



January 25 – 26, 2025  
*All times listed are Eastern Time.*

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**Maddie's  
Fund**

Saturday, January 25

10:00 AM - 10:15 AM.

**Stacy LeBaron**

Welcome

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM

**Vicki Halls, Head of Unowned Cats, International Cat Care**

**The Jigsaw Puzzle of Sustainable and Effective Cat Population Management**

Despite the best efforts of the sector there is still a global crisis of cat overpopulation in many countries. This presentation explores the reasons why we still struggle with the numbers and how we might move forward, as a collaborative workforce, to tackle the root causes of this widespread and persistent problem. Vicky illustrates the complexity of the task by viewing it as a jigsaw puzzle - only when we complete that puzzle will we achieve sustainable and effective cat population management!

**About Vicki Halls**

Vicky Halls is Head of Unowned Cats at International Cat Care in the UK. Vicky is a registered veterinary nurse and clinical animal behaviourist, having spent 30 years specialising in cats. Vicky has lectured all over the world on cat behaviour to veterinary and lay audiences and now speaks on cat population management and Cat Friendly Homing - International Cat Care's model for the intake, care and outcome of cats in shelters. Vicky is a qualified and registered person-centred counsellor and author of eight

best-selling books on cats for the general public, several peer-reviewed papers for scientific journals and co-author of veterinary textbooks and published guidelines.  
At home, Vicky is a slave to the demands of LC, her pre-loved elderly black cat.

11:15 AM – 11:30 AM

**Break**

11:30 AM – 12:15 PM

**Rosemarie Crawford, LVT, Co-Founder, National Kitten Coalition**

### **Considerations for Community Kittens**

Caring for community cats often also means there may also be community kittens. This session will provide answers to some of the most common questions and concerns when it comes to kittens in those communities. Get helpful information about best opportunities to trap, what to look for when trapping queens in order to help kittens, too, and go prepared knowing the essentials of care for very young kittens who may also be found or trapped in the field.

### **About Rosemarie Crawford**

Rosemarie Crawford is a licensed veterinary technician and co-founder of The National Kitten Coalition. She has worked and volunteered in animal welfare for more than 20 years and has experience in public and private shelters and in veterinary practices. As a medical staff member in a high-volume, open-access shelter, Rosemarie worked closely with the shelter veterinarian to provide for the animals' medical and surgical needs. She assisted in developing and implementing progressive protocols for the care and treatment of kittens in the shelter's kitten nursery room as well as for those in foster care. Additionally, Rosemarie served in two shelters as the foster coordinator and understands the challenges that come along with kitten care in foster programs. In addition to presenting training sessions for The National Kitten Coalition, Rosemarie works in a five-doctor veterinary practice in northern VA, and in her spare time enjoys traveling with her husband or fostering ill, injured or debilitated kittens for local shelters and rescues.

12:15 PM – 12:45 PM

**Lunch break**

12:45 PM – 2:00 PM

**Margaret Tompkins, President, Tompkins Foundation for FeLV Advocacy**

### **Feline Leukemia (FeLV), Just Where Do We Stand? How Can You Help???**

20 years ago, we were euthanizing FeLV+ cats. 10 years ago, we were sending felvies to sanctuaries! We've learned a lot about FeLV in the last several years! Just where do we stand now? It's time to make sure that everyone knows about the latest research, science, and expert guidance. No cat should die just because it tests positive for a virus! It's time to dispel the myths of the 1970s with solid science and data!! We now know how to virtually stop the spread of FeLV!! We'll review what we've learned and how we can best apply that knowledge to the benefit of feluek cats and their owners. Join us in this crusade to let knowledge guide our way!

### **About Margaret Tompkins**

Margaret Tompkins is President of the Tompkins Foundation for FeLV Advocacy. She is a tireless advocate for FeLV education and FeLV+ cats. She actively networks FeLV+ cats all over the country. She is active on social media, especially Facebook, in promoting adoptions and education. She is a huge proponent of TNR and supports shelter and rescue programs that provide positive outcomes for FeLV+

cats. Her email is Margaret.Tompkins@comcast.net. She is an admin of several FeLV+ cat groups on Facebook including Owners of FeLV+/FIV+ Cats.

