

# ADOPTION OPTIONS

## Savannah, GA

Wednesday  
June 22, 2016

**THE ARMSTRONG CENTER**  
13040 Abercorn Street  
Savannah, GA 31419

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,  
ATLANTA 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**

**DR. KAREN DASHFIELD**

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**

**FOSTER FOR SUCCESS: IMPROVING YOUR FOSTER PROGRAM TO SAVE MORE LIVES**

**LINDA REIDER**

This is a comprehensive workshop including foster program structure; recruiting and training foster caregivers; selecting animals to foster; managing a simple foster database; matching animals to fosters; supporting foster caregivers; managing vet care; promoting foster animal adoption, and; evaluating success.

**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**

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## Savannah 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.*

### **KAREN DASHFIELD, DVM**

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL POUND

*Dr. Karen Dashfield is a shelter veterinarian with 25 years of experience designing disease control programs for shelters, kennels, and wildlife rehabilitators throughout New Jersey. She is the Supervising Veterinarian for the Jefferson Township Municipal Pound and through her Veterinary House call practice she provides consultation and animal care for numerous shelters and rescues including Friends of Ferals, Byram Animal Rescue and Kindness Squad, Shelter Showcase, and Liberty Humane Society. She has served as a Volunteer Medical Director for the Best Friends Animal Society NY Super Adoptions since 2010. Dr. Karen also works closely with the members of the New Jersey Association of Wildlife Rehabilitators and is the recipient of their 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award. As the Director of the Sussex County Animal Response Team (CART), she initiated and ran a shelter for Hurricane Katrina Dogs in 2005/2006 that received, re-homed, and reunited over 200 animals. She prepares future animal control officers, shelter workers, and wildlife rehabilitators through her teaching for Career Development Institute, and at local and regional conferences. Karen shares her home with her four dogs, Red, Delilah, Sadie and Pollywog, and a cat named Princess.*

### **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.*

### **LINDA REIDER**

BUCKS COUNTY SPCA

*Linda Reider is the Executive Director of the Bucks County SPCA in Pennsylvania, an organization that operates two open admission, "no time limit" animal care centers, investigates animal cruelty county-wide, provides 24-hour emergency rescue, and reaches into the diverse communities of the county to improve the lives of animals and their people. 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 31 years. She lives in the woods with her two cats, her patient husband, the foxes and the bears.*

### **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.*