ONE HEALTH SYSTEMS SUMMIT 2026

Grand Hyatt San Antonio River Walk
San Antonio, TX
October 31, 2026

Maddie's Fund
The Duffield Foundation

GRACE
Communications Foundation

Michelson Found Animals

PETSMART Charities

WALTHAM
Petcare Science Institute

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE KNOXVILLE
CENTER FOR PET FAMILY WELL-BEING

OUR TIME TODAY

Time	Topic • Speaker(s) • Description
8:00–8:30 AM	**Arrival & Informal Networking**
8:30–8:50 AM	**Welcome & Framing: Why One Health Systems—and Why Now** Michael Blackwell, DVM, MPH, The University of Tennessee Center for Pet Family Well-Being *Sets the stage for a One Health Systems approach and explains why cross-sector collaboration matters now. Establishes a shared purpose for the Summit: building stronger systems that support people, pets, and the environments they share.*
8:50–9:35 AM	**Opening Keynote: From Fragmentation to Alignment: Why Systems Must Change** Amelie G. Ramirez, DrPH, MPH, Director of the Institute for Health Promotion Research, Chair of the Department of Population Health Sciences at UT Health San Antonio, Associate Director of Cancer Outreach and Engagement at Mays Cancer Center *Examines why fragmented systems struggle to address interconnected health and community needs—and what greater alignment makes possible. Highlights cross-sector collaboration as a path toward health equity and better outcomes for people, pets, and their communities.*
9:35–9:45 AM	**Moderator Bridge: Connecting Structural Urgency to the Human–Animal Bond** Claire Schuch, PhD, The University of Tennessee Center for Pet Family Well-Being *Connects the keynote's call for systemic change to the human–animal bond, framing that bond as a starting point for examining how systems recognize and respond to the needs of pet families.*
9:45–10:40 AM	**The Human–Animal Bond: Why the Bond Matters to Systems, Not Just Individuals** Moderator: Kelly Bremken, MSSW, LCSW, Oregon Humane Society Panelists: Christine Kim, MSW My Dog is My Home; Vanessa Ashall, PhD, MRCVS, Waltham Petcare Science Institute; Rustin M. Moore, DVM, PhD, Diplomate ACVS, The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine *Examines how the human–animal bond shapes family trust and decision-making. Panelists discuss how recognizing that bond can inform policies and practices that better support pet families.*
10:55–11:50 AM	**How Systems Assume Family—and When Systems Collide: Design Choices, Legal Frameworks, and Their Consequences — Part 1** Moderator: Christine Kim, MSW, My Dog is My Home Panelists: Ross Barker, Pet-Inclusive Housing at Michelson Found Animals Foundation, Inc.; Stacey Evans, JD, JurisPet Animal Health Consulting, LLC; Meghan Davis, DVM, PhD, MPH, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health *Examines how laws, policies, and funding structures define family—and where those definitions fail to reflect households with pets. The discussion considers the consequences of designing systems around restrictive assumptions.*

Time	Topic • Speaker(s) • Description
12:00–12:50 PM	**How Systems Assume Family—and When Systems Collide: Design Choices, Legal Frameworks, and Their Consequences — Part 2** Moderator: Jessica Simpson, Humane World for Animals Panelists: Ingrid Taylor, DVM, American Animal Hospital Association; Michelle Evason, DVM, BSc, DACVIM, MRCVS, Antech Diagnostics, Mars Petcare *Builds on Part 1 to examine how disconnected public health, housing, and legal systems affect families and the professionals who serve them. The discussion highlights the challenges of navigating services and the strain placed on the workforce.*
12:50–1:45 PM	**Lunch**
1:45–2:30 PM	**What We Learned in Real Time: Insights from the Pop-Up One Health Clinic** Speakers: Vickie Ramirez, The University of Washington Center for One Health Research; Amy Moore, PA-C, Street Medicine San Antonio; Amanda Preczewski, DVM, MPH, Animal Defense League of Texas *Draws on experiences from the previous day's Pop-Up One Health Clinic to identify structural, regulatory, and logistical barriers to coordinated care. Connects lessons from the clinic to opportunities for stronger cross-sector collaboration.*
2:45–3:35 PM	**Why Are We Not Aligned? Incentives, Regulation, and Structural Barriers** Moderator: Emily McCobb, DVM, MS, DACVAA, The University of California, Davis Panelists: Anna Stout, MA, CAWA, AlignCare Health Inc.; Kelly Bremken, MSSW, LCSW, Oregon Humane Society; Jessica Simpson, Humane World for Animals *Examines how institutional policies, regulations, and misaligned incentives hinder coordination across sectors. Panelists consider legal and policy approaches that can remove barriers and support more effective collaboration.*
3:50–4:35 PM	**What Aligned Systems Would Require: Governance, Workforce Integration, and Sustainable Models** Moderator: Anna Stout, MA, CAWA, AlignCare Health Inc. Panelists: Emily McCobb, DVM, MS, DACVAA, The University of California, Davis; Katie Kuehl, DVM, Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine; Jon Geller, DVM, DABVP, MPH, Colorado School of Public Health *Highlights practical approaches to shared governance, cross-sector workforce integration, and sustainable funding. Presenters examine the structures and partnerships needed to build coordinated systems that endure.*
4:40–5:15 PM	**From Vision to Action + Closing: What Changes Because This Summit Happened** Michael Blackwell, DVM, MPH, The University of Tennessee Center for Pet Family Well-Being *Brings together the day's key insights and considers what comes next. This closing session focuses on turning the Summit's shared vision into continued collaboration and meaningful action.*

OUR SPEAKERS

Michