



NACA TRAINING CONFERENCE 2017

Virginia Beach, Virginia

October 18-20, 2017

Speaker Bios

(In Order of Appearance)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

Richard Samuels

Senior Deputy Richard Samuels has been an ACO for 17 years. He is Lead Investigator for the Virginia Animal Fighting Task Force, and is a certified expert witness on animal fighting in multiple jurisdictions throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. www.VAFTF.org

Eric Ufer

Eric was a stockbroker for 17 years. As he and his wife acquired rental properties over the years, they learned firsthand the need for good pest control services. Unfortunately, none of the providers they utilized performed up to their expectations, were not “Green”, and they were expensive. This led to their starting Pest Solutions LLC with the goal of providing a one stop shop pest control company offering affordable “Green” pest control services that solved and prevented clients’ pest issues. Since starting Pest Solutions in 2011, they have built a diversified client base and service offerings. This has led to their providing various services that include pest control, nuisance wildlife, turf and ornamental, and animal control services. Their passion and creativity has built a company that is known as a solution provider of the most difficult pest issues while being “Green As Can Be”.

Tabitha Blewett

Tabitha has over 17 years of experience in the field of animal care and animal services. While residing in California she worked as the education director for Bob Farner’s Wildlife, a non-profit organization dedicated to large cat rescue. She also worked for private animal boarding and training facilities in the San Diego area, as well as for the North County Humane Society.

After relocating to Texas, Tabitha worked for the Williamson County Humane Society as the kennel manager, and also served as a member of the advisory board for the Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter.

Currently she is the Animal Control Field Supervisor for the Williamson County Sheriff’s Office, where she has excelled in promoting educational outreach for the community, including giving frequent public education presentations for children. She developed the fractious animal training program for employees of the Williamson County Parks and Recreation Department, as well as educational seminars on urban wildlife, which she has presented at various events around Williamson County. Tabitha is also a lead instructor for the Humane Educators of Texas.

Lorien Clemens

Lorien serves as Director of Marketing at PetHub, Inc. Lorien joined PetHub, Inc., in June 2011, as the little start-up was just a wee pup. Since Lorien joined PetHub, the lost pet recovery software service has become a respected industry leader. She has guided PetHub to its wins of multiple pet industry awards, including two Dog Fancy Magazine Editors' Choice Awards, the PetAGE Magazine Retailer Silver Select Award, and two Pet Business Magazine Product of the Year Awards for its unique digital ID tags and online services. Most recently, PetHub was named one of Business Insider Magazine's 50 Coolest New Businesses in America.

Individually, Lorien was named the Pet Industry Network's 2014 Pet Industry Woman of the Year and was a keynote speaker at their national conference in 2015. In early 2016, Lorien was also honored by PetAGE Magazine as one of the pet industry's Women of Influence.

Rebecca Breese

Rebecca is the Assistant Director of Municipality Programs for PetHub, Inc. She is also the proud mom to rescue dogs Pepper and Maple and cat Sylive. Rebecca has been active in the pet industry for last four years, including being a finalist in the Women in the Pet Industry "Rising Star" category. Today she works with municipalities in improving their dog registration programs to help get pets home faster.

Jeffrey C. Eyre

Jeffrey has more than thirty-five years of experience in law enforcement, firefighting, human & animal rescue, animal welfare and cruelty investigation at the local, state and federal level. He has worked in various aspects of law enforcement including assignments as a uniformed police officer, criminal investigator, canine handler, mounted patrol officer, and evidence technician. As an animal cruelty investigator, he has investigated several thousand cases that included companion animals, farm animals and exotics. He has deployed to responses for animals in crisis that included floods, wildfires, animal cruelty seizures and hoarding cases both within the United States and Internationally.

He has presented training in local state and national venues on Animal Cruelty Investigation, Large Scale Animal Cases, Large Animal Cruelty Investigation, Emergency Animal Sheltering, Disaster Field Response and Handling Large and Small Animals under Stress.

Donna Casamento

Donna Casamento serves as Chief Program Officer for the Michelson Found Animals Foundation, a nonprofit geared toward reducing euthanasia through sustainable business models. She is responsible for several programs including the Adopt & Shop retail adoption centers, the Kitten Foster Project, the Catty Wagon and the Found Animals Microchip Registry. Donna has over 12 years' experience in improving outcomes for shelter pets. Her credits include creating and implementing life-

saving programs for companion pets, clinic management, increasing revenue through donor development, fundraising events, grants and in-shelter retail and successfully developing community partnerships between municipalities and local animal rescue organizations. Donna lives in Los Angeles with her pack of humans and rescue dogs and cats.

