



## Luis Marquez

Luis is originally from Colombia, but he has lived for many years in Australia.

He has an extensive background working with shelters in QLD, VIC, NSW and consulting in Latino America.

Some projects like Animate looked at matching pets and their adopters: Every animal and person comes to an animal shelter with a story behind them. This information is a way of understanding their past and building a better future.

Luis is a Professional Assistance Dog Trainer and Animal Handler with experience in dog training for disability, occupational and therapy programs.

## Abstract

### Thinking “outside” of the cat trap!

CAT-ASTROPHE! It’s no secret one of the biggest challenges Australian Council pound facilities face is the lack of suitable strategies to manage felines within the community. With cats commonly the trigger of nuisance complaints, many Councils encourage mass cat trapping as a band-aid solution. Furthermore with reclaim rates typically less than 1%, Councils can be reluctant to invest resources to support these felines post-intake. Therefore we must place priority on preventing cats from becoming impounded– and remove barriers preventing owners from reclaiming.

With several years’ experience managing council based shelters, Luis Marquez will present some highly creative concepts to encourage Council pound facilities to think “outside of the cat trap!” An exciting idea is “Cat Passport” - an App encouraging Councils to work in co-operation with neighbourhoods, maximise reunite rates and reward responsible cat citizenship. As well as many other strategies to minimise LOS and maximise reclaim rates.