

ANIMAL

CARE & CONTROL TODAY

A Publication of the National Animal Care and Control Association



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National Animal Care & Control Association Executive Director: Jerrica Owen

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40960 California Oaks Rd. #242
Murrieta, CA 92562
Phone: 913.768.1319 / Fax: 913.766.1378
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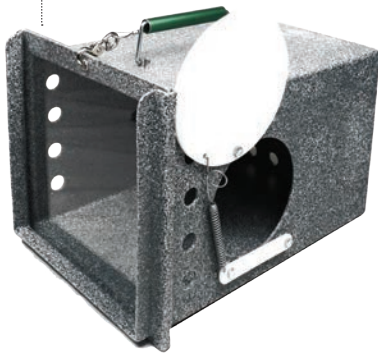
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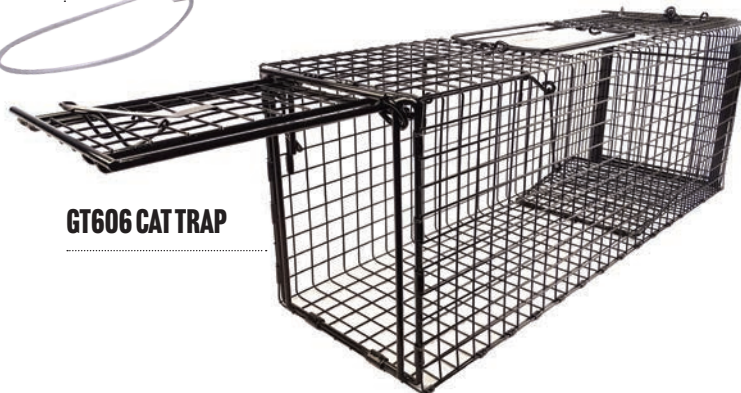
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From Our Executive Director



Dear NACA Members and Readers,

As the warm embrace of summer covers us, I wanted to take a moment to reach out and share my gratitude for all you do. As the executive director of our esteemed professional association, I am constantly inspired by the dedication and passion each of you brings to our industry. Summer is a time of growth, renewal, and exploration. It is a season that invites us to embrace new experiences, develop relationships, and refresh our spirits. It is my hope that you all find the time to enjoy the beauty of this radiant season. While the allure of relaxation is undeniable, let us not forget the importance of staying connected. Summer provides an ideal backdrop for forging new connections and strengthening existing ones. Reach out to fellow ACOs, plan informal gatherings, or participate in community events. Engage in meaningful conversations, share ideas, and foster collaborations that will continue to propel our industry forward.

As we embrace the longer days and warmer nights, let us also reflect on our collective achievements as animal care and control professionals across our country. The successes we have attained as a professional association are a testament to our united vision and cooperative efforts. Let this serve as a reminder of the impact we can make when we work together toward a common goal. I would like to express my gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering support and commitment to NACA. Your dedication to excellence and continuous pursuit of professional growth is what sets us apart. Together, we can continue to shape the future of our industry and create a lasting impact. I wish you a summer filled with joy, relaxation, and memorable moments. May this season ignite your passion and inspire you to reach new heights.

Jerrica Owen
CAWA Executive Director



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NACA FIELD SERVICES SERIES: COMMUNICATION AS A TOOL



NACA understands that communication is an essential aspect of human interaction, especially in the role of animal care and control. Communication serves as a powerful tool that facilitates understanding, strengthens relationships, and drives collaboration. It is the cornerstone of successful interactions both personal and professional. Furthermore, communication enables individuals to express thoughts, share ideas, and connect with others, a vital part of protecting the animals and humans in our communities.

In partnership with Maddie's Fund University, NACA is elated to be releasing the third course in our four-part Field Services Series designed specifically for animal care and control professionals.

Officers in the field are often faced with difficult and highly emotionally charged situations. These situations can often easily be diffused with appropriate language, and communication is the most important tool in your belt. As an officer, you are in the people business as much as you are in the animal business. Your communication tools directly impact the success or failure of the cases, individuals, and communities in which you work. This course has a strong foundation of communication in general as well as going into deeper details on verbal and nonverbal communication. Throughout this course, we will explore the significance of communication as a tool and delve into its various aspects that contribute to effective and meaningful exchanges to better support animal care and control professionals. ❖



Maddie's
Fund

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Unlocking Success: The Power of Professional Certification

Obtaining a national animal control officer certification from NACA offers several important benefits for individuals working in the field. Here are some reasons why obtaining the certification is valuable:

Professional Recognition

National certification in animal control demonstrates your commitment to professionalism and expertise in the field of animal control. It serves as an acknowledgment of your knowledge, skills, and experience, setting you apart from others in the industry.