Lynsey White

As Director of Humane Wildlife Conflict Resolution for The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), Lynsey helps urban and suburban communities across the country find effective and humane solutions to human-wildlife conflicts with species such as coyotes, Canada geese, deer, foxes, beavers. She also runs The HSUS's Wild Neighbors program, which promotes humane solutions and policies for urban wildlife in communities throughout the U.S. Lynsey obtained has a Master of Science degree in Conservation Biology & Sustainable Development from the University of Maryland and a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology from The Ohio State University, and has led trainings on humane wildlife conflict resolution for animal control and police officers representing more than 400 communities in the United States.

Jennifer Toussaint

Jennifer is the Chief of Animal Control at the Animal Welfare League of Arlington, VA. She has been serving as an ACO in that community for approximately 6 years. Jennifer is a graduate of Moravian College with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Spanish. As the child of a dog trainer and handler she grew up with experience in animal rescue, handling, and care. Jennifer has worked locally to improve and implement ordinance changes in relation to exotic animal care and ownership. She presented at the 2017 HSUS Expo on Humane Wildlife Management and manages programs locally doing educational presentations on wildlife deterrents and control. She has arranged and orchestrated a local training opportunity approved for state ACO CEU credit on wildlife management, disease identification, and transport. Jennifer has worked diligently to improve the prosecution rate of animal based crimes in her community during her time as Chief of Animal Control. She is a member of both the Virginia Animal Control Association and the National Animal Control Association.

Rebeca Farris

Rebeca is one of three animal control officers with the Weld County Sheriff's Office and has held the position for the past fourteen years. Prior to Animal Control, Rebeca worked as an EMT and firefighter. In 2010, Rebeca became a Field Training Officer for new animal control officers. She is an instructor for the in-house academy for newly hired deputies and has served as an instructor for the agency's P.O.S.T. academy for first and CPR. As the senior ACO, Rebeca is a co-coordinator of the Weld/Northeast Region County Animal Response Team, covering not only Weld County, but also ten other counties in northeastern Colorado, a position she has held since 2010. Rebeca was one of the founding members of this team in 2007. In 2013, Rebeca became a Field Evidence Technician (FET) with the Sheriff's Office and has photographed and collected evidence at many crime scenes, varying from animal cruelty to vehicle theft to homicide.

Adam J. Ricci

Adam started his animal welfare career as a kennel technician for the Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland (Maine) before moving to animal control for the Buxton Police Department. While employed with the Buxton Police Department Ricci was eventually promoted to a Patrol Officer and was a graduate of the 26th Basic Law Enforcement Training Program with the State of Maine Criminal Justice Academy. Ricci was assigned supervisory duties over the department's animal control function and was an instructor for the State of Maine Animal Control Certification. As Ricci's career progressed, he was assigned as the department's first Evidence Technician, assigned as a Field Training Officer, deputized to the York County Crime Task Force and was liaison to the Maine Gang Intel Task Force. In 2016, Ricci was hired as the Field Services Manager for the Pima Animal Care Center in Tucson, AZ. In the same year, Ricci was voted to a Board of Directors position for the National Animal Care and Control Association.

Mark Langan

Mark is Vice-President of Field Operations for the Nebraska Humane Society, and supervises an animal control department that responds to 40,000 calls yearly in a metro area of close to one million people. Mark has lectured nationwide on such topics as dog fighting, workplace safety, and enacting proactive animal laws. In Mark's previous life, he was a career police officer. Mark is the author of the Amazon best-selling book *Busting Bad Guys, My True Crime Stories of Bookies, Drug Dealers, and Ladies of the Night*.

Kim Fields

Kim is the founder and current President for the Loudoun Community Cat Coalition. Under her leadership and within the first year and a half, the Coalition was awarded the prestigious Ayshire award from the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies for their work with the spay/neuter of community cats. Kim sits on the Animal Advisory Committee for Loudoun County Animal Services.

Susan Spaulding

Susan is a co-founder of The National Kitten Coalition (NKC) and is known as the 'Kitten Mom' in the shelter and rescue community. She has 25+ years' experience caring for neonatal and special-needs kittens and utilizes cutting-edge protocols for successfully treating upper respiratory infections and Panleukopenia.

