpret dog body language, the more effective they can be in helping a dog overcome a behavior issue. This two-hour session focuses on learning to recognize and interpret negotiation signals; calming and cut off signals; the language of play; predation and prey drive; conflict and escalating signals; and stress, fear and anxiety. *Kate Wilson, Cascades Humane Society; Jane Wolff, Cascades Humane Society*

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS 2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

**Michigan Legislation** - Several important bills have been introduced into the state legislature with the potential to improve animal welfare. This session will provide overview of each bill, the current status and what you can do. Updates will include Breed Specific Legislation (SB 239), Logan's law: animal abuse background checking (HB 4353 & 4355, SB 219 & 220), Stray Hold (HB4915), No-Kill Shelter License Plate (HB5349), Regulations for Large-scale Dog Breeders (HB4898) and Shelter Gassing Ban (SB403). *Richard Angelo, Best Friends Animal Society; Courtney Protz-Sanders, MiPACA; Pam Sordyl, Puppy Mill Awareness of SE Michigan*

**Million Cat Challenge: Alternatives to Intake** - Is entering an animal shelter always the best option for a cat? There will always be cats who need sheltering, but for many cats, there are better, more appropriate alternatives that will serve cat, community, and shelter better. And if the answer is no, shelters have an ample and expanding toolbox of alternatives to offer. Providing alternatives to intake can be a great choice for shelters that are limited in their capacity to provide humane care or assure live outcomes once a cat is admitted. In most parts of North America, there is no legal requirement for shelters to impound every healthy cat presented to them. By providing alternatives to intake for healthy cats, shelters with limited capacity can reserve their efforts for the sick, injured, orphaned and dangerous animals that most need the shelter's care.

*Dr. Julie Levy, Maddie's Shelter Medicine at the University of Florida; Ayse Dunlap, Cleveland Animal Protective League*

**Canine Play Groups** - Play groups are a powerful tool for shelters to increase adoptions, provide enrichment and improve animals' quality of life. Dogs who participate in play groups are much easier to adopt! For one thing, they have better kennel presentation because they are well exercised and more satisfied. But, how do you start one and what do you need to know to make sure you do it right? When Macomb County started using play groups, they prepared for the worst but found their concerns were unfounded. They have now shared their experience with Genesee County. *Lisa Rabine and Amy Warner*

**Changing Animal Control Practices from Punitive to Positive** – Your animal control program can be more successful by implementing positive, rather than punitive, practices in your community. Community engagement leads to fewer cruelty complaints and impounds, and more positive experiences in the field. Learn which law enforcement organizations to partner with, the benefits of using deferments over citations, how to educate owners for long-term success and how to keep animals that are not shelter adoption candidates in homes where they were successful. *Karen Sparapani, Milwaukee Area Domestic Animal Control Commission*

***BREAKOUT SESSIONS 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.***

**Best Practices for Rescues – How do you measure up?** Home-based rescue organizations serve a tremendous need – especially those that collaborate with shelters to solve or remedy challenges with animals' health or behavior issues. It is important each rescue organization operate using best practices for the animals' well-being, as well as sound business practices. Join Jaime Wolfe from NBS Rescue as she leads a panel discussion of several Michigan Pet Fund Alliance Certified home-based rescue organizations as they discuss the advantages and challenges of certification including grants for animals pulled from shelters with health or behavior issues or over the age of 7, participation in the Michigan SECC (charitable giving program for state employees), changing operations to focus only on Michigan animals, etc. *Jaime Wolfe, NBS Animal Rescue; Canine Companions Rescue Center; Detroit Bully Corps*

**Million Cat Challenge: Managed Admission** - Managed admission is distinct from limited admission and refers to any form of regulating or scheduling intake, from simply limiting the hours for drop-off and closing night drop boxes, to scheduled intake appointments, to a formal process of surrender interviews with extensive efforts at providing support and alternatives. In short, managed admission can be thought of as the “how” and “when” of intake, but not necessarily the “who.”

Even shelters with an obligation to take in all animals presented to them (either by law, contract or policy) can benefit greatly from scheduling intake to smooth out fluctuations, plan for staffing and match capacity to provide humane care. Far from meaning more animals will be turned away, for both limited- and open-intake shelters managed admission is often associated with serving more, rather than fewer, animals over time.

