



ADOPTION OPTIONS 2015

Monday, September 14, 2015

Holiday Inn Rutland/Killington
476 Holiday Drive, Rutland, Vermont 05701

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

Karen Meader

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

CARING FOR ANIMALS EVERYWHERE: BEST PRACTICES FOR MOVING ADOPTABLE ANIMALS

Dr. Stephanie Janeczko

We all move animals – whether that's into foster care, between shelters and rescue groups in your community, a longer distance as part of a relocation program, and ultimately into an adoptive home – but how we do it can have a big impact on the success of our programs and the health and well-being of the animals in our care! This workshop will give you tips and tools to do the best job possible, focusing on strategies to reduce disease transmission, health examinations, vaccination protocols, sanitation procedures, and best practices for animal care and relocation. 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 and crafting creative pet descriptions to different ways of promoting pets online as well as offline.

1:45 pm – 3:15 pm

CONVERSATIONAL ADOPTION COUNSELING

Linda Reider

Are you looking for a way to increase your adoptions while still sticking to the core adoption values of your organization? Join us to learn the nuts and bolts of how to use conversational adoption counseling to achieve friendlier customer service in adoptions while, at the same time, assuring quality adoptions. This webinar will include history of the conversational method and will also review understanding adopters, understanding adoption counselors, recommended phrasing and volunteer training.

3:15 pm – 3:30 pm

BREAK

3:30 pm – 5 pm

SHELTER DOG TRAINING TO RAISE QUALITY OF LIFE AND ADOPTION RATES

David Muriello

The quality time you get to spend with shelter dogs is minimal, so it is critical to make it count. These key training and communication tips will enhance the mental health of the dogs in your care, improve their behavior and increase their chances of finding great forever homes. This workshop will enhance your skills as a handler and trainer, and the dogs will thank you for it! You will also learn about Temperament through Training – how to identify key behaviors that reveal a dog's personality – both fascinating and invaluable to know. All demos will be LIVE, with local shelter dogs that are unknown to David, so we can all learn together about personality assessment and making training decisions on your feet in real time.

Our Speakers

KAREN MEADER, PETCO FOUNDATION

Karen is the national adoption program manager covering the Midwest, Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Southeast regions for Petco for the past three years. Prior to her current role, she was the regional marketing coordinator for the Southeast and a general manager and operations manager for Petco stores in Florida for seven years. In addition, she has been able to attend many animal welfare conferences hosted by organizations such as the Society of Animal Welfare Administrators, the Humane Society of the United States, the ASPCA, Best Friends Animal Society and Petfinder. She has also attended an animal control officer certification course and received certification at the end of the course. She currently has five rescue pets – three cats and two dogs – and lives on the East Coast of Florida with her husband and son.

STEPHANIE JANECKO, DVM, MS, DABVP, THE ASPCA

After receiving her DVM from Cornell in 2004, Dr. Janeczko worked in small animal practice with shelters and rescue groups before returning to Cornell as its first shelter medicine resident. She is board certified in canine and feline practice and is a member of the organizing committee for a board specialty in shelter medicine. She is also a certified animal welfare administrator and president of the Association of Shelter Veterinarians. Dr. Janeczko currently works for the ASPCA as senior director of community outreach shelter medicine programs, working locally in New York City as well as nationally to help shelters and animal welfare groups develop and improve their medical programs. She shares her home with her furry family – four wonderful cats and the two best dogs in the world – along with one very understanding husband!

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, 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 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.

LINDA REIDER, MICHIGAN HUMANE SOCIETY

Linda Reider is the director of statewide initiatives for the Michigan Humane Society, which operates three open-admission adoption centers and full-service veterinary centers, one satellite adoption center and three offsite cat centers in the greater Detroit area. She works to better connect animal shelters and rescue groups statewide through the Michigan Partnership for Animal Welfare (MPAW) state federation. Linda travels the state, visiting and advising animal shelters and rescue groups, represents MHS on state-level committees, is a founding board member of the Michigan State Animal Response Team and works on pet-related legislation. Linda holds B.S. and M.S. degrees, plus a certificate in nonprofit business and management, and has held various positions in the animal welfare field for the past 30 years. She lives with her son's two hairy cats.

DAVID MURIELLO, CPDT-KA, CATCH CANINE TRAINERS ACADEMY

David Muriello is the founder and school director of CATCH Canine Trainers Academy, a national school offering state-licensed certification courses in dog training and behavior. In addition to his firsthand experience training thousands of dogs in private lessons, group classes and behavior workshops, David has extensive experience in hiring and teaching dog trainers. After six years as director of training at Biscuits & Bath (eight locations in New York City), David became the director of operations there, expanding his knowledge of dog care services, including day and overnight care, veterinary services, walking, grooming and transportation. David has appeared as a dog expert on ABC-TV's The Rachael Ray Show and the Discovery Channel and is regularly quoted in *Dog Fancy* magazine. When he is not working, his love of the outdoors draws him into long hikes with his Pit Bull/Pointer mix, Hazel, where the two of them love life among the sights and sounds (and scents) of nature.

Thank you to our host, Rutland County Humane Society | pro.petfinder.com/adoptionoptions | adoptionoptions@petfinder.com