



ADOPTION OPTIONS 2014

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Kansas Humane Society
3313 N. Hillside, Wichita, KS 67219

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.)

9:00 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 – 10:15 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.

10:15 am – 11:45 am MARKETING YOUR PETS ONLINE: TIPS AND TRICKS TO INCREASE ADOPTIONS

Melissa Vecera

After a brief look at Petfinder's free service to the animal welfare community, Melissa will review the many benefits, resources and services that Petfinder offers members. This will be followed by a few tips and tricks for increasing adoptions, using Petfinder.

11:45 am – noon BREAK

Noon – 1:30 pm CREATING A LIFESAVING IMPACT

Susan Cosby

Increase adoptions by examining your rescue or shelter's approach to adopters and the adoption process. Create a major lifesaving impact for animals in your community by renovating and improving your organization's adoption program with mission-based, data-driven, and customer friendly ideas.

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm VEGETARIAN LUNCH, NETWORKING TIME

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm SHELTER MEDICINE 101

Brian Diangi, 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.

3:45 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. Don't miss these key training and communication tips that 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.

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

Our Speakers

KAREN MEADER, PETCO

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 a total of 10 years with the company. 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.

MELISSA VECERA, PETFINDER

Melissa is a shelter outreach specialist for Petfinder. She has over seven 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. She currently manages the North American Adoption Options conference series, as well as all Petfinder webinars. She works near Baltimore, MD, and shares her home with a Dachshund named Lily, whom she found on Petfinder.

SUSAN COSBY, CAWA, ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL TEAM OF PHILADELPHIA

Susan Cosby is the executive director of the newly formed Animal Care and Control Team of Philadelphia, former president and CEO of the Pennsylvania SPCA and former executive director of the Animal Welfare Association in New Jersey. She is committed to creating no-kill communities and has led high-volume, high-quality companion animal sheltering and spay-and-neuter efforts, impacting the lives of tens of thousands of animals annually.

BRIAN DIGANGI, DVM, MS, DABVP, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Dr. Brian DiGangi obtained his DVM from the University of Florida in 2006. While at UF, Dr. DiGangi completed clinical externships in both shelter medicine and exotic animal medicine. He became the first shelter medicine resident to graduate from UF in 2010, became a diplomat of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners in canine/feline practice, and received his MS in Veterinary Medical Sciences shortly thereafter. Dr. DiGangi has published research on feline adoption, pregnancy detection and immunology. Dr. DiGangi is currently a clinical assistant professor at UF and serves on the board of directors of the Association of Shelter Veterinarians.

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 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, sounds and scents of nature.

**Thank you to our host,
Kansas Humane Society**