



ADOPTION OPTIONS 2013

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Comfort Inn & Conference Center Pittsburgh East
699 Rodi Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235

Join us! We've brought together some of the most popular presentations and speakers in animal welfare and mixed them with plenty of breaks and networking opportunities.

9:00 am – 9:30 am **SIGN IN AND FUEL UP: COFFEE AND DANISH**

9:30 am – 9:45 am **HOUSEKEEPING AND GETTING TO KNOW YOU**

One person from each organization should be prepared to introduce your group. Feel free to bring business cards, brochures, news and/or fundraising items.

9:45 am – 10:15 am **WELCOME FROM PETCO FOUNDATION**

Susan Rosenberg, Petco Foundation

Learn how to use the high traffic of Petco stores to increase adoptions for your organization. Other valuable resources to benefit your group that are available through the Petco Foundation and Petco will be discussed.

10:15 am – 11:45 am **MARKETING YOUR PETS ONLINE: TIPS AND TRICKS TO INCREASE ADOPTIONS**

Susan Greene, Petfinder

After a brief look at Petfinder's free service to the animal welfare community, Susan will review the many benefits, resources and services that Petfinder offers members. This will be followed by a few tips and tricks for increasing adoptions, using Petfinder.com.

11:45 am – noon **BREAK**

Noon – 1:30 pm **BUILDING COMMUNITY WITHIN THE SHELTER**

Karen Owens, Charlotte Mecklenburg Animal Care and Control

The presentation will cover the importance of keeping volunteers motivated and involved and will include strategies and programs for maintaining their participation long-term.

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm **VEGETARIAN LUNCH, NETWORKING TIME**

2:30 pm – 5 pm – CHOOSE FROM TWO SESSIONS

TRAINING SHELTER DOGS

Sue Sternberg, Rondout Valley Animals for Adoption

Animal welfare professionals have a responsibility to provide true quality of life for each dog in their program. This workshop covers the importance of achieving and maintaining quality of life for dogs in shelters. Training, behavior modification programs, and mental, behavioral and emotional stimulation for dogs will be covered. We will explore some fun and easy ways to train adoptable dogs so they can put their best paw forward. Local shelter dogs will be onsite for the demonstration.

OR

FELINE ENRICHMENT AND SOCIALIZATION

Karen Dashfield, DVM, Antler Ridge Wildlife Sanctuary

An in-depth discussion of the needs of shelter and rescue cats, the positives and negatives of various styles of housing within a shelter or foster home facility, and the socialization of feral, semi-feral and shy cats.

Our Speakers

SUSAN ROSENBERG, PETCO FOUNDATION

Susan, who has been with Petco for 14 years, is national grants and disaster relief manager for the foundation and, as such, reviews and makes grant decisions and develops disaster relief practices. She works closely with over 7,500 Petco Foundation charitable partners and over 1,140 Petco stores that manage abandoned pets and adoptions. As a regular presenter at animal welfare conferences and workshops, she is the face of the Petco Foundation. In addition to her responsibilities at the foundation, she is a director for several animal welfare organizations in San Diego and works with disaster relief management organizations nationally. She is also an animal handler for the Animal Rescue Reserve.

SUSAN GREENE, PETFINDER

As a member of the shelter outreach team, Susan is the first point of contact for shelters and placement groups at Petfinder.com. Susan worked as a humane officer with the Tompkins County (NY) SPCA. She then spent 17 years in an academic setting, first in law enforcement and then with the biology department at Ithaca College. From 1990-2004 she ran a wildlife control and rescue business which stressed humane control methods and also handled feral cats. Due to an increasing number of requests for help with cats, the business became a feral cat rescue in 2004 and has successfully managed cat colonies to zero or near zero. She has presented on wildlife and feral cat issues at national and international conferences. Susan holds a B.A. degree in philosophy from Ithaca College and is completing an M.S. in communications. She lives in rural New York State with her six purrsonal cats, her dog, Molly, and a cat facility for formerly feral felines who are up for adoption on Petfinder.com.

KAREN OWENS, CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL

Karen Owens brings her 12 years of professional dog training experience to two organizations in addition to her business, Clever Canine Dog Training. She is the head trainer at Charlotte Mecklenburg Animal Care and Control, where she has spent the last year and a half successfully implementing the Train To Adopt program, building environmental enrichment activities and leading numerous outreach programs within the shelter community. Karen also volunteers for paws4people™ and has played a significant role in its efforts to place psychiatric service dogs with military veterans affected by PTSD. Karen lives in North Carolina with her amazing daughter, her all-too-awesome husband and three incredible dogs.

SUE STERNBERG, RONDOUT VALLEY ANIMALS FOR ADOPTION

Sue Sternberg is founder and owner of Rondout Valley Animals for Adoption, a small, open-admission animal shelter which serves both the local (upstate New York) community as well as runs national programs. Sue has over 30 years of dog behavior experience, including as a dog control officer, kennel and animal care technician at various shelters, dog trainer and behavior counselor, dog training instructor and temperament evaluator at the ASPCA, boarding kennel owner, veterinary assistant, successful competitor in a variety of dog sports, and teacher of dog trainers. Sue has published many educational guides which can be found at www.greatdogproductions.com. Her latest offering is a book and two-DVD set, "Train to Adopt." Sue has four dogs – Hop Sing, Bea, Yeoman Rand and Gene Roddenberry – who are all ruled by one awesome cat, Sanjay Gupta. She is an accomplished fiddle player, an avid mineral and fossil collector, loves Earl Grey tea, and is a major "Stargate Atlantis" fan.

KAREN DASHFIELD, DVM, ANTLER RIDGE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Dr. Dashfield is a shelter veterinarian with 21 years of experience designing disease control programs for shelters, kennels and wildlife rehabilitators throughout New Jersey. As director of Sussex County Humane Response Team (CART), she initiated and ran a shelter for Hurricane Katrina Dogs in 2005/2006 that received, re-homed and reunited over 200 animals. As a house-call veterinarian, Dr. Dashfield provides regular consultation with shelter and rescue groups and is the full-time medical director at Antler Ridge Wildlife Sanctuary (www.antler-ridge.com). She shares her home with her five dogs, Red, Dusty, Bella, Sadie and Pollywog, and a cat named Princess.

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