

Speakers and topics:

Phil Arkow-The Link Between Humane and Animal Violence

Internationally acclaimed lecturer, author and educator Phil Arkow is coordinator of the National LINK Coalition – the National Resource Center on The LINK between Animal Abuse and Human Violence – and edits the monthly *LINK-Letter*. He chairs the Latham Foundation’s Animal Abuse and Family Violence Prevention Project. He teaches at the University of Florida, Harcum College and Camden County College. He has presented over 250 times in 17 countries, 38 states and 9 Canadian provinces, and has authored over 75 key reference works on human-animal interactions and violence prevention.

He co-founded the National Link Coalition, the National Animal Control Association, and the Colorado and New Jersey humane federations. He has served with the AVMA, the ASPCA, American Humane, the Delta Society, the Animals & Society Institute, the National Coalition on Violence Against Animals, the National District Attorneys Association, the Academy on Violence & Abuse, and the American Association of Human-Animal Bond Veterinarians. He received a Lifetime Achievement Award from New Jersey Child Assault Prevention.

Scott Beckstead- Legislation and Animal Law in Oregon

Scott Beckstead works as the Senior Oregon Director and Rural Outreach Director for The Humane Society of the United States. Prior to joining HSUS in 2008, Beckstead owned and operated a law office in Waldport, Oregon, where he handled a diverse practice that emphasized civil litigation, business and real estate law, family law, and other civil legal matters. He received his law degree from the University of Utah, and his bachelor’s degree from Utah State University. A native of Twin Falls, Idaho, Beckstead grew up on a small family farm where he raised cattle, horses, and other farm animals. He now lives in Sutherlin, Oregon with his wife, Jackie, and their children and odd assortment of rescued pets.

Josh Capehart and Ed Bartz – Body Scoring, large and small animals

Josh Capehart is a Detective at Warm Springs Tribal Police. He is also a Medical Examiner, US Marshall, part of the FBI Task force, Central Oregon Major Crimes Task force and the training coordinator for WSPD Swat Team. Previously, Josh held the position of Humane Investigator through the Oregon Governor’s Office and worked with many agencies in Oregon on animal cruelty and neglect cases. Josh is a graduate of the Oregon Police Academy, Levels 1-3 Humane Investigations/University of Missouri , and Equine Investigations-Colorado.

Ed Bartz is the Bend, Oregon Co-coordinator with the Pet Evacuation Team and has worked the the team since 2002. Ed has experience in animal rescue and assisting with a several cruelty and neglect cases in Oregon. He has formal training in euthanasia, rope rescue, water rescue and technical animal rescue. Ed formerly worked for the police department in Houston, Texas and owns his own business in Bend.

Shera Felde – Equine Education/Founder & Director of Horse Talk

Shera Felde has been a professional educator for 20 years, with students ranging from children and young adults to older adults and other educators. She has 18 years of experience in curriculum development, including program design, leadership courses and college faculty development. Over the last six years, Shera has incorporated her education skills along with 45 years of experience with horses to become certified in Equine Facilitated Learning through E3A (Equine Experiential Education), launching Bend Horse Talk in 2011. She offers workshops in three primary areas: learning about horses, horses as teachers for personal growth and equine insights for professional development. Bend Horse Talk is a culmination of her love for learning, teaching, personal development and horses. Shera explores the lessons horses have to teach people with regard to our place in the community, our communication effectiveness, leadership skills, trust and respect in all interpersonal interactions.

Megan Gram–BNSP Executive Director-Implementing Animal Sterilization Programs in your Community

Megan Gram is the Executive Director of Bend Spay+Neuter Project(BNSP), a high quality, high volume spay/neuter clinic located in Bend Oregon. BSNP performs upwards of 4,000 sterilization surgeries each year and also operates a pet food bank, provides weekly wellness services, a community cat program and most recently, monthly free sterilization clinics for dogs on the Warm Springs Reservation. In addition to her nearly ten years at BSNP, Megan has worked with a variety of national and international high quality high volume spay and neuter organizations including Emancipet, Animal Balance, and Humane Alliance. She is also the Central Oregon District Leader for the Humane Society of the United States and a local Ambassador for Animal Balance. Megan believes strongly in the power of partnerships and has founded two local animal welfare alliances in conjunction with the Humane Society of Central Oregon, The Central Oregon Cat Alliance and the Central Oregon Animal Welfare Alliance. In her spare time, Megan enjoys hanging with her three rescue dogs (two pitties and one black lab!), her three indoor cats, and acquiring new rescue animals to fill her new small farm!

Jamie Scanlon-Kanski- Regional Coordinator/Founder Pet Evacuation Team(P.E.T.)

Jamie is the emcee and organizer for the Oct.14, 2017 Animal Welfare Conference. Jamie has 35 years of experience in the field of animal welfare and organized the P.E.T. team in 2001. She has served on the Boards of Directors for several humane organizations and agencies, former shelter Executive Director, Humane Investigator who oversaw a Humane Investigations Department through the Oregon Governor's office, assisted with the construction of two animal shelters, and has received extensive training in animal rescue.