



## Dr Aleisha Swartz

Outreach Veterinarian  
University of Wisconsin Shelter Medicine Program

Dr. Aleisha Swartz graduated from the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine in 2002. While in small animal private practice, she worked extensively with several rescue groups in the Atlanta area. In 2010 she decided to follow her passion into shelter medicine working at Fulton County Animal Services, a shelter serving the inner city of Atlanta. Since that time, she has worked with nonprofit and municipal shelters, cat rescues, sanctuaries and spay-neuter programs.

As Chief Veterinarian at the Hawaiian Humane Society, Dr. Swartz was part of a team that supervised over 50 employees and the 24-hour shelter operations. During her tenure, adoptions increased to an all-time high, euthanasia decreased to the lowest levels in the organization's history, and the quality of care for the animals improved. Her expertise was essential in the design and construction of the recently opened state-of-the-art admissions, veterinary and adoptions facility. She played a pivotal role in advocating for, and gaining approval for the construction and operation of a high quality, high volume, low fee spay and neuter clinic for owned pets and free roaming cats.

Dr. Swartz is currently the Outreach Veterinarian with the University of Wisconsin Shelter Medicine Program. As part of the UWSMP team she works with shelters across the US (and beyond) to increase their lifesaving capacity by assisting to implement best practices, managing outbreaks of infectious disease in addition to maintaining an online resource library for shelter professionals and the public.

Dr. Swartz serves as the President-Elect of the Hawaii Veterinary Medical association and a member of the Association of Shelter Veterinarians as well as the American Veterinary Medical Association. In 2014, the University of Georgia recognized her as one of the Top 40 Under 40 graduates.

Dr. Swartz seeks to improve the level of care for animals in shelters as well as that for animals living in the community, and has a special interest in encouraging shelter staff to become effective and engaging leaders who make a positive impact.

### Abstract

#### **Panleukopenia and Parvo Outbreak Response in a Shelter**

Outbreaks of infectious disease, such as those caused by panleukopenia and parvovirus, can be devastating to animals and shelters alike. This session will highlight life-saving methods for managing outbreaks of panleukopenia and parvo and give tools for shelters to develop their own infectious disease protocols. The use of risk assessment, population monitoring, diagnostic testing, and isolation to minimize the impact of outbreaks will be discussed. Risk factors contributing to the frequency of outbreaks as well as vaccination strategies for prevention will also be addressed. Having a plan in place for response if/when faced with infectious disease is essential to stopping transmission and saving lives.