

2026 Animal Care Expo | Round Tables

Join us in Hall B for an opportunity to sit with a small group of peers for a deep-dive discussion on topics from across our industry. We will have two sessions with the topics and table hosts below. Many topics span multiple categories so no matter your interest, we encourage you to browse the full list of available tables.

Session 1: Apr. 8, 8 – 9:15 a.m.

Session 2: Apr. 8, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Seats at the tables are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Look for the color-coded sign and table number on each table. You do not need to pre-register for this event. Views expressed and materials distributed by table hosts are solely their own and not that of Humane World for Animals.

** indicates 8 a.m. Spanish language session; ** indicates 9:30 a.m. Spanish language session*

Access to Care (Lime Green)

Access to euthanasia services for owned pets in animal shelters

Cathy Anderson | DVM, University of Florida

Building sustainable access-to-care pipelines in underserved neighborhoods

Jordan Craig | Chief Operating Officer, Operation Kindness Humane Society

Funding and running effective spay/neuter programs

Melody Purdy | Planner, Office of Animal Welfare

Integrating human services into veterinary outreach

Rachele Raj | Executive Director, Seattle Veterinary Outreach

Keeping pets home: Access, cost and the next era of animal welfare

Danielle Case | Fractional Leadership & Project Support

Overcoming barriers to offering respite pet care

Carrie Openshaw | Director of Community Engagement, The Bond Between

Partnering with government and human services for pet care

Kristina Pulsipher | Co-Executive Director, Ruff Haven

Rethinking barriers: What are we still holding on to?

Audra Farrell | Adopters Welcome Trainer, Humane World for Animals

Strategies for veterinary services for shelters without medical staff

Jennifer Bennett | Director of Shelter Medicine and Access to Care, UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program

The role of veterinary social workers in shelters and clinics

Brita Loeb | Humane Advocacy Manager + Veterinary Social Worker, East Bay SPCA

Value of pet insurance for pet parents and animal welfare organizations

Travis Worra | VP, Strategic Partnerships, Trupanion

Behavior (Light Green)

Behavior meetup: Share your strategies and stories!

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Behavior: Assessing, managing, modifying and how medical issues affect it

Dayna Villa | Director of medical and behavior, ACCT Philly

Best practices for safe and peaceful behavior euthanasia

Olivia Whitton | Canine Manager, Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland

Community behavior support: How to make it work

Miranda Hitchcock | Executive Director, Every Dog Behavior and Training

Defining success for shelter dogs

Erin Kruckenberg | Canine Behavior Specialist, Dane County Humane Society

Envisioning the future of shelter behavior

Miranda K. Workman, PhD | Director, Shelter Behavior Education & Outreach, ASPCA

Feral and unsocialized dogs in a sheltering setting

Cameron Bonitto | Canine Behavior and Training Specialist, Underdog Animal Rescue and Rehab

Leveraging playgroups for positive outcomes

Laurie Lawless | Owner, Behavior Consultant, Shelter Behavior Integrations

Puzzles and enrichment games to build confidence

Suzanne Denk | Animal Enrichment Specialist, Animal Friends

What every shelter employee needs to know about animal behavior

Dorothy (Dot) Baisly | Executive Director, IAABC

Cats (Teal)

Building support for community cat programs

Jackie Noble | Executive Director, Orphan Kitten Club

Calmer cats, better outcomes: LIMA-based strategies for reducing stress

Molly DeVoss | Executive Director, Cat Behavior Solutions

Cat math: How to determine the number of cats that need to be fixed

Stacy LeBaron | Head Cat, Community Cat Central

Making an impact for community cats

Danielle Bays | Senior Program Manager, Cat Protection and Policy, Humane World for Animals

Sharing TNR tips for effective community cat trapping

Leigh O'Bryan | Policy Volunteer Operations Program Manager, Humane World for Animals

Strategies for recruiting and retaining TNR volunteers

Angeline Fahey | Lifesaving Outcomes Manager, Humane Society of Southern Arizona

Training staff and volunteers to be cat behavior counselors

Vicki Stevens | Principal, Program Management and Communications, Humane World for Animals

Community Outreach (Blue)

