

# Petfinder<sup>PRO</sup> ADOPTION OPTIONS

## Omaha, NE

Thursday  
November 3, 2016

### SHERATON OMAHA HOTEL

655 N 108th Ave  
Omaha, NE 68154

Join us! Petfinder Pro<sup>™</sup>  
and Petco Foundation<sup>™</sup>  
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,  
NEBRASKA HUMANE SOCIETY**

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**

**SHELTER MEDICINE 101**

**BRIAN DIGANGI, 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 – 1:15 pm**

**PARTNERING WITH PETCO FOUNDATION**

**SUSAN COSBY-JENNINGS**

*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 AND ENRICHMENT FOR  
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**

# Petfinder<sup>PRO</sup> ADOPTION OPTIONS

## Omaha 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.*

### BRIAN DIGANGI, DVM, MS, DABVP

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

*Brian DiGangi is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Shelter Medicine at the University of Florida. He became the first shelter medicine resident to graduate from UF and received his MS in Veterinary Medical Sciences in 2010. Dr. DiGangi has published research on feline adoption, pregnancy detection and immunology. He is board certified in both Canine and Feline Practice and Shelter Medicine Practice by the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners. He has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Association of Shelter Veterinarians since 2010, currently serving as President.*

### SUSAN COSBY-JENNINGS

PETCO FOUNDATION

*Susan Cosby-Jennings is the Director of Lifesaving Programs & Partnerships with the Petco Foundation. Her career in animal welfare includes working at both large and small, urban and suburban, animal control and limited admission shelters. Before coming to the Petco Foundation her last animal sheltering position was Executive Director of ACCT Philly, managing a large, poorly resourced, urban animal control shelter. Prior to that she held roles as President & CEO of the Pennsylvania SPCA, Executive Director of the Animal Welfare Association in NJ, and Chief Operating Officer of the Philadelphia Animal Care and Control Association in PA. Originally coming from the retail field, she has utilized customer service oriented and data driven strategies to improve shelter lifesaving.*

### 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.*