Enhanced Job Opportunities

Certification can give you a competitive edge and increase your chances of landing desirable job opportunities. Many employers, including government agencies, animal shelters, and law enforcement departments, prioritize certified animal control officers when hiring.

Legal Compliance

Animal control officers often have the authority to enforce animal-related laws and regulations. By obtaining national certification, you demonstrate that you have the necessary training and understanding of legal requirements, ensuring you can perform your duties in a lawful and effective manner.

Professional Development

NACA certification requires continuing education and training, ensuring that you stay up to date with the latest industry practices, advancements, and legal changes. This commitment to continuous learning helps you enhance your skills, stay current in your field, and provide the best possible service to the community.

Public Trust and Confidence

National certification instills confidence in the public you serve. It assures them that you possess the necessary knowledge and expertise to handle animal-related issues with compassion, professionalism, and adherence to ethical standards. Obtaining a NACA certification helps establish trust and credibility, fostering positive relationships between animal control officers and the communities in which they serve.

Personal and Organizational Growth

Possessing a NACA certification not only benefits individual animal control officers but also contributes to the overall growth of the organizations they represent. Certified officers bring valuable skills, knowledge, and best practices to their roles, promoting efficient operations and improved outcomes for both animals and the community.

By obtaining a national animal control officer certification from NACA, you invest in your professional growth, demonstrate your expertise, and contribute to the welfare and safety of the animals and communities you serve. ❖



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Terrabonne Parish Animal Shelter Rises to the Challenge!

NACA is honored to have partnered once again with Maddie's Fund on the 2022 Return to Home Challenge! This challenge was all about getting pets back to their homes through innovative programming, changes in process, community engagement, and more! NACA has selected Terrebonne Parish Animal Shelter as one of our winners for this challenge and we are so thankful for the opportunity to have sat down with them recently to learn more! In addition, we were able to thank them in person when we met the team at the 2023 HSUS Expo in New Orleans, Louisiana (photo below)!

What were the Return to Home practices your organization implemented?

Our shelter's Return to Home policies and lost and found techniques are marketed to the community. Our team embraces a culture of Return to Home and works with the community to help facilitate animals going back home and not necessarily to a new home. We use technology such as Petco Love Lost, social media, etc. to help reunite pets and owners. Also, animals found by our field team are returned to their owners in the field rather than at the shelter.



Can you share with us the new program/impact?

Our team is trained to think, "Where are your owners?" before thinking, "You would be an easy adoption." Our field team is required to knock on a minimum of four doors adjacent to the location of a stray dog and leave door hangers to alert neighbors that we picked up a stray dog. We post all our stray dogs on a "Lost Pets" community page and on our website the same day of pick up. We also implemented a game-changing community cat program this year to return to home those outdoor cats after spay/neuter. Our rate of positive outcomes for cats went from 33 percent to 94 percent soon after implementation.

What was your AHA moment while participating in this challenge?

Changing the minds of staff to think "Where are your owners?" instead of an adoption outcome was an adjustment, but retraining our minds to think that way really is the key!

What were your challenges and how did you overcome them?

Many people are still displaced after the devastating category four Hurricane Ida pummeled our community in August 2021, and that has caused difficulty with locating displaced pet owners in order to reunite lost pets.

Can you share with us your favorite story?

Minnie, a two-year-old American Pit Bull Terrier, came into our shelter from a good Samaritan who was driving on a highway and found her laying on the side of the road. All the while, Minnie's owners were desperately searching for her. The good Samaritan brought Minnie straight to our shelter and our team jumped into action. Because we implemented a procedure of posting all stray dogs to a local "lost pets" Facebook page with a large following, Minnie's owners were able to see our post and rushed in to reclaim her. Minnie was brought straight to her vet for treatment for her injuries.

Thank you, Terrebonne Parish Animal Shelter for all that you do for the pets and people in your community! ❖



Do You Invite People to Lie to You?