Animal welfare challenges in high-poverty communities

Jill Henke | Operations Director, Gateway Pet Guardians

Bridging human and animal health: Pet food pantry models

Mary Elizabeth Rauktis | University of Pittsburgh, Humane Animal Rescue Pittsburgh, Chow Wagon

Dog day out data and processes

Sarah Aguilar | Animal Services Director, Santa Barbara County

Examining equity and privilege in the “no kill” rhetoric

Charles Stanton | CEO, Animal Rights Foundation

Lobbying 101: A beginner guide to government advocacy for animals

Kristen Tullo | Pennsylvania State Director, Humane World for Animals

Make an impact by making friends: Working with elected officials' staff

Paul Sanders | Senior Manager, Public Engagement, Animal Care Centers of NYC

Puppy pawlitics: Improving animal welfare through local advocacy

Ariel Lefkovits | Public Policy Specialist, Puppy Mills, Humane World for Animals

RTO-M-G! Strategies for increasing return to owner impact

Steve Burdo | PIO, Contra Costa Animal Services

Supporting city ordinances to ban puppy mills

Aaron Zellhoefer | Minnesota State Director, Humane World for Animals

Field Services (Violet)

Advanced animal capture

John Peaveler | Owner, Principal Consultant, Humane Innovations

Exploring exemptions to animal cruelty law

Laura Koivula | Director, Animal Crimes and Investigations, Humane World for Animals

How a forensic veterinarian can help

Becky Morrow | Medical Director, Frankie's Friends Humane | Adjunct Faculty, UF CVM (Shelter Medicine)

Investigation considerations for poisoning cases

Shalimar Oliver | Case Manager, Animal Crimes, Humane World for Animals

Rethinking “nuisance” animal calls in animal control

Mark Sloat | Senior Principal Urban Wildlife, Humane World for Animals

Using the internet in animal cruelty investigations

Jacob Lloyd | CEO, Animal Welfare Investigations Project

Leadership (Light Purple)

Best practices in disaster preparedness and response for shelter leadership

Joy Ollinger | Manager, Disaster Response, ASPCA

Breaking down silos between teams

Heather Dolson | VP of Lifesaving Programs, Operation Kindness

Bridging the gap: Working smarter with local government

Mike Wheeler | Director, Cabot Animal Support Services | President, National Animal Care & Control Association

How to build momentum for animal policy in a fractured political landscape

Stefanie Heath | Program Manager, Law Enforcement Outreach and Engagement, Humane World for Animals

Leading multigenerational teams in animal welfare

Kelly Cunningham | Vice President of Programs, The Association for Animal Welfare Advancement

Making your organization's data work for you

Kasey Spain | Sr. Manager, Network Engagement and Shelter Pet Data Alliance | Best Friends Animal Society

Moving from symptom-based solutions to system-based prevention

Harry Eckman | Global Advisor for Cat Population Management, International Cat Care

Resilience and engagement: Keeping teams motivated in tough field conditions

Barbara Morales | Program Manager, Companion Animals and Engagement, Mexico, Humane World for Animals

Shelter leaders: How to get through the day with your sanity

Eli Hurley | Executive Director, Humane Association of Warren County

Stick with us: Building sticky cultures and loyal teams

Judith Dumont | Vice President, People & Culture, SPCA of Texas

Strategies for overhauling culture in your organization

Katrina Ross | Executive Director, Aggieland Humane Society

The role of veterinarians in animal welfare legislation

**** El rol veterinario en las leyes de bienestar animal**

Claudia Edwards | Program Director, Campaigns, Mexico, Humane World for Animals

Marketing and Fundraising (Bright Pink)

Beyond adoption day: How brand partnerships can sustain your mission

Michelle Huie | Founder & CEO, ShopDot Pet

Grant readiness essentials: Ensuring your organization stands out when applying

Lisa Pearce | Senior Grants Administrator, Charleston Animal Society

Marketing and resources swap: Share your strategies!