*Dr. Julie Levy, Maddie's Shelter Medicine at the University of Florida; Ayse Dunlap, Cleveland Animal Protective League*

**Breed Labels and Language** – The dog comes in the door, has a kind of a square head not real muscular but ... we think it is pit bull. So what is on the intake card for breed – pit bull. We have come a long way in busting the myths of breed discrimination, but there is a lot of misinformation and education to be done and by simply marking pit bull – you have eliminated adopters from some communities, put a potential adopter in jeopardy of losing their home insurance and limited the number of potential adopters. We certainly can't perform DNA tests on all incoming shelter dogs, but there are things each and every shelter can and should be doing concerning identifying the breed of dog on intake. *Tawny Hammond, City of Austin Animal Services*



**Why the numbers count** – Every shelter is required to collect information on the intake and disposition of the animals that come into their facilities. If the only time those numbers are used is to provide an annual accounting to the state, a valuable resource is being lost. Understanding your intake, common conditions, length of stay, etc. helps to identify programs to reduce intake, serve the community and measure success. Learn how the Humane Society of Huron Valley uses their numbers to improve their operations and provide animal welfare programs for the dogs and cats of Washtenaw County. *Tanya Hilgendorf, Humane Society of Huron Valley*

**Humane Behavioral and Handling Tips for Shy and Fearful Dogs** - When faced with apprehending a fearful or fear aggressive dog, it is often human nature or habit to react with a brute physical force. Often the result is the dog struggling or fighting back, which can result in harm to both the dog and handler. Most dogs do not want a struggle or even a conflict. This session will focus on the use of your best skills and attitudes, along with new tools and techniques. Learn a variety of tools and techniques for catching dogs by hand in a safe, humane, and efficient manner; compassionate physical restraint including scruff, lateral restraint, leash muzzle wrap and hobbles without adding energy to any struggle; recognize how you, the handler, is raising or lowering the tension of the dog and the situation; and explore how to create a calm conscious manner to minimize the energy of conflict, even with very uncooperative dogs. *Kate Wilson, Cascades Humane Society; Jane Wolff, Cascades Humane Society; Katelin Thomas, K9 Turbo Training*

### **Cocktail Reception & Roundtables 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.**

Enjoy a cocktail and talk shop. This is one of two opportunities to discuss with the speakers and your colleagues session topics, best practices or topics of your interest. Subjects include: Managed admission, Playgroups, Alternatives to Intake, Rescue

Certification Program, Pending Michigan legislation, Using matrix to measure success, TNR and more.

***Awards Banquet 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.***

Join us for dinner and the annual awards program, recognizing Michigan's best and most-improved shelters. Hear thoughts on "The Year of the Cat" from Dr. Julie Levy, DVM, PhD, DACVIM, Maddie's Shelter Medicine at the University of Florida.

**Friday, September 16, 2016**

**Registration 8:00 a.m. – noon**

**Animals in the Field - Law Enforcement Training 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

*Full day of Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Certified Training. Must be registered specifically for this Training to attend.*

**Morning Sessions 8:30 a.m. – Noon**

Welcome and Introduction – *Matt Pepper*

Human Violence and Animal Cruelty – *Matt Pepper*

Animals as Evidence – *Debby MacDonald*

Michigan Animal Law – *Ann Griffin, Esq and Dr. Robert Fisher*

**Afternoon Sessions 1:15 – 4:30 p.m.**

Animal Behavior and Handling in the Field – *CJ Bentley and Debby MacDonald*

Bloodsport Awareness – Dog Fighting – *Debby MacDonald*

**Opening Session – No Kill Michigan: Progress We Have Made 9:00– 9:30 a.m.**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Michigan No Kill Conference was 2011. Several years prior to the conference, Otsego County Animal Shelter was Michigan's first county to adopt a millage, develop a collaborative public/private partnership and become no-kill saving 90% or more of the animals in their care. Shortly after Otsego's live-saving measures, UPAWS in Marquette was teetering on the brink of closing due to financial issues. Their board decided they had NOTHING TO LOSE, they read together Nathan Winograd's book *Redemption: The No Kill Revolution in America* and decided to implement the programs he said were possible – and almost immediately they were saving over 90% of the animals in their care. In 2014, 40% of Michigan's Counties were no-kill. So what do the 2015 numbers tell us?

*Deborah Schutt, Michigan Pet Fund Alliance*

***BREAKOUT SESSIONS 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.***

**Stories of change:** Several large shelters have had dramatic turnarounds in the last two years. Three such shelters will be highlighted, two animal control shelters: Genesee County Animal Control and Detroit Animal Control and Care and one Humane Society – Macomb. Learn what led up to the change, the challenges they face, and their vision for the future for their shelters.

*Paul Wallace, Genesee County Animal Control; Melissa Miller, Detroit Animal Care & Control; Ken Kempkens, Humane Society of Macomb*

**Million Cat Challenge: Capacity for Care** - Capacity for care (C4C), considered holistically, means meeting the needs of each cat admitted to a shelter, whether feral or friendly, stray or owner surrendered, young or old. The Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare provide a framework to define what it means to meet the needs of any animal in confinement. Assuring capacity for care also supports success in meeting a Sixth Freedom, the freedom from euthanasia for cats that are neither terminally ill nor dangerous. Providing high quality housing and minimizing length of stay through proactive management are two key factors in assuring capacity for care for every cat in the shelter. *Dr. Julie Levy, Maddie's Shelter Medicine at the University of Florida; Tanya Hilgendorf, Humane Society of Huron Valley*