By George Olivo

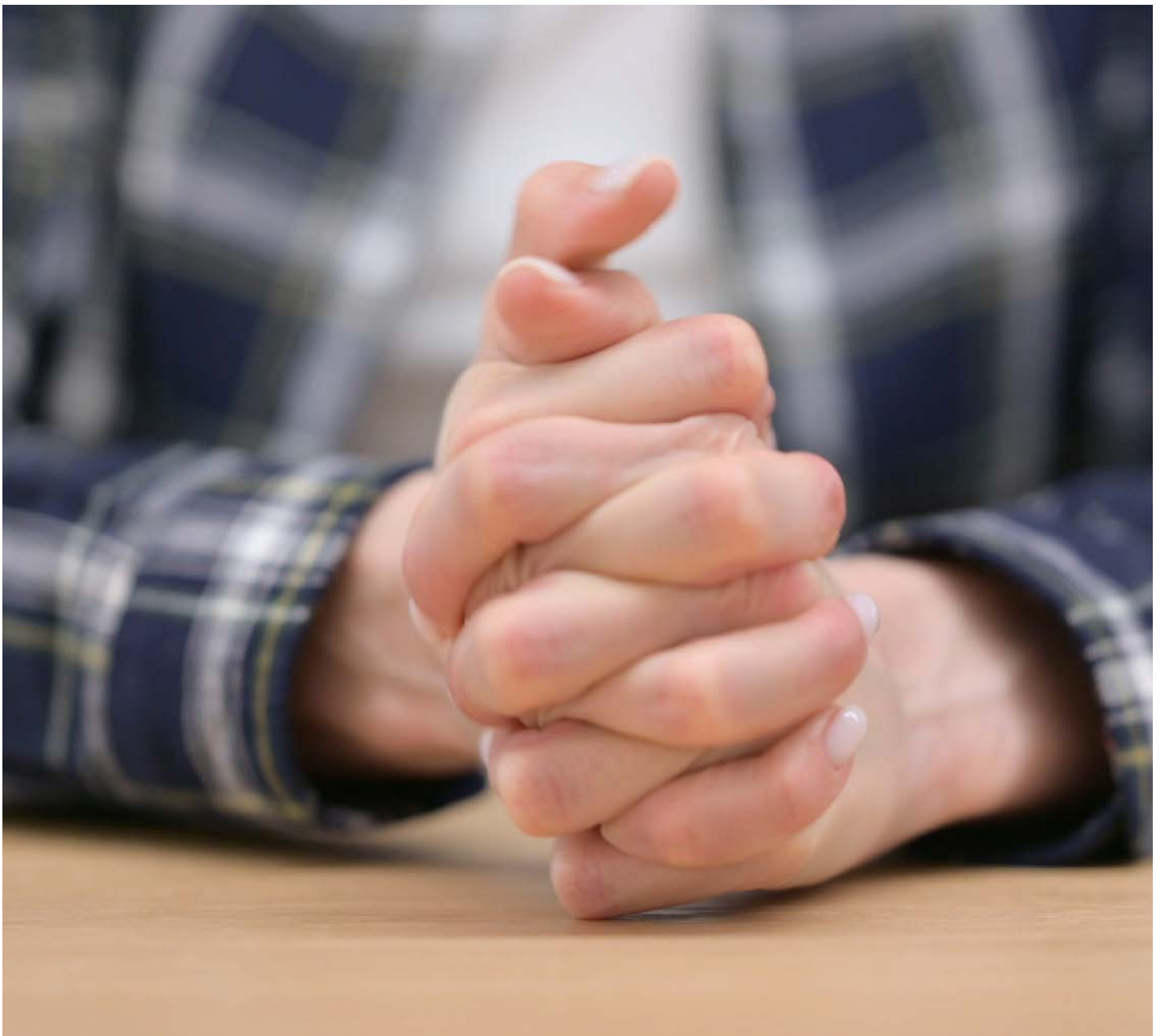
No one wants to be lied to. Yet, if we don't understand some things about the psychology of deception, we might actually be encouraging people to lie to us during an interview!

Consider first your own attitude...

The jaded investigator who comes across as suspicious and judgmental will only remind the subject of the negative consequences associated with telling the truth. That's why the "tough-guy" approach during an interview is

often ineffective. It encourages most people to lie because of the inherent trait of self-preservation in all of us. In other words, it goes against human nature to cooperate with someone that we fear or don't trust.

