



TEXAS UNITES
2015

CONFERENCE PROGRAM
RENAISSANCE AUSTIN HOTEL • AUSTIN, TEXAS

11 - Shelter Medicine in Texas, Darn'd if You Do and Darn'd if You Don't!

Saturday, April 25, 2015 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

P. Shawn Ashley, DVM, MS, Shelter Veterinarian, Humane Society of North Texas

Wendy Blount, DVM, Eastex Veterinary Clinic

Chris Copeland, JD, CAE, Executive Director, Texas Veterinary Medical Association

Kent Glenn, DVM, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter

Tamra Walthall, DVM, LaVega Veterinary Clinic, City of Waco Texas Animal Services

Audience participation will be encouraged in each of the following discussions:

1) TSBVE vs. Shelter Vets: Texas State Board of Veterinary Examiners has ruled that Shelter Vets must observe the same parameters as veterinarians in private practice; namely they must have a Valid Client Patient Relationship (VCPR) before they may prescribe or treat a patient. Since stray animals, by definition, have no owner, the shelter or the rescue must take 'Ownership' before any medicine, or even Intake vaccinations and deworming may be prescribed.

2) TSBVME vs. ASV: Protocol based medicine is the standard of care according to the Association of Shelter Veterinarians (ASV), but it is not recognized in Texas because our current laws do not recognize 'Herd Health' in small animals. Can anything be done?

3) The buck stops there: In Texas, the veterinarian is legally responsible for all veterinary decisions in any facility. There is no facility license. So if a veterinarian agrees to work for a facility, even if they do not set policy, they are responsible for any policy or practice at that facility. Their only recourse is to quit. This makes many veterinarians very reluctant to become involved with non-profit groups, rescues and shelters that really need their help.

4) Rescue or Hoarder? It's a fine line. Many Rescue groups are comprised of committed, compassionate individuals. But if their compassion exceeds their capacity, any Shelter, or Rescue or Fosters can become a hoarder. What is your capacity? How do you know?

5) Texas Only: There is no provision for temporary veterinary licenses in Texas for training purposes. This discourages many out of state trainers and seminars from coming to Texas – thus there are fewer opportunities for hands on learning from out of state professionals.