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Media strategies to save lives and navigate crisis

Kirsten Peek | Senior director of media relations, Humane World for Animals

Responsible use of AI in fundraising

Melissa Davis | Chief Philanthropy Officer, Nevada Humane Society

Strategies for gaining corporate support in animal welfare

Linda Baker | Director, Corporate Sponsorships, Humane World for Animals

Strategies to secure funding and build sustainable donations

Austin Meadows | Enterprise Customer Success Manager, Donorbox

Using before and after stories to connect supporters on social media

Tyler Lambert | Social Media Specialist, Humane World for Animals

Shelter Design (Light Pink)

Ask an architect: Open forum for animal welfare design

Kim Hanschen | Principal, Jackson & Ryan Architects

Financial and practical benefits of artificial grass

Ken Karmie | Brand Leader, K9Grass by ForeverLawn

Practical renovation strategies to support pet and people health and well-being

Heather Lewis | Principal, Animal Arts Design Studios, Inc.

Staying open during construction: Phasing strategies for shelters

Jennifer Phang | Vice President of Design Operations, MD Architects

Strategies for designing to your budget

Ken Just | Pre-Construction Consultant, RWE Design Build

Taming odor, disease and noise in animal shelters

Scott Learned | President, Design Learned Inc.

Shelter Operations (Red)

Adopting to renters, students, seniors and non-traditional adopters

Carol Whaley | Adopters Welcome Trainer, Humane World for Animals

Creating an adoption process that welcomes everyone

Destiny Pait | Senior Manager, Network Partner Experience, Best Friends Animal Society

From foster to adoption: Structuring the journey for dogs in foster care

Daisy Navin | Foster Programs Manager, LifeLine Animal Project

Implementing behavioral euthanasia guidelines - what works?

Maria Pyrdek | Chief Veterinarian and Animal Officer, Pasadena Humane

Metrics that matter: Redefining "success" in adoptions

Steph Rose | Adopters Welcome Trainer, Humane World for Animals

Overcoming challenges of managed intake for open-admission shelters

Tricia Power | Director of Animal Control, Bryant Animal Control & Adoption Center

Starting and managing prison programs with shelter dogs

Katie Vecchi | Chief Shelter Operations Officer, Animal Friends

Trauma-informed owner surrender

Shoshana Mostoller | Program Director, My Dog Is My Home

Veterinary Medicine (Orange)

Access to immersive veterinary training experiences in spay and neuter in Latin America

* **Acceso a experiencias inmersivas de capacitación veterinaria en esterilización y castración en América Latina**

Diana Rodríguez | Senior Program Manager, Companion Animals and Engagement, Humane World for Animals

Affordable, accessible care and HQHVSN through mobile veterinary clinics

Alba Gonzalez, Veterinarian, Rascal Unit

Shelter medicine

Erin Katribe, Director | National Veterinary Programs, Best Friends Animal Society

Strategies for hosting hands-on veterinary trainings

Brianna Lovell Myers | Executive Director, United Spay Alliance

Street medicine: Providing medical support to pets of the unhoused

Bridgid Twomey | Assistant Professor of Health System Sciences | Western University College of Veterinary Medicine

Vet and vet tech meetup: Successes and challenges in veterinary medicine

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Volunteers (Yellow)

Asking for the help you want (you might just get it!)

Lisa Wetherby | Senior Program Manager, Animal Rescue Volunteer Program, Humane World for Animals

Diversifying volunteer support: Are we leaving supporters behind?

Summer Dolder | Adopters Welcome Trainer, Humane World for Animals

Surprising ways to engage volunteers across your organization

Cat Crockett | Community Care Supervisor, Muttville Senior Dog Rescue

Virtual onboarding for fosters and volunteers

Sarah Leonard | Intake Supervisor, Muttville Senior Dog Rescue

Volunteer power: Driving culture and connection in rescue

Jennifer Angelucci | President/CEO, Paws Crossed Animal Rescue Inc.

Volunteer with your voice: Using your power as a constituent to help animals

Maxine Vitaliano | Specialist, Policy Volunteer Program, Humane World for Animals

Wellness (White)

Care and compassion for staff in protective custody cases

Kelly Bremken | Veterinary Social Worker, Oregon Humane Society

Social work in animal welfare: Best practices for organizations

Augusta O'Reilly | President, International Association of Veterinary Social Work

Taking care of animals starts with taking care of you: Why self-care matters

Samantha Chapman | Indiana State Director, Humane World for Animals

What the fluff? Let's talk about burnout

Sarah Bowen | Executive Director, Compassion Consortium

Workplace wellness: Share your tips and ideas

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