In order to encourage truthfulness during an interview, it's better to be perceived as completely neutral and objective. Mixing interview with interrogation strategies is a common mistake. They are very different procedures that rarely work together. During the interview phase, our outward demeanor during Q&A should always convey



the following message to the interviewee: "At this point, I have no reason to doubt what you're saying."

Asking the right questions...

Because we don't like being lied to, some investigators may shy away from pointed questions that may sound offensive or accusatory. Instead, they may try to soften the impact by adding qualifiers to the hard, pointed questions. This, of course, makes the question easier to lie to.

Asking direct, point-blank questions, (with a neutral, non-accusatory demeanor), is the best way to elicit authentic reactions from the subject. The officer can then better assess the individual's behavior as either truthful or deceptive.

Avoiding the wrong questions...

A negative question that presumes agreement is the easiest question to lie to, and therefore should not be asked during the interview: "So, you didn't do it?" "So, you don't know anything about it?" "You haven't left out any details, have you?"

It is very unlikely for a guilty person to correct the officer's implication within a negative question, therefore, asking such a question is practically forcing the guilty person to lie! And the more they are invited to lie, the harder it will be for the officer to turn that ship around. Negative questions are a gift to the deceptive person who merely has to agree in order to lie. We should therefore avoid negative questions during the interview phase.

Much more could be said...

The truth is like toothpaste; it comes out a little bit at a time! Obtaining information and assessing credibility are critical, yet perishable skills. Effective interview and interrogation (I&I) training is essential for the front-line ACO who deals with the public, where criminal intent is not always easy to discern.

Over the course of his career, George Olivo, FBI (retired) conducted thousands of polygraph examinations for the FBI, across the

U.S. and overseas (CONUS & OCONUS). Along the way, he helped train new FBI, federal, and local polygraph examiners and law enforcement officers in the most effective interview strategies and credibility assessment techniques. Find out more about George at www.Georgeolivo.com. ❖



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NACA Brings Mental Health First Aid National Certification Training to ACOs and Animal Welfare Professionals

By Dr. Janet Hoy-Gerlach

To help equip ACOs to confidently and effectively respond when encountering human mental health challenges, the National Animal Control Association is launching a Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) national certification course initiative.

Mental health and substance use issues remain elevated in the United States three years after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, with 90 percent of U.S. adults believing that the country is facing a mental health crisis. As first responders for animal-related concerns in our communities, animal control officers (ACOs) and other animal welfare professionals routinely work in situations in which people are experiencing high levels of stress. High levels of stress are a known contributor to and exacerbator of human mental health challenges. While responding to animal-related issues, ACOs and other animal welfare professionals find themselves in de facto first responder role for emergent human mental health challenges.

Just as being certified in CPR enables those without clinical training to assist an individual having a heart attack, MHFA certification prepares participants to interact with and effectively support a person experiencing a mental health crisis. MHFA certification training entails a groundbreaking skills-based course that gives the tools to identify, understand, and respond to someone who might be struggling with a mental health or substance use challenge — and connect them with

ALGEE: THE ACTION PLAN



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GIVE re-assurance and information.



ENCOURAGE appropriate professional help.



ENCOURAGE self-help and other support strategies.

appropriate support and resources when necessary.

Through the certification training, mental health first aiders learn about: basic mental health signs and symptoms; the skills need to identify, assess, and provide appropriate support during a mental health crisis; how to link people to needed resources; and the necessity of self-care as a mental health first aider. A five-step skills action plan is taught to enable mental health first aiders to easily retain and implement the appropriate skills as needed; the action plan is called ALGEE.

“Never has it been more important for our communities to talk about mental health and substance use,” says Chuck Ingoglia, president and CEO of the National Council for Mental Wellbeing, which helped bring MHFA to the U.S. from Australia in 2008. “This program is breaking down barriers and stigma so that together we can learn how to better support one another. Without mental health, there is no health.” MHFA has become a full-blown movement in the United States — more than 2.5 million people — including first responders, educators, and members of the general public - are certified mental health first aiders, and that number is growing every day.

The MHFA national certification courses offered through NACA will be taught by certified MHFA instructor Dr. Janet Hoy-Gerlach. Dr. Hoy-Gerlach is a licensed clinical social worker and human-animal interaction researcher with extensive practice experience in community-based crisis intervention work and suicide risk assessment. She is the lead author of *Human-Animal Interaction: A Social Work Guide*, published by the National Association of Social Work

(the largest professional social work organization in the United States), and helps develop programs and policies that support the human-animal bond for mutual wellbeing through her social work consulting practice, OneHealth People-Animal Wellness Services (OHPAWs).

