

Animal Law Forum 2022

Sept. 9 – Nashville Zoo



Program Producer: Robert Simpson DVM, JD, Kingston Animal Hospital

Total Credits: 5 General, 1 Dual

This unique opportunity will provide updates on trends and advancements in animal law while allowing participants to network and enjoy the fun and activities the zoo offers. We will be joined by the organization's President and Chief Executive Officer and the board's general counsel who will discuss conservation efforts and laws affecting procurement and care for zoo animals. Other topics include ethical considerations for animals and the law, legislative updates, laws governing farmed animals and more. Zoo admission and lunch are included with the program.

8 – 8:30 a.m. CDT **Registration/Welcome**

8:30 – 9:30 a.m. **Conservation Efforts at the Nashville Zoo**

This session will focus on the regulation of research, operations, and conservation efforts of the Nashville Zoo both locally and internationally.

Lauren Curry, Sherrard Roe Voigt & Harbison

Rick Schwartz, President and Chief Executive Officer Nashville Zoo

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. **Update on Veterinary Legal Topics**

This session will feature an overview of the changes in legal issues faced by Tennessee veterinarians.

Rob Simpson, Kingston Animal Hospital

10:30 – 10:45 a.m. **Break**

10:45 – 11:45 a.m. **Dog Breed Restrictions and Legislative Update**

This session will focus on the issue of Breed Specific Legislation and restrictions. There is no scientific evidence to prove that a dog's breed has anything to do with its propensity of be aggressive or dangerous. The speaker will provide information about what many communities are doing to protect citizens against dangerous dogs, how costly and ineffective breed specific legislation is, and provide updates on recent court rulings and actions taken regarding this issue.

Eric Swafford, Best Friends Animal Society

11:45 a.m. – 1:45 p.m. **Lunch (provided), Zoo Activities**

1:45 – 2:45 p.m. **Pet Shop Boys: Vet Liability Claims Investigations**

The American Pet Products Association stated Americans spent \$123.6 billion on our pets in 2021. The pandemic’s “shelter-in-place” orders caused many Americans to adopt animal companions. Millennials are the largest generation of pet owners followed by Boomers, both of whom are now realizing the high cost of pet ownership—anywhere from \$20,000-\$55,000 for a lifetime of care for a dog and cat. Is it any wonder, then, that veterinarian malpractice claims are on the rise? This session will take a global view of the adjuster’s investigation into a veterinarian’s malpractice claim focusing on domesticated companion animals.

Chantal Roberts, CMR Consulting

2:45 – 3:45 p.m. **Frequently Encountered Issues in Legal Ethics**

DUAL

This session will cover commonly encountered ethical issues, including ghost-writing, attorney advertising, conflicts of interest, and ethical concerns regarding pro bono representation.

Steven Christopher, Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility

3:45 – 4 p.m. **Break**

4 – 5 p.m. **Court Programs Involving Animals**

This session will focus on initiatives incorporating animals into Davidson County Juvenile Court programs, including introduction, takeaways and results.

Dana Wolfe, Davidson County Juvenile Court

Judge Sheila Calloway, Davidson County Juvenile Court