**Breed labels and language** – The dog comes in the door, has a kind of a square head not real muscular but ... we think it is pit bull. So what is on the intake card for breed – pit bull. We have come a long way in busting the myths of breed discrimination, but there is a lot of misinformation and education to be done and by simply marking pit bull – you have eliminated adopters from some communities, put a potential adopter in jeopardy of losing their home insurance and limited the number of potential adopters. We certainly can't perform DNA tests on all incoming shelter dogs, but there are things each and every shelter can and should be doing concerning identifying the breed of dog on intake. *Tawny Hammond, City of Austin Animal Services*



### **BREAKOUT SESSION 9:45 a.m. – noon**

**Improving potential for successful Adoptions – understanding Aggression & Reactivity (2 hour session)** - When a dog responds in an abnormal way or overreacts to a certain stimulus (known as a 'trigger'), we sometimes refer to them as being **reactive**. Some common behaviors that you may see in a dog displaying reactivity include barking (or other vocalizations such as whining), growling, or lunging. Reactivity can develop for various reasons but generally stems from fear, frustration, or aggression. This two-hour session discusses the basics of reactivity and aggression in dogs, what it is and how to safely and effectively modify it. The session will specifically focus on assisting shelters and the rescue community in making dogs more adoptable and training these dogs in a way that increases adoptability and reliability. *Kate Wilson, Cascades Humane Society; Jane Wolff, Cascades Humane Society*

### **BREAKOUT SESSIONS 11:00 a.m. – noon**

**Why the numbers count** – Every shelter is required to collect information on the intake and disposition of the animals that come into their facilities. If the only time those numbers are used is to provide an annual accounting to the state, a valuable resource is being lost. Understanding your intake, common conditions, length of stay, etc. helps to identify programs to reduce intake, serve the community and measure success. Learn how Humane Society of Huron Valley uses their numbers to improve operations and provide animal welfare programs for the dogs and cats of Washtenaw County.

*Tanya Hilgendorf, Humane Society of Huron Valley*

**Million Cat Challenge: Removing Barriers to Adoption** - In most communities, we simply can't afford to provide unlimited care for every cat who is temporarily without a home, or find a traditionally defined "perfect forever home" for every cat, of every temperament and in any condition, who might appear on a shelter's doorstep.

It's the job of shelters to prepare cats for adoption and then move them out as quickly as possible into permanent homes. In many cases, the quality of life in a home, even an imperfect one, is better than a cat's experience in a shelter.

*Susan Cosby-Jennings, Petco Foundation*

**How to minimize shelter illness and maximize shelter health** – Welcome to 21<sup>st</sup> century sheltering! There are countless decisions that are made daily within a shelter that will contribute to the animals' health and well-being. From the moment of intake to daily routine – each standard procedure can affect the animal's health. When are vaccinations given? How are cages cleaned and with what? What is the cage size and where are they placed? What is an acceptable noise level? How much enrichment should be provided daily and what should it be? What is your capacity for humane care? Learn how well you are doing or where you might find change is needed. *Dr. Jeff Fortna, DVM*

**Lunch & Keynote Speaker – 12:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.** *Susan Cosby-Jennings, Petco Foundation*

**Roundtable Discussions – 2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

This is one of two opportunities to discuss with the speakers and your colleagues session topics, best practices, or topics of your interest. Subjects include: Managed admission, Canine play groups, Alternatives to intake, Rescue Certification Program, Pending Michigan legislation, Using matrix to measure success, TNR, and more.

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**Million Cat Challenge: Return to Field** - In traditional trap-neuter-return (TNR) programs, community cats are trapped and transported directly to a spay/neuter clinic, where they are sterilized, vaccinated, and ear-tipped for identification. Following

recovery, the cats are returned to the location where they were trapped to live out their lives without producing any more kittens. TNR programs have been shown to decrease colony size through attrition, and even to eliminate colonies entirely in some cases. Recently, growing popularity of Return To Field (RTF) programs stems from the recognition that neuter-return is appropriate for most healthy unowned cats that are thriving in the community, regardless of whether they have entered a shelter. A combination of both community-based traditional TNR and shelter-based RTF creates the greatest opportunity to maximize cat welfare, reduce nuisance concerns, and minimize reproduction. *Dr. Julie Levy, Maddie's Shelter Medicine at the University of Florida; Dr. Diana Newman, Michigan Pet Fund Alliance; Renee Jarackas, All About Animals Rescue; Amy Wettlaufer, All About Animals Rescue*

**Canine Play Groups** - Play groups are a powerful tool for shelters to increase adoptions, provide enrichment and improve animals' quality of life. Dogs who participate in play groups are much easier to adopt! For one thing, they have better kennel presentation because they are well exercised and more satisfied. But, how do you start one and what do you need to know to make sure you do it right? When Macomb County started using play groups, they prepared for the worst but found their concerns were unfounded. They have now shared their experience with Genesee County. *Lisa Rabine and Amy Warner*

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