“I am thrilled to be able to partner with NACA to help support ACOs and animal welfare professionals in the critically important work they do for animals and people,” says Dr. Hoy-Gerlach. “Mental Health First Aid certification offers an effective tool to help address the human needs encountered in their life-saving work with animals.”

For more information or to participate in a MHFA training through NACA, go to the NACA training section of the website.

Dr. Janet Hoy-Gerlach PhD, LISW-S, is a clinical social worker, MHFA certification instructor, human-animal interaction researcher, and author who focuses on supporting the human-animal bond to promote human and animal well-being. She has extensive community-based mental health practice experience in outreach crisis response and suicide assessment. While working within academe as a tenured full social work professor role with a joint appointment in psychiatry, she served as the lead faculty for the mental health track in a graduate social work program. Her research on Emotional Support Animals (ESAs) has been cited in national news sources such as Discover Magazine, Business Insider, the Guardian, Medscape, and Psychology Today. She serves as a subject matter expert on ESAs for the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division. ❖



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It's Not Only About the Cats

By Don Hall

"Honest disagreement is often a good sign of progress." — Gandhi

If there is one thing T-Town TNR cares about as much as community cats, it's community humans. We are human, after all, and it is people who provide the requests for assistance upon which we act. The issues can take many forms. Most people enjoy the company of cats, but maybe not 50 of them. Some have neutral feelings but want to alleviate visible animal suffering. A few consider felines a nuisance and would prefer they just go away. Sentiments differ, but almost everyone agrees that less is better when it comes to free-roaming, unowned cats.

At T-Town TNR, we trap, neuter, vaccinate, and return feral cats to their outdoor homes. But if you think that's all, you are missing a big part of the picture, particularly the short-term impact that targeted TNR can have on a population of animals, and as importantly, the people who live with them. This was certainly the case for a recent project.

These cats and their predecessors had occupied the neighborhood for as long as anyone could remember. They were so familiar that people had given them names. The animals lived along a two-block strip, and there were kittens—lots of them. One litter was born in the backyard of a homeowner who didn't want them there, and another resident had legitimate personal health concerns about the animals. Most people, however, liked having them around. They were part of the neighborhood after all, but there were far too many, and the population was growing fast.

Four T-Town TNR trappers worked for two nights, using 20 traps spread over five locations. The lead, Laura, spent six additional days catching the last two kittens. It took every technique and piece of equipment she had, including a fish net, but she got them, using a meowing sibling in a covered carrier to attract the last. Genius! When a neighbor commented on her dedication, she



replied, "You didn't think I was just going to leave a kitten out here, did you?"

Regardless of individual feelings toward the cats, the neighborhood pitched in and was critical to our success. People provided a history of feline behavior, told trappers about animal sightings and distribution, monitored activity on porch cameras, helped watch traps, and carried animals to vehicles. Someone baked cookies. Neighbors conversed on street corners and sidewalks with people to whom they rarely spoke. And it rained; no, check that, it poured the kind of deluge where every inch gets wet, including the soles of your socks. It was cold and miserable, but hungry cats don't have the luxury of waiting for the weather, so we trapped.

Thirty-four cats were caught that week, including 20 kittens. Fourteen adults were processed and returned, and one venerable old male, Goliath, was treated for a severe eye infection. It was nearly a clean sweep, but a single wily female remained unbowed and intact. She will be caught eventually. You can bet the ranch on it because that lead trapper won't stop until she is.

The kittens were young enough to be socialized, so they never returned to the neighborhood. Most were adopted through the kindness of Tiny Paws in Stillwater, Oklahoma, and the Tulsa SPCA. You see, T-Town TNR does not have a foster or adoption program. It's beyond our core mission and out of reach of our resources. But tell one of us

(continued on page 16)





(continued from page 15)

that there is no hope for an adoptable kitten, and they'll chuckle and prove you wrong. Volunteers work out those details at their own expense, with a fair amount of negotiation, bartering, and a little groveling. It's an added strain, but you didn't think we were just going to leave a kitten out there, did you?