Marnie Russ

Marnie is a co-founder of NKC and has been fostering kittens for over a decade. She specializes in critical-care neonates and high-risk nursing/expectant queens. Marnie is a seasoned animal advocate who has previously worked for the ASPCA. She travels annually to developing countries to assist international spay/neuter efforts.

Nancy Blaney

Nancy has advocated on behalf of animals for more than 30 years and is currently Senior Policy Advisor with the Animal Welfare Institute, where she is responsible for working with federal and state legislators and regulators and other interest groups in support of improving animal welfare, the prosecution of animal cruelty crimes, and public awareness of the relationship between animal abuse and other forms of violence. Nancy also serves as co-chair of the Animal Cruelty Advisory Council of the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys. She has made presentations on the subject of federal legislation and animals and family violence to audiences of judges, law enforcement, prosecutors, domestic violence and animal welfare advocates, and others.

Glenna Tinney

Glenna Tinney, MSW, ACSW, DCSW, Captain, U.S. Navy (Ret.) is the former Senior Advisor for the Military and Veteran Advocacy Program for the Battered Women's Justice Project, a national technical assistance provider for the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women. She developed a model coordinated community response to intimate partner violence where there are also co-occurring combat-related conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, substance abuse, depression, etc. Ms. Tinney created a network of subject matter experts to serve as resources for victim advocates serving military-related victims of intimate partner violence and sexual assault. She also monitored legal, military, veteran, and public policy developments

nationwide that affect civil/criminal justice responses to intimate partner violence and sexual assault. She has been actively involved in the national dialogue on veterans' treatment courts and considerations for handling intimate partner violence. She served for 24 years in the Navy working with military families, managing worldwide family violence, and sexual assault programs in the Department of Defense. She served as the Deputy Executive Director for the congressionally mandated Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence. Ms. Tinney has provided training widely on military- and veteran-related interpersonal violence at the national, state, and local levels.

Ms. Tinney's advocacy and activist work in violence against women has spanned over 40 years in the civilian and military sectors. She was on the forefront of the women's movement and instrumental in beginning the first rape crisis center and battered women's shelter in her community. In recognition of her work, Ms. Tinney was selected by the White House as a Woman Veteran Champion of Change in March 2013. Ms. Tinney has numerous publications, including a chapter on intimate partner violence, women in the military, and women veterans in *Women at War*, published in 2015, and one on military sexual assault and one on intimate partner violence in *Intimacy After Injury*, published in 2016.

Jace Huggins

Jace has been an Animal Control Officer for 5 1/2 years. Prior to being an ACO, he managed at one of the largest veterinary hospitals in Sacramento. He also spent a few years as a critical care technician at the UC Davis VMTH in the ICU. Since starting with animal control his drive has been finding ways to allow officers to pay attention to the "big things" like neglect and cruelty, while still managing the "quality of life" calls for the citizens in Sacramento.

Kathy Strouse

Kathy worked in the animal care and control field for 33 years. She retired in 2016 from the City of Chesapeake Police Department Animal Services Unit where she served as the Superintendent for 22 years. Kathy has been a member of the Board of Directors for the Virginia Animal Control Association (VACA) for 16 years. As the Legislative Liaison, she works extensively on legislation each year at the General Assembly. Some of the bills she has worked on include the landmark "puppy mill", the first in the nation, to regulate commercial dog breeders, the 2008 bills to strengthen Virginia's animal fighting law, the overhaul of the rabies statutes, a bill to clarify the authority of pounds and shelters to maintain medications, the 2013 and 2017 amendments to the dangerous and vicious dog statute, and the improvements to the 2014 "Puppy Lemon Law".

Kathy recently served on the Companion Animal Care Law work group and the Animal Control Officers Training Committee to update the training standards for Virginia ACOs.

Kathy was a member of the Board of Directors for the Virginia Animal Fighting Task Force from 2008 until her retirement. She was directly involved in the investigation of Michael Vick's Badd Newz Kennels. Her book "Badd Newz—The Untold Story of the Michael Vick Dog Fighting Case" is available from www.Amazon.com.

Kathy continues to teach regularly for various organizations. She also continues her 50-year career as a local actor and director for area theater.

Alice Burton

Alice worked for 14 years for the Animal Welfare League of Arlington, 3 of those as a Deputy Animal Control Officer and 11 of those as Chief of Animal Control. In 2014, she received The Virginia Animal Control Association's Public Service Award, and was twice nominated as Animal Control Officer of the year by the Metropolitan Council of Governments. She also received a recognition of appreciation from the Arlington County Public Schools for her work in humane education.

In 2016, Alice joined Alley Cat Allies as the Associate Director of Animal Control and Animal Shelter Engagement. Alice travels the country speaking at conferences, meeting with animal shelters and animal control departments on the benefits that a successful TNR program has on the community. Alice has used her own personal experience of not believing in TNR when her shelter first implemented the program to seeing the positive results. Alice not only embraces TNR, but also shares her experience with others so they, and their community, can also benefit from TNR.

A member of the National Animal Care and Control and Virginia Animal Control Associations, Alice sits on the boards of The Virginia Federation of Humane Societies and Caring Hands Animal Support and Education.

April Moore

April served as Animal Protection Supervisor with the Field Services Unit based at the Austin Animal Center for over 10 years. She played an integral role in helping the Austin Animal Center become the nation's largest no-kill open intake animal shelter by developing community policies and programs that promote lifesaving, without compromising public safety, and connect community members with the resources needed to keep their pets and neighborhoods safe and healthy. The Field Services Unit serves over 1 million residents in the Austin and Travis County area through response to almost 31,000 calls for service, emergency response, neighborhood canvassing and outreach events. The City of Austin has the second highest number of confirmed cases of animal rabies in the state.

Anne McCann

Anne is the Director, Emergency Management, Safety and Occupational Health Programs for the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal Care Program. In this capacity, Ms. McCann supports DHS/FEMA planning initiatives, serves as program liaison to Emergency Support Function #11, Agriculture and Natural Resources, and works with government and non-governmental partners to build and sustain a shared national strategy and capabilities for pet/animal emergency management. Prior to coming to USDA, Ms. McCann served as an all-hazards planner with the Delaware Emergency Management Agency supporting planning for pets, unattended children, and people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs, and as Vice President of the National Alliance of State Animal and Agricultural Emergency Programs (NASAAEP). Anne has previously served as the Executive Director of the Delaware Humane Association, and has worked as

a program analyst for the Department of Veterans Affairs at their headquarters in DC, the Veterans Benefits Academy in Baltimore, and the Regional Office and Insurance Center in Philadelphia.

Christine Chipps Peters

Christie joined Richmond Animal Care & Control (RACC) serving as the first director of Animal Control as an independent city department. Christie grew up in Chagrin Falls, Ohio earning a B.A. from Bowling Green State University and Masters in Business/Nonprofit Management from Case Western Reserve University. Armed with a fundraising background and a deep commitment to animals in need, Christie moved to Virginia and held the Executive Director title at the Heritage Humane Society, then the Portsmouth Humane Society, where she facilitated a multi-million-dollar capital campaign for a new shelter. The challenge to improve shelter operations and save more animals lives led her to Richmond Animal Control where she reduced the number of animals being euthanized by 40% in one year, challenged old school procedures and greatly increased the department's efficiency and public appeal.

Rob Leinberger

Rob has an amazing girlfriend, two children, a dog, a cockatiel, a bearded dragon, and a red-footed tortoise. He is an Eagle Scout and worked as a veterinary assistant during high school. In December 1991, he became an Animal Control Officer for Chesterfield County. Rob joined Richmond Animal Care & Control in January 2016, as the Animal Control Supervisor. He teaches an animal control basic course for new animal control officers in the region. Rob has an Associate's Degree in Police Science and a Bachelor's Degree in Human Resource Management. In 2011, he completed a Master's Degree in Human Resource Management at the University of Richmond. In October 2009, he was elected to the board of directors for the Virginia Animal Control Association and currently serves as its past President. In September 2012, Rob joined the board of directors for the National Animal Care & Control Association and currently serves as President.

Kelly Thyssen

Kelly has over 12 years of experience in the animal care and control field. Kelly has worked as an Animal Control Officer for City of Cedar Park, City of Pflugerville and City of Georgetown, as a Veterinary Technician for Pflugerville Animal Hospital, as a Kennel Manager for Humane Society of Williamson County, and as a Public Health and Prevention Specialist for Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Zoonosis Program.

Kelly is currently an Animal Control Officer for the City of Georgetown, TX and the Chair of the Georgetown Animal Shelter Advisory Board. Kelly built contacts throughout Texas while working for DSHS and in 2014 used those contacts and her experience to become the co-owner and lead instructor for the Humane Educators of Texas. Humane Educators of Texas provides quality training courses that are TX DSHS approved for fulfilling continuing education hours for ACOs.

Kelly spends her down time with her husband and their three dogs and one cat.

Dan DeSousa

Dan started as an animal control officer for the County of San Diego Department of Animal Services in 1989. Since then, he has held the positions of Sergeant, Lieutenant, Deputy Director and is currently the Director for the Department. Dan serves as the Department's disaster coordinator and as the Department's Public Information Officer. A NACA member since 2012, Dan was the Secretary for the NACA board for two years and Vice President for one year.

Mary Lou Randour, Ph.D.

Mary Lou has a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland, received a NIMH Postdoctoral Fellowship, was a Clinical Fellow in Psychology at Cambridge Hospital, Harvard Medical School, and is an Adjunct Professor in Psychiatry at The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. She is the author of handbooks such as *A Common Bond: Child Maltreatment and Animals in the Family*, as well as *AniCare Child*, a treatment approach for children who abuse animals. Dr. Randour has published articles in numerous professional journals as well as written chapters for edited volumes. Her latest contribution "The Psychology of Animal Abuse Offenders," co-authored with Dr. Maya Gupta, is in the newly released book *Animal Cruelty: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Understanding*. In her career, Dr. Randour has worked for a federal research funding agency and enjoyed a private practice for almost 20 years. She now devotes her knowledge of psychology to advance animal protection and its connection to human welfare, working in partnership with organizations such as the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, the Battered Women's Justice Project, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the National Council for Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the National Animal Care and Control Association, the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, and the National Sheriff's Association.

Laura Reese

Laura is Professor of Urban and Regional Planning and Political Science and the founding Director of the Global Urban Studies Program (GUSP) at Michigan State University. Dr. Reese's main research and teaching areas are in urban politics and public policy, economic development, local governance and management in Canada and the US, and animal welfare policy. She has written 11 books and over 100 articles and book chapters in these areas as well as public personnel administration focusing on the implementation of sexual harassment policy.

Randy Covey

Randy began his career in Law Enforcement/Animal Welfare 30 years ago as a private contractor hired to develop and implement an animal control program for a Borough jurisdiction in Alaska. Following that experience Mr. Covey was hired to direct the field and shelter operations of the Lane County Animal Regulation Authority in Oregon. This was followed by a stint of 9 years leading the Law Enforcement division of the Oregon Humane Society before being tapped to expand a National Animal Rescue Program for the Humane Society of the United States in Washington, DC. Randy is currently the Field Operations Supervisor for Washington County Animal Services in Hillsboro, Oregon. Over the course of his career, Mr. Covey has provided instruction to law enforcement, animal control, and humane organizations on various topics including the relationship between human and animal abuse, the profile of an animal hoarder, basic animal cruelty investigations, and extensive animal rescue practices and procedures.

Clint Thacker

Clint has been in the Animal Care & Control industry since 2002. He started in Sandy City, UT as an ACO Officer. During his eight years there, he started from scratch an education program geared toward elementary aged kids and how to be safe around stray animals. He also started the Sandy City Animal Disaster Preparedness program. He was recognized in 2009 for his efforts, receiving the Community Service award from the Sandy City Police.

In 2009, he was hired at Salt Lake County Animal Services as the Shelter Supervisor. There, he successfully helped manage the shelter's transition to a lifesaving program. In 2010, Clint was asked by management to be an ACO Sergeant and help the ACO's through the same transition.

In 2011, Clint was hired as the Director of Davis County Animal Care & Control. He was given the challenge of transitioning a division of the County Sheriff's Office into its own Animal Care & Control Department. Currently, the Davis County Animal Care & Control covers 17 contracting cities or entities. Over 11,000 calls and 6,000 animals are handled by a staff of 21 employees. The shelter has a Live Release Rate of 95.5%. He loves the challenges of the job and enjoys the people he gets to work with.

In 2013, Clint was elected to the National Animal Care & Control Association's Board of Directors. He is proud to be a part of the positive changes NACA has made while he has been a member of the Board of Directors.

Clint currently lives in Layton, UT where he plays an active role with the youth in his church. Clint and his wife are certified foster parents. He loves the outdoors and enjoys hunting, fishing & camping with his wife, five children and their adopted dog.

Jennifer Blough

Jennifer is a Licensed Professional Counselor, Certified Compassion Fatigue Therapist, and Certified Pet Loss Grief Specialist. She owns a small private practice in southeast Michigan called Deepwater Counseling, which provides mental health services to individuals, couples, and groups.

Jennifer is also the author of *To Save a Starfish: A Compassion Fatigue Workbook for the Animal Welfare Warrior*, and the host of *The Compassion Fatigue Podcast*. She shares her home with her husband and their eight rescued companion animals.