2:00 PM – 2:30 PM

**Break**

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

**Robin Post, RVT, Animal Fix Clinic**

### **How to handle community cats needing surgery - You can do it!**

How do you help a cat you can't touch? What if the cat needs an eye removed, has a bad wound or a broken leg? How do you anesthetize and recover them safely? How long do you hold them for recovery? Can they really go back outside with one eye or missing one leg? We will discuss how to safely anesthetize and recover these patients, how to minimize their stress levels while they are in the hospital and how to come up with a comprehensive pain management plan when you won't be able to handle them. We can offer excellent care to these cats and their care should never be substandard.

### **About Robin Post**

Robin Post, RVT, started her medical career as a veterinary assistant in the shelter medicine department of the San Francisco SPCA, then assuming a supervisory role in the SFSPCA Spay/Neuter clinic. Before joining Animal Fix Clinic, Robin was Supervisor of Off-Site Spay-Neuter Services, where she coordinated MASH-style spay/neuter clinics and helped develop spay/neuter programs at municipal shelters. She is also a reserve field technician for HSVMA–RAVS.

Robin has overseen the anesthesia of literally tens of thousands of dogs and cats (from half-pound kittens to feral dogs to geriatric patients) in just about every imaginable physical condition. She received the Linda Markland Outstanding RVT of the Year Award in 2023.

Robin lives in Albany with her cats, and Marge from Muttville, and Wizard the chihuahua. Robin is a RECOVER Certified ALS Rescuer and a Fear Free Certified Professional.

3:30 PM – 3:45 PM

**Break**

3:45 PM – 4:45 PM

**Bryan Kortis, National Programs Director, Neighborhood Cats**

### **Globetrotting with Neighborhood Cats**

In recent years, Neighborhood Cats has been actively supporting international partners as they build their local Trap-Neuter-Return programs. In Australia, we're working with the Australian Pet Welfare Foundation on a ground-breaking research project about the impact of spay/neuter on cat intake into local pounds. In Indonesia, our partner, Let's Adopt Indonesia, is a grassroots rescue group that has succeeded in quickly spreading TNR as a new way of managing the country's extreme overpopulation of unowned street cats. The Kenya SPCA, the nation's largest animal welfare organization, has just launched a new community TNR program at its Mombasa branch with our assistance. Navigating the unique cultures of each country, as well as addressing challenges with resources, has made for a fascinating journey. Gain new perspectives on your own TNR work as we travel the world helping community cats!

### **About Bryan Kortis**

Co-founder of Neighborhood Cats and current National Programs Director, Bryan is a leading advocate of TNR. He introduced a community-wide program in New York City, worked as a grants manager for PetSmart Charities, has authored several books about Trap-Neuter-Return and regularly presents live and online trainings, including basic training workshops and advanced webinars in partnership with the Community Cats Podcast. He has personally trapped thousands of cats and co-designed many of the most popular traps and TNR equipment available today.

4:45 PM – 5:00 PM

**Stacy LeBaron**

Cat Trivia

5:00 PM

**Close**

Sunday, January 26

10:00 AM - 10:15 AM

**Stacy LeBaron**

Welcome

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM

**Brianna Lovell Myers, Executive Director, United Spay Alliance**

**Putting Spay/Neuter Back in the Spotlight: United Spay Alliance & Community Cats Grants**

Join this session to hear from United Spay Alliance and discover the exciting work being done to promote affordable, accessible spay/neuter services for community cats and pets across the country. We'll explore our nationwide directory of low-cost spay/neuter services (now expanding to include TNR programs!), hands-on training programs for veterinarians, and updates from the State Leader Network.

Plus, we'll dive into the Community Cats Grants program, addressing frequently asked questions about the application and grants process. A panel of past grantees will share their experiences and insights! Don't miss the next application deadline on March 31, 2025.

**About Brianna Lovell Myers**

Brianna Lovell Myers (Bri) is the Executive Director of United Spay Alliance, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to creating a future where every cat and dog has the opportunity to thrive in a loving home. By promoting affordable, accessible, and timely spay/neuter services, United Spay Alliance works to address the root cause of pet overpopulation today. The organization champions the expansion of high-quality, high-volume spay/neuter (HQHVSN) programs, supports grassroots organizations, and empowers communities with tools and knowledge to increase access to these critical services.

