



June 6th 2019: Minneapolis, MN

8:30-9:00: Registration

9:00 – 10:00: **Welcome & Getting the Most out of Petfinder – Susan Greene, Purina/Petfinder**

10:15 – 11:30: **Shelter Medicine 101 - Dr. Jenny Morris, DVM, Atlanta Humane Society**

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.

11:30 – 12:30: **Networking Lunch with Speakers and Attendees**

12:30 – 1:45: **Marketing that Moves Hard to Place Pets – Caitlin Quinn, HeARTs Speak**

The reality of our work is that you don't always have highly adoptable pets looking for homes. Sometimes you have challenging pets to place—those who tend to be overlooked or take longer to find new homes for other reasons. This session focuses on easy-to-implement, free and fun ways to reach new audiences, all while working to reach your lifesaving goals. Through humor, out-of-the-box strategies, transparency and creative media, we'll discuss how to help make all of your adoptables shine

2:00 – 3:15: **Beyond Spay/Neuter: Innovative Programs & Practices to Decrease the Number of Pets Relinquished to Animal Shelters & Rescue Groups**

Over the past few decades, the animal welfare field has made tremendous strides in reducing the homeless animal population through spay/neuter programs. While we still have a ways to go, new programs have emerged to keep pets out of shelters/rescues and in their original homes. This presentation will provide an overview of innovative programs that are effectively addressing the risk factors for pet relinquishment. Topics will include access to affordable veterinary care and pet food, temporary pet care for people experiencing a crisis (e.g., domestic violence, emergency hospitalization, inpatient treatment programs for mental health or substance use disorder), support for vulnerable older adults and people with disabilities, and safety nets for people living in poverty. Audience members will learn evidence-based practices for conducting needs assessments, building a new program, funding and sustaining a program, and collaborating with community partners. Whether you are a brick-and-mortar shelter or a home-based rescue group, and regardless of your staff size and budget, this presentation will give you practical tools and tips to keep more pets with their original owners and decrease the number of animals that are relinquished in your community.

3:30 – 4:45: **More than Just Fun and Games: The Impact of Shelter Playgroups – Emily Grossheider**

It's more than just fun and games; play groups save lives! After visiting over 200 shelters across the United States and Canada, the team at Dogs Playing for Life™ has done more than have a lot of fun playing with dogs. We will share case studies and evidence that playgroups improve the quality of life of dogs and their caretakers. We will also share how shelters across the country have effectively used play groups to facilitate better adoption matching, more accurate sociability assessments, and improved shelter operations. Dogs live to play...we let them play to live!

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