Lisa Norwood

Ever heard that phrase “Been There, Done That?” When it comes to working with the media and animal shelter public relations, Lisa has checked a lot of boxes. Norwood worked as a journalist for more than a dozen years before taking a dream job promoting the City of San Antonio’s animal shelter. Using basic media savvy and “street” style marketing, Norwood has propelled San Antonio’s Animal Care Services onto a national stage. The Alamo City’s shelter has been spotlighted in media outlets throughout the world including the *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, *National Geographic* and *CNN* as well as thousands of local stories.

Karen Rogers

With 13 years of experience as an Animal Control Officer, Karen started her career at a small rural shelter in Lee County NC where her job consisted of shelter attendant, adoption counselor and Animal Control Officer. Officer Rogers then accepted an Animal Control position with the Holly Springs Police Department where she implemented a Rabies Clinic and Responsible Pet Ownership program for the town of Holly Springs. Officer Rogers currently serves as the Animal Control Manager at Wake County Animal Center. Her leadership skills play an integral role in Wake County’s proactive approach to animal hoarding cases, which culminated in a 2016 National award for the County. As a certified Animal Control Officer, Ms. Rogers is passionate about continual improvement for animal control agencies, educating the public on responsible pet ownership, and controlling pet overpopulation.

Dr. Sandra Strong

With two decades of experience as a veterinarian, Dr. Strong has turned her passion for shelter medicine into tangible successes at shelters and clinics in both Texas and North Carolina. Currently serving as Chief Veterinarian for the Wake County Animal Center, Dr. Strong has focused her professional career on assisting animal welfare organizations and in bringing about positive changes in Animal Welfare. Prior to coming to Raleigh, she served as Medical Director of SPAYSA, a non-profit, high volume Spay Neuter clinic in San Antonio and staff veterinarian for the municipal animal shelter. As staff veterinarian, Dr. Strong led the implementation of best practices in humane housing, open selection adoption, pediatric housing, innovative ordinance revision and targeted spay neuter which has enabled the shelter to consistently increase live release rates each year. In addition to Public Health certification, she is working on becoming veterinary board certified with the American College of Animal Welfare. Dr. Strong is passionate about shelter medicine and continues to push for community changes and innovative programs to prevent animal suffering.

Alyssa Ellison

Alyssa has a combined 15 years in animal care and rescue, with 5 years in Law Enforcement. Alyssa started her career in animal rescue in Ohio and worked as a veterinary assistant, events coordinator, shelter manager, and humane agent before moving to Virginia and beginning her career in Law Enforcement. Alyssa is dedicated to bettering the lives of all beings through education, rescue, and teamwork between rescues and the community.

Richard Angelo, Jr.

Richard is a Legislative Attorney for Best Friends Animal Society. His primary focus is on Best Friends' work with community cats, promoting legislation that will humanely and directly reduce the killing of cats in shelters across the country, as well as shelter transparency legislation. He was previously a sole practitioner with an office in Davison, Michigan, focusing on companion animal-related matters and litigation, including defending dangerous dog matters, consulting on alternatives to breed-specific legislation, ownership disputes of companion animals, zoning and ordinance violations regarding companion animals.

Richard has spoken on community cat-related matters, dangerous dog laws, and breed-discrimination at numerous national, regional, and local events across the country. He has been a member of the Animal Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan since 2001, and has served as a council member of that Section since 2009. He is also a member of the American Bar Association- TIPS Animal Law Committee, and International Law Section, Animal Law Committee, International Municipal Lawyers Association, and the National Animal Care and Control Association. Richard resides in Goodrich, Michigan with his wife, five dogs, and three cats.

Lee Greenwood, Esq.

Lee is a Legislative Attorney for Best Friends Animal Society, a national animal welfare organization based in Kanab, Utah. Best Friends is the only national group dedicated to ending the unnecessary killing of companion animals in our nation's shelter systems. Lee has worked in the legislative world for his entire career, starting out in Washington, DC working for the Senate Judiciary and Senate Budget committees. He also worked for the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy in Alexandria, VA as an attorney, helping to enact the organization's priorities on the state and federal levels. Prior to joining Best Friends, he worked as a lawyer and senior policy analyst for a state representative Massachusetts, where he lives. In his current role, he focuses on local, state and federal legislation related to dogs and cats. In addition to his work for Best Friends, Lee volunteers with various Boston and Washington-based animal adoption organizations with his wife, Lori, his son, Max, and his dog, Kaya.