Bri joined United Spay Alliance in 2020 and was recently appointed Executive Director. Under her leadership, the organization is building momentum and looking ahead to 2025 with ambitious goals. These include expanding the wet lab program, which provides hands-on training to veterinarians in HQHVSN techniques, and further strengthening and supporting the spay/neuter movement nationwide.

Bri began her career in animal welfare at Alley Cat Allies, specializing in community outreach and event management. She later worked as an independent consultant, collaborating with grassroots rescues, TNR groups, and other animal organizations. She remains passionate about advancing spay/neuter as the cornerstone of effective animal care and protection.

Bri holds a Master of Public Administration from West Virginia University. She lives in Maryland with her husband, young son, and senior cat, Finnegan.

11:15 AM – 11:30 AM

**Break**

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

**Will Zweigart, Founder and Executive Director, Flatbush Cats**

### **What does it take to build a spay/neuter clinic?**

Based on firsthand experience from building Flatbush Vet, Zweigart will share some hard-learned lessons about what is actually required to build - and sustain - a new nonprofit veterinary clinic to serve your community.

### **About Will Zweigart**

Will Zweigart leads the vision, strategy, fundraising and operations for Flatbush Cats, which focuses on ending overcrowded animal shelters in New York City by increasing affordable access to veterinary care. In 2023, the organization opened Flatbush Veterinary Clinic, a new nonprofit facility offering high quality, high volume spay neuter and wellness services for both cats and dogs.

12:30 PM – 1:00 PM.

### **Lunch break**

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

### **Rebecca Burley, Vice President, Pennies for PAWS**

### **More Than Stressed: A Compassion Fatigue Workshop with Practical Applications**

"Self Care" has become a trendy term over the past few years and it's often easier said than done. This event will give participants time to reflect on their own self-care practices, and learn about practical ways to incorporate self care into a regular routine. After a very brief review of compassion fatigue, participants will complete self-assessments recognized by experts in the field of compassion fatigue. Participants will then experiment with a variety of self-care activity options and will create a written plan for self-care that can be utilized to combat the impact of compassion fatigue.

### **About Rebecca Burley**

Becky Burley is an educator with 20 years experience teaching middle school social studies. In 2019, she was able to combine her experience as an educator with her volunteer work in animal welfare to create educational materials and workshops on compassion fatigue for Pennies for PAWS, a resource-based animal nonprofit in Hampton Roads, Virginia.

2:00 PM – 2:30 PM

### **Break**

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

### **Mary Scott, Working Cats Program Director, ASAP Cats**

### **Working Cat Programs: TNR's Hidden Hero**

Find out how a simple Working Cats Program can support, supplement and complement your existing TNR program. What can shelters and rescues do with non-social cats who cannot be returned to field or released as part of the usual TNR process? A Working Cats Program is a solution, finding a stable home for cats who might otherwise slip through the cracks. Join Mary Scott, 15 year cat sheltering veteran, to learn more about the role a Working Cats Program can play in your shelter or rescue, as a positive add-on to your existing TNR process.

### **About Mary Scott**

Tired of the 9 to 5 life as a paralegal, in 2009 Mary left law to start her career in animal welfare. Mary is one of several volunteers in leadership positions at ASAP Cats, the open admission stray cat shelter located in Southern Santa Barbara County, California. As leader of its Working Cats Program, Mary

places nonsocial cats as mousers on farms, ranches, nurseries and large residential properties in the Santa Barbara and Santa Ynez Valley areas.

3:30 PM – 3:45 PM

**Break**

3:45 PM – 4:45 PM

**Chris Roy, Founder, Doobert.com**

**"AI-Powered Foster Management: The Future is Here"**

Tired of answering the same foster questions at 2am? Need a way to onboard foster newbies during kitten season? Want to see AI being used for good? We're going to show you how working with Doobert Connect can solve all of your foster needs. From after hours support, medical triage, and even recruiting and retention, come and learn about the integration of AI into foster management.

**About Chris Roy**

Chris Roy is a VP of Technology in his "day" job and founder of Doobert.com during his nights and weekends. Many of you have heard Chris on the Community Cats Podcast and have heard him speak in previous online cat conferences. Chris and his wife Rachael love to revolutionize new ways to save animals using technology.

4:45 PM – 5:00 PM

**Stacy LeBaron**

Cat Trivia

5:00 PM

**Close**

Special thanks to all our conference sponsors:

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