

Legislation - What's Hot

*By Joan Miller, retiring CFA Legislative Information Liaison
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Conferences and meetings – part of CFA's Legislative Advocacy Strategy

There are conferences, meetings and seminars that may be controversial but we need to be there. Motivations for laws are often revealed at national sheltering, advocacy or law conferences. These gatherings help us gain insight into the current thinking and stance of various animal organizations. More than anything cat fanciers can network at conferences with shelter staff, volunteers, rescue people, veterinarians, writers and others who are aligned with CFA as well as those who may be completely opposed to the breeding of pedigreed cats. Conferences give us an opportunity to help anti-breeding proponents learn that CFA and cat fanciers do care about and are actively involved in finding solutions to pet population issues.

A few upcoming conferences, meetings and events are of special interest.

1. Pet Night on Capital Hill, September 18th, Washington DC. This is an invitation-only event presented by the Animal Health Institute and AHI member companies, which are all major pharmaceutical firms. CFA and the Winn Feline Foundation are Affiliate Sponsors and among the original organizations that are included - the AKC, AVMA, PIJAC, AAHA, American Pet Products Assoc., American Veterinary Medical Colleges, American Feed Industry Association, The Human Animal Bond Initiative and the Pet Food Institute. This beautiful evening event, with exquisite food and celebrity cat and dog guests, is a unique opportunity to meet and chat with congressional members and staff in an informal setting. Exchange of personal or business cards often results in media or other contacts later when expertise in cat issues is needed. CFA has invitations available for any cat fanciers who would like to attend. It is valuable to have a good representation at Pet Night. Contact George Eigenhauser immediately if you can attend as he must RSVP names by Monday September 15th.

geigenhauser@allmail.net

2. The “No Kill” Conference, always held in July in Washington DC, has been sold out every year since 2010. This year the conference was postponed until 2015 because Nathan Winograd has been visiting 27 cities all over the country to promote his film and book *Redemption – the No Kill Revolution in America*. If you live in or near the 7 cities left on the No Kill Advocacy Center's 2014 “No Kill is Love” tour, try to attend the screening, the after-party and/or seminar.

- Chicago, IL, September 18*
- Modesto, CA, September 20*
- Ithaca, NY, September 27*
- Buffalo, NY, September 27*
- Houston, TX, October 7*
- Los Angeles, CA, October 11*
- Tallahassee, FL, October 25*

For information and to purchase tickets go to -
<http://www.nokillredemption.com/screenings/>

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3. Many excellent seminars are online. You can now attend a webinar in the comfort of your home. The HSUS Animal Sheltering website has good seminars in their “Cat Training” Series. The **“Hot Topics” session, “Million Cat Challenge”, October 15, 2014 (3PM ET)**, will explore strategies and resources for saving over 1 million more cats from shelter euthanasia in the U.S. within the next 5 years. Presenters are well known experts – Kate Hurley, DVM, Director of the Koret Shelter Medicine program at UC Davis, and Julie Levy, DVM, Director of the Maddie's Shelter Medicine program at the U. of Florida. Past webinars are also archived on the HSUS website.

<http://www.animalsheltering.org/training-events/cat-trainings/supporting-community-cats.html>

3. HSUS has lobbying/advocacy training seminars around the country. These are free but you must RSVP online. Take a look at the complete calendar to get an idea of the huge scope of HSUS activism.

http://action.humanesociety.org/site/PageNavigator/hsus_calendar.html?s_src=web_id98627069

Merritt Island, FL: “Making Headway for Animals” - September 22, 2014 (6PM to 8PM) at the Central Brevard Humane Society, Merritt Island Adoption Center. HSUS Florida state director Kate MacFall, and GREY2K USA, the largest Greyhound protection organization, executive director, Darey Theil, will discuss what activists plan for animals. Florida is a hot-bed for dog and cat proposed ordinances at this time. Learn what to expect next.

Other similar HSUS events, with links for complete information on the calendar web page:

Lafayette, IN: Advocacy for Animals – September 23, 2014 (6PM to 8PM) at the Tippecanoe County Public Library. Topics covered will be the roles of animal advocates in the local animal welfare community and the current animal welfare and “overpopulation” issues.

Concord, NH: Advocacy for Animals - September 25, 2014 (5:30 to 7PM) at the Pope Memorial SPCA. State Director, Lindsay Hamrick, and others will discuss how to influence state policy. They will also provide in-depth information on the HSUS goals for the 2015 State legislative session.

East Stroudsburg, PA: Advocacy for Animals – September 29, 2014 (7PM to 8PM) at the Loder Senior Center. Techniques for communicating with legislators, and how to organize your friends into a potent force for animals are the topics to be discussed by former Pennsylvania State Senator, Roy Afflerbach.

4. National Feral Cat Day 2014 is October 16th. Organized by Alley Cat Allies, the theme is *“TNR: From the Alley...to Main Street”*. If your club wants to participate by hosting an event this will help raise awareness about feral and/or unowned cats and the value of TNR. Every event-holder's community will be put on the official ACA map indicating this is a place that cares about cats, ACA sends a free kit to help you organize your event and you

can get ideas from their website.

<http://nationalferalcatday.org/>

Groups worldwide are planning everything from a cat Walk-A-Thon or a Feed the Ferals Cat Food Drive, a Feral Cat Awareness Seminar to a feral cat spay neuter clinic. The event can be any time in October – one day or several. Those who register their event before September 16th will receive a special bonus gift for planning early.

5. The Cat Writers Association “Meow World” will partner with “Bark World Pet Expo”, Atlanta, Georgia, October 30 – November 2, 2014. This is an outstanding conference for writers, editors, bloggers, photographers and website designers who focus on cats, and dogs, to get together. We will learn how to hone our writing skills and get our work published. The awards dinner is when writers are recognized for their work. This conference is a good place to network with people who influence the cat loving public.

CWA is teaming up with the dog bloggers for the first time and many presentations will appeal to both groups. CFA's Teresa Keiger and Jodell Raymond are on the Editors' Panel. For Information on speakers, topics and to register go to -

http://catwriters.com/wp_meow/?page_id=1201

6. The National Animal Interest Alliance (NAIA) Annual Conference will be in Orlando, Florida on November 7(reception) 8 – 9, 2014. This organization has always been in the forefront fighting animal rights extremism. The NAIA conferences consistently have exceptionally professional presenters. Topics this year will focus on effective lobbying/advocacy, the TV hit piece - HBO's “Unnatural Selection”, the impact of propaganda on international policies, the Feld Entertainment court case and \$25Million settlement paid by HSUS and the ASPCA and much more. Hotel rates are very reasonable. The conference price of \$250 includes breakfast and lunch each day, the Saturday night dinner and auction.

For information, registration and hotel reservations and to download the conference brochure, go to:

http://www.naiaonline.org/calendar_main/event/946/

7. The National Council on Pet Population Research Symposium followed by the Society of Animal Welfare Administrators (SAWA) Annual Conference, Dallas, Texas, November 9th and November 10 – 12, 2014. The National Council's Sunday all day symposium will be on the **Impact and Application of Behavioral Science in Animal Shelters**. Many of the 10 presentations cover dog topics, however, data and knowledge is always important in addressing legislation and all of the speakers are highly esteemed researchers. “Early bird” registration for the National Council Research Day only is \$95.00 (until September 30th) The SAWA Conference is open to members, who are animal protection professionals, as well as non members. Topics are geared to those working in this field. For complete information go to:

<http://www.sawanetwork.org/events.html>

We hope you will join us at several of these events and will report to the Legislative Group - legislation@cfa.org

