



ADOPTION OPTIONS 2015

Wednesday, June 10, 2015

Purina Farms, 200 Checkerboard Dr.
Gray Summit, MO 63039

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.
(Please register at least 10 days in advance.)

9 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 – 10:00 am

PETCO: THINK ADOPTION FIRST

Mary Samples

Join us for an introduction to the Petco Think Adoption First Program, where partnership can increase your adoptions, community awareness and volunteer base.

10:00 am – 11:45 am

SHELTER MEDICINE 101

Karen Dashfield, DVM

This workshop will review some of the common challenges shelters and rescue groups face in preventing infectious diseases and keeping the animals in their care healthy. We'll focus on tips and tools that are critical to improving health and welfare, including optimal animal care practices, strategies to reduce disease transmission, health examinations, vaccination protocols and sanitation procedures. A summary of available resources for further information will be provided as well as some time for Q&A to cover those topics most important to you.

11:45 am – 12:45 pm

VEGETARIAN LUNCH, NETWORKING TIME

12:45 pm – 1:45 pm

TOP TEN TIPS FOR INCREASING ADOPTIONS WITH PETFINDER

Melissa Vecera

Melissa will review the many benefits and resources that Petfinder offers members, including a brief look at Petfinder's free service to the animal welfare community. This presentation includes various tips and tricks to showcase your adoptable pets in the best light for increasing adoptions. Tips will include everything from taking and posting great pictures, crafting creative pet descriptions, and different ways of promoting pets online as well as offline.

1:45 pm – 3:15 pm

HELPING PETS BY SUPPORTING PEOPLE:

A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO COMMUNITY WELFARE

Kim Wolf

In every community certain pets are more "at risk" for entering the shelter system and less likely to leave through the front door. But the animals are just one part of this story; for every pet that ends up in the shelter, there is a human component as well. This presentation will take a holistic approach to helping "at risk" animals by understanding the challenges and barriers facing people in our communities, especially those that threaten the human-animal bond. The presentation will show how a multidisciplinary approach can more accurately assess risk factors and identify opportunities for improvement. Drawing upon social work, economics, marketing and public policy to help attendees assess their community's strengths and challenges, the presentation will share best practices from results-oriented groups around the country. By moving our discussions beyond animal welfare to community welfare as a whole, we can implement a comprehensive approach that benefits people and pets alike.

3:15 pm – 3:30 pm

BREAK

3:30 pm – 5 pm

TRAINING SHELTER DOGS

Karen Owens

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. Shelter dogs will be used for demonstration.

Our Speakers

MARY SAMPLES, PETCO FOUNDATION

Mary is the national adoption program manager covering the West Coast, Northwest, and Southwest and Alaska and Hawaii for Petco for the past two years. Mary's love for animals goes back to childhood. She knew she wanted to work in the animal industry one way or another. Mary has been with Petco for over four years. She started her Petco career in the animal care and education department working under the vice president of veterinary medicine, Dr. Tom Edling. Gaining extensive knowledge of Petco standards for animal care, she was able to transition to the Think Adoption First team, working with Lori Morton-Feazell, the director of animal care, education and compliance. Mary rescued her first pet, Jake, a yellow Lab, about nine years ago. Since she has been on the Think Adoption First team, her family has grown. She has adopted a bearded dragon, Drago, and a kitten, Charlie. "I am truly blessed to be a part of an amazing company with the mission to think adoption first and reduce euthanasia," Mary says.

KAREN DASHFIELD, DVM, ANTLER RIDGE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Dr. Dashfield is a shelter veterinarian with 24 years of experience designing disease control programs for shelters, kennels and wildlife rehabilitators throughout New Jersey. As director of the Sussex County Animal 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 prepares future animal control officers, shelter workers and wildlife rehabilitators through her teaching for Career Development Institute and at local and regional conferences. Karen shares her home with her five dogs, Red, Dusty, Bella, Sadie and Pollywog, and a cat named Princess.

MELISSA VECERA, PETFINDER

Melissa is a shelter outreach specialist for Petfinder. She has over eight years of volunteer experience, including writing press releases and attending meet-and-greet events on behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Great Dane Rescue League Inc. and hands-on shelter experience at the MDSPCA. Since 2012, in her role as manager of the North American Adoption Options conference series, she has traveled to over 50 different cities to bring the latest animal welfare knowledge to local communities. She works near Baltimore, MD, and shares her home with her Dachshund named Lily and her Hedgehog named Olive.

KIM WOLF, BEYOND BREED

Kim Wolf is the executive director of Beyond Breed (BeyondBreed.com), a nonprofit corporation dedicated to supporting the bond between people and pets. She runs a project called "Ruff Riders" that assists pet owners in under-resourced neighborhoods in New York City. Kim is also employed as a social worker for a program supporting senior citizens and their pets in Manhattan. Her previous experience in animal welfare includes positions at the Pennsylvania SPCA, Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, and Animal Farm Foundation. She has presented at numerous animal welfare and aging conferences around the country and has received awards for her community outreach and advocacy efforts. Kim lives in Brooklyn, NY, with her six adopted dogs.

KAREN OWENS, CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL

Karen Owens brings 16 years of professional dog training experience to her work with shelter dogs. She is the head trainer at Charlotte Mecklenburg Animal Care and Control, where she has successfully implemented Train To Adopt, environmental enrichment and behavior evaluation programs as well as led additional outreach programs within the shelter community. Prior to working with shelter dogs, Karen ran her own business and volunteered for paws4people, training and placing service dogs for individuals affected with PTSD.

Thank you to our host,
Gateway Pet Guardians

pro.petfinder.com/adoptionoptions
adoptionoptions@petfinder.com