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KATIE HECK
PETFINDER
Katie is a Shelter Outreach Specialist for Petfinder. After volunteering at the Central Missouri Humane Society for a year, she was hired on as an Adoption Counselor and spent three years learning more about the shelter environment and further developing her passion for animal welfare. She has spent two years with Purina and currently handles all conference sponsorships as well as Petfinder member relations. She lives in St. Louis, MO with her aspiring dog model, Lenny, who can be found lounging on her lap at work every day.

KAREN DASHFIELD, DVM
JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL POUND
Dr. Karen Dashfield is a shelter veterinarian with 25 years of experience designing disease control programs for shelters, kennels, and wildlife rehabilitators throughout New Jersey. She is the Supervising Veterinarian for the Jefferson Township Municipal Pound and through her Veterinary House call practice she provides consultation and animal care for numerous shelters and rescues including Friends of Ferals, Byram Animal Rescue and Kindness Squad, Shelter Showcase, and Liberty Humane Society. She has served as a Volunteer Medical Director for the Best Friends Animal Society NY Super Adoptions since 2010. Dr. Karen also works closely with the members of the New Jersey Association of Wildlife Rehabilitators and is the recipient of their 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award. As the Director of the Sussex County Animal Response Team (CART), she initiated and ran a shelter for Hurricane Katrina Dogs in 2005/2006 that received, re-homed, and reunited over 200 animals. She prepares future animal control officers, shelter workers, and wildlife rehabilitators through her teaching for Career Development Institute, and at local and regional conferences. Karen shares her home with her four dogs, Red, Delilah, Sadie and Pollywog, and a cat named Princess.

COURTNEY CUNNINGHAM
PETCO FOUNDATION
Courtney Cunningham has been the Lifesaving Partner Relations Specialist for the Petco Foundation since February of 2016. She graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University in 2010 and has since been working in the non-profit sector, including work in program and fundraising development. Before joining the animal welfare community, Courtney focused on youth program development, including work for the Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas. Since 2015, she has been working in the animal welfare community, first with a grass roots no-kill shelter on their development and media team, and recently joining the Petco Foundation team. A lifelong shelter animal advocate, Courtney is the proud mother of two rescue cats and one dog.

JULIE SQUIRES
REKINDLE, LLC
Julie Squires is a Certified Compassion Fatigue Educator & Specialist who brings a unique perspective and approach to support the sustained energy and passion of those exposed to the highly stressful and traumatic environment of animal shelters, rescue and veterinary medicine. She does this in a very distinct way, by empowering them to help themselves through easy-to-implement yet powerful, practices and insights.

Julie has over twenty years of experience within the veterinary industry leading organizations, developing and executing training, workshops and 1:1 coaching most notably for Nestlé Purina, Bayer Animal Health and IDEXX Laboratories. She is a graduate of SUNY Oswego and a Certified Compassion Fatigue Specialist through Green Cross Academy of Traumatology. Julie has also completed compassion fatigue training from The Figley Institute, Traumatology Institute and TEND Academy. Julie’s clients also gain from her training and experience as a Certified Health and Wellness Coach and Corporate Wellness Coach. Julie is a dynamic speaker and has spoken at major conferences such as NAVC, AVMA and the Veterinary Wellness and Social Work Summit as well as smaller association meetings such as HVVMS, NJVMA and NYSAVT. She has been published on VetGirl, Dr. Andy Roark and in Today’s Veterinary Technician. In 2015 alone she facilitated face-to-face trainings to hundreds of veterinary staff, hospital managers, animal shelter workers and other animal caregivers. She says this work is “her calling”. Her company, Rekindle LLC is the result of the need Julie saw in the veterinary field to help professionals and staff maintain their wellbeing and mental health. Julie lives in New York’s Hudson Valley with her husband John, pug Ernie and Gregg and Duane, their two cats.

DAVID MURIELLO, CPDT-KA
CATCH CANINE TRAINERS ACADEMY
David Muriello is the founder and school director of CATCH Canine Trainers Academy, a national school offering state-licensed certification courses in dog training and behavior. In addition to his firsthand experience training thousands of dogs in private lessons, group classes and behavior workshops, David has extensive experience in hiring and teaching dog trainers. After six years as director of training at Biscuits & Bath (eight locations in New York City), David became the director of operations there, expanding his knowledge of dog care services including day and overnight care, veterinary services, walking, grooming and transportation. David has appeared as a dog expert on ABC-TV’s Rachael Ray Show and the Discovery Channel and is regularly quoted in Dog Fancy magazine. When he is not working, his love of the outdoors draws him into long hikes with his Pit Bull/Pointer mix, Hazel, where the two of them love life among the sights and sounds (and scents) of nature.