

# ADOPTION OPTIONS

**Los Angeles, CA**

Tuesday  
September 20, 2016

**DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL  
CARSON**

2 Civic Plaza Drive  
Carson, CA 90745

Join us! Petfinder Pro™ and Petco Foundation™ have brought together some of the most popular presentations and speakers in animal welfare and mixed them with plenty of networking opportunities. Did we mention it's FREE? Register today at [pro.petfinder.com/adoptionoptions](http://pro.petfinder.com/adoptionoptions) Please register at least 10 days in advance.

**THANK YOU TO OUR HOST,  
spcaLA**

Questions? We're here with answers! Just email us at [adoptionoptions@petfinder.com](mailto:adoptionoptions@petfinder.com).

**9 am – 9:30 am**

**SIGN IN AND FUEL UP: COFFEE AND PASTRIES**

**9:30 am – 9:45 am**

**WELCOME**

*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 – 10:30 am**

**GETTING THE MOST OUT OF PETFINDER**

**MELISSA VECERA**

*Melissa will review a few of the many benefits and resources that Petfinder Pro offers members. This presentation focuses on 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.*

**10:30 am – 11:45 am**

**MANAGEMENT OF COMMON HEALTH CONCERNS IN ADOPTABLE ANIMALS**

**DR. MICHAEL LAPPIN**

*In this lecture, Dr. Lappin will discuss some of the more common health concerns in dogs and cats housed in shelters and rescues, including respiratory disease and diarrhea. He will show how these common infectious problems can be lessened in the pets with simple management tools like hand washing, cleanliness and good nutrition. A short update on use of vaccines will also be presented.*

**11:45 am – 12:45 pm**

**VEGETARIAN LUNCH, NETWORKING TIME**

**12:45 pm – 1:15 pm**

**PARTNERING WITH PETCO FOUNDATION**

**COURTNEY CUNNINGHAM**

*Learn how the Petco Foundation is helping in your community, partnering with organizations like yours to increase lifesaving through its adoption and investment programs.*

**1:15 pm – 1:45 pm**

**BREAK**

**1:45 pm – 2:45 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.*

**2:45 pm - 3:15 pm**

**BREAK**

**3:15 pm – 4:30 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. Sue will cover training, behavior modification programs, and mental, behavioral and emotional stimulation for dogs. She 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.*

**4:30 pm – 5:00 pm**

**CLOSING REMARKS**

# ADOPTION OPTIONS

## Los Angeles Speakers

### **MELISSA VECERA**

PETFINDER

*Melissa is a shelter outreach specialist for Petfinder. She has 10 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 MD SPCA. Since 2012, in her role as manager of the North American Adoption Options conference series, she has traveled to over 60 different cities to bring the latest animal welfare knowledge to local communities. She calls Maryland home, and shares it with her Dachshund named Lily, her Hedgehog named Olive, and often a foster cat.*

### **MICHAEL R. LAPPIN, DVM, PHD, DACVIM**

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

*Dr. Lappin graduated from Oklahoma State University and then completed an internship, internal medicine residency, and PhD program in Parasitology at the University of Georgia. His principal areas of interest are prevention of infectious diseases, the upper respiratory disease complex, infectious causes of fever, infectious causes of diarrhea, and zoonoses of cats. Dr. Lappin is the Kenneth W. Smith Professor in Small Animal Clinical Veterinary Medicine at Colorado State University and he helps direct the shelter medicine program. Dr. Lappin is the director of the "Center for Companion Animal Studies" and has received a number of awards including the Norden Distinguished Teaching Award, the European Society of Feline Medicine International Award 2008 for Outstanding Contribution to Feline Medicine, the Winn Feline Research Award in 2009, and the ACVIM Robert W. Kirk Award for Professional Excellence in 2014.*

### **COURTNEY CUNNINGHAM**

PETCO FOUNDATION

*Courtney Cunningham has been the Lifesaving Partner Relations Specialist for the Petco Foundation since February of 2016. She graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University in 2010 and has since been working in the non-profit sector, including work in program and fundraising development. Before joining the animal welfare community, Courtney focused on youth program development, including work for the Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas. Since 2015, she has been working in the animal welfare community, first with a grass roots no-kill shelter on their development and media team, and recently joining the Petco Foundation team. A lifelong shelter animal advocate, Courtney is the proud mother of two rescue cats and one dog.*

### **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 leading 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.*