Sadly, two kittens from one litter were so sick that they died in veterinary care the day after they were trapped. The mother cat was physically spent from the rigors of raising young and couldn't provide adequate nutrition. You can see them on page 15 enjoying the last sunny day of their brief lives. The lead trapper second-guessed herself, wondering if they would have preferred to spend their remaining hours at home with siblings rather than at the animal hospital, terrified and alone. Losing a kitten drives us crazy; what if we had gotten there a week earlier—or a day?

Five of the kittens tested positive for the feline leukemia virus—a diagnosis that frequently carries the death penalty. The foster trapper, Rachel, was having none of that and was intent on finding them homes. Due to the stigma associated with the disease, it was an uphill slog with a lot of baggage. She sent out 100 adoption requests to rescue organizations throughout the U.S. and received only two favorable responses. Along the way, she modified her vision of finding perfect homes for the tiny creatures to grasping for any homes at all. After two months of bonding, socializing, and caring for them, She drove the not-quite-so-small kittens to Missouri, where The Kansas City Pet Project had them adopted in a matter of days.

And the neighborhood? It is still there with the people, community cats, and varied opinions thereof, but that week, a united effort was formed from those differences to reach a common goal. These folks will continue to be a critical element of that success, communicating with each other and us, keeping an eye out for new cats needing TNR or injured animals requiring medical assistance. That's what managed cat communities are all about.

The long-term efficacy of TNR and subsequent oversight of outdoor cat populations has been shown by decades of research to be the best current ethical solution to community cat overpopulation. Still, it's debated. But on those eight October days, in that place, we produced an instant population reduction of over half. It was accomplished without euthanizing a single healthy animal, burdening shelters, or spending one penny of taxpayer money, never mind the long-term population-stabilizing effect of neutering the adults. And it made the human community happy, cat lovers and haters alike. It's hard to disagree with that.

Those trappers and others like them are off to other projects with similar problems experienced by similar people. T-Town TNR processed 1,439 animals last year and more than 8,000 since our organization began seven years ago with two friends and a trap. We have responded to over 2,500 requests from Tulsa citizens to date, but there is still so much work to do. We have the desire but limited resources, and the reproductive clock is ticking.

You can help! The future of a community cat's life can be changed forever for about \$75, the price of a nice dinner. We'll provide the tip. The cats will never thank you because they're funny that way, but we sure will, and so will members of the Tulsa community.

The all-volunteer staff at T-Town TNR are unrepentant cat lovers: long hair, short hair, cross-eyed, stubby-tailed, it's of little consequence. We love happy, healthy cats living in their outdoor homes, unburdened by cyclic reproductive stress and graced with a tipped ear. We love purring fat-bellied kittens indoors, not crossing busy streets searching for food or falling victim to predation and disease. And we love the people we work with and the human communities we serve, because although some of us long to become a cat in another life, alas, in this one, we are only human.

Don is a retired geologist that works with Tulsa Oklahoma's T-Town TNR in multiple roles and traps with his adult daughter, Rachel. ❖



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Keeping Your Pets Safe in the Heat: Essential Tips for Pet Owners

As the temperatures rise during the scorching summer months, it's crucial to pay special attention to our furry companions. Just like humans, pets can suffer from the effects of extreme heat, and as animal care and control officers, it is our duty to help our communities take proper precautions and be able to identify the symptoms of heat-related illnesses to better protect against those dangers. Here are some precautionary measures we want to share to help arm you with information when you have to address the topic in your community!

Hydration!

Proper hydration is vital for pets in hot weather. Ensure that your pets always have access to fresh, cool water. Consider placing multiple water bowls in easily accessible locations, both indoors and outdoors. If you are heading out for a walk or spending time outdoors, carry a portable water bottle and collapsible bowl to offer your pet frequent drinks.

Shade and ventilation

Create a cool retreat for your pets by providing them with adequate shade and proper ventilation. Trees, canopies, or outdoor pet shelters are excellent options. If your pet spends time indoors, ensure there is adequate airflow. The use of fans or air conditioning can help maintain a comfortable environment. Direct exposure to the sun can quickly lead to heatstroke, so make sure they have a sheltered area that offers relief from the sun.

Walking on hot surfaces

Concrete and asphalt can become extremely hot during the warm summer days, which may cause severe burns to pets' paws. Before taking a walk, test the ground with the back of your hand. If it's too hot for you to comfortably touch, it's too hot for your pet's paws.

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Time your walks wisely

Take your pets for walks during the cooler parts of the day, such as early morning or late evening. Avoid walking or exercising during the peak heat hours, typically between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Try multiple short walks rather than one long walk to reduce the risk of heat-related illnesses.

Never leave pets unattended in vehicles

Leaving animals in a parked car, even with the windows cracked, can be life-threatening within minutes. It takes only minutes before the temperature inside can lead to heatstroke and irreversible organ damage. Remind owners to leave pets at home in a cool, well-ventilated space.

Recognize the signs

Understanding the signs of heatstroke in pets can be

crucial. Symptoms may include drooling, excessive panting, lethargy, vomiting, rapid heartbeat, diarrhea, and even seizures. If you suspect heatstroke, immediately move the pet to a shady or cooler area and apply cool water to the underside of the body. Seek veterinary assistance as soon as possible.

Adequate grooming helps regulate pet's body temperature and keep their coat healthy. Brushing long-haired pets to remove excess hair and mats can prevent overheating. However, be cautious about shaving them completely, as their fur also acts as insulation against heat. Consult with a veterinarian or groomer to determine the best grooming practices for individual pet needs.

When it comes to pet safety in the heat, vigilance and practical measures are key. By following these crucial tips you can ensure that the pets in your community and the humans who love them are protected during hot weather. ❖



Every. Single. One.

By Deputy M. Collins, Cheboygan County Animal Control

The neglect changes you. The injustice destroys you. The abuse hardens you. The suffering breaks you. The ignorance angers you. The indifference disturbs you. Daily, your faith will be tested. Your heart will be wounded. Your soul will be altered. On a weekly basis, you'll question yourself. You'll question your strength. You'll question the world. On a monthly basis, you'll fall down. You'll get up. You'll go on. On a yearly basis, you'll look back. You'll see photos. You couldn't save them.... You'll learn to mourn. To grieve. To sob. In silence. You'll learn to trust a little less. To do a little more. To fight a little harder. You'll learn to try. To hope. To pray. You'll learn to fail. To succeed. To accept. You'll learn when to hold on. When to give up. When to let go. You'll learn who you are, what you stand for, and WHY THAT MATTERS!

Then, at times, you'll forget why you matter. You'll question what you're doing. You'll wonder if it's worth it, if you're really making a difference. But when you question yourself, when you forget, when you wonder, all you have to do is take a look around, and you'll see them. You'll see their faces. You'll see them with their new families. The updated emails and cards will make your week. You'll feel their love, now from a distance. In their eyes, you saw their journey. You'll remember their beginnings. You'll know how far they've come. You'll remember when they didn't know you, how scared they were, when they didn't trust you and they'd completely given up. You'll remember how you healed them, how you loved them, and how they loved you too!

And as you look back you'll want to move forward. FOR them, and because of them. In your darkest hours, you'll look through past photos to recall the differences made, the last of hope that was given, the lives saved. Because you existed. Remembering those moments, when you looked in their eyes and made that promise every doubt will be erased. Every worry will subside as you remember who you are.

Rescue is pain. Rescue is joy. Rescue is an unanswered question. Rescue is worth it. Because THEY are worth it. Every. Single. One. ❖



NACA Membership Benefits



Discounts on:

Equipment

Training

Conferences

Industry Association Memberships

Job postings



In addition, access to member-only resources, networking circles, trainings, events calendars, CEU tracking system, and much more...



JOIN TODAY !

Preparing for July Fourth

Submitted by San Diego Humane Society

Every year, July Fourth brings new meaning to the “dog days” of summer. With dogs spooked by fireworks and fleeing their homes, San Diego Humane Society’s stray dog intake skyrockets over the holiday weekend. Last year, out of 275 stray pets admitted between July 4-7, 124 of them were dogs. Only 37 had identification and just 42 were reclaimed by owners.

Although higher stray intake over July Fourth is an inevitable annual phenomenon, San Diego Humane Society is taking intentional steps to mitigate the number of pets who become lost in our communities. Through targeted messaging, external advertising, and additional services to support people who have lost their animals, we are equipping pet owners with tools to prevent their pets from

being lost and to find them more quickly if they are.

1. Targeted outdoor advertising: To educate the community leading up to July Fourth, we launched an outdoor advertising campaign in April with the messaging “1 in 3 pets will go missing. Protect yours today.” The ads, which appear on buses and transit shelters, are targeted to zip codes within the county that represent our highest stray intake, and direct people to a web page with information about licensing, identification, microchipping and lost and found resources.

2. Lost2Found texting platform: In January 2023, we launched our Lost2Found texting platform which provides automated texts to help owners seeking lost animals. Members of the public can text “LOST” to 858-SAN-LOST



(858-726-5678) to begin receiving messages with tips and resources to aid them in their search.

3. Community Lost and Found volunteers: San Diego Humane Society is ramping up our Community Lost and Found program, which provides microchip scanners to volunteers throughout the community. These volunteers are able to connect directly with local pet owners who have found stray animals to scan the pets and help get them back home safely and skip a trip to the shelter.

4. Social media promotion: In May and June, our social media messaging include posts focused on promoting microchipping, the importance of ID tags, our available lost

and found resources, and general pet safety tips for July Fourth.

By making a concerted effort leading up to the July Fourth holiday weekend, we hope to educate our community, equip pet owners with the tools they need to keep their animals safe, and ultimately reduce the number of stray pets who need to enter our care. With our shelters already experiencing record high populations of dogs this year, this messaging is more important than ever. To view our tips and resources to prevent pets from becoming lost, visit sdhumane.org/protect. ❖

1 in 3 pets will go **missing.**

PROTECT YOURS TODAY.

sdhumane.org/protect



NACA Monthly Member Meeting

3rd Thursday of every month

10 am PST • 12 pm CST • 1 pm EST

Link can
be found in the
members
dashboard



— NATIONAL ANIMAL —
CARE & CONTROL ASSOCIATION

What's Cooking, ACOs?

Animal control is a tough job. Sometimes finding the time to cook is even tougher. "ACO Michele" created a Facebook group in 2017 called "ACO Bites" that quickly grew to more than 200 members with an average of 51 posts a month! The group is designed for ACOs and animal care professionals to share their favorite foods with other like-minded professionals! The emphasis is mostly on quick meals that can go from idea to table in under an hour because we all know coming home after a long, hard day and being able to prepare a good meal is important to staying healthy – and keeping one's sanity!

Who doesn't love an easy and healthy meal after a long day on the job?! Thanks to NACA Board Member ACO Michele Shiber for sharing this healthy summer pizza recipe with us!!!

Easy Summer Pizza

Ingredients:

- Naan bread
- Hand full of shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 tomato, sliced
- Fresh basil (extra points if it's from your own garden like Michele's!)

Directions:

Assemble, bake, and enjoy! Honestly, does it get any easier or tastier?

Get creative with other toppings to taste such as black or green olives, red onion, mushrooms, bell peppers, pineapple, or sausage!



Upcoming Training Opportunities



July 2023

- Wildlife Rehabilitation Skills: Creative enrichment on a shoestring, July 8, online
- Community Cats Podcast TNR Certification – July 8, online
- NACA Leading Conversations: PetHelpFinder.org – July 12 (virtual online training)
- Everyday ethics for Animal Control Officers, July 13, online
- Community Cats Podcast Feline Leukemia Day – July 15, online
- Cats and Wildlife – July 20, online
- NACA Monthly Membership Meeting – July 20, online
- Infections and Zoonotic Diseases – July 22, online
- Louisiana Animal Control Association Conference – July 24-26 (in person)
- Top Social Media and Communications Challenges for Animal Welfare Agencies – July 27 (virtual online training)
- Tennessee Animal Control Association Conference – July 31 – August 1, Cool Springs TN (in person)

August 2023

- The Intersectionality of Wildlife and Animal Welfare: A Roadmap to Humane Outcomes for Everyone – August 3 (webinar)
- Take Action for Animals Conference – August 4-6 (in person)
- Community Cats Podcast TNR Certification – August 5, online
- Best Friends Annual Conference – August 10 – 12, Houston TX (in person)
- Rabies Risk Assessment – August 12, online
- NACA Monthly Meeting – August 17, online
- Lessons from the Field: How One Community Transformed Its Response to Animal Cruelty Through Collaboration – August 24, online
- Animal Humane New Mexico Conference – August 24-25 (in person)
- Safe Capture In-Person Training Event, Alexandria LA – August 24-25 (in person)
- Introduction to Bat Rehabilitation – August 26, online

Check out the NACA calendar of events for more information and registration links!

Reasons to become a member of the National Animal Care & Control Association

Taking the LEAD in animal care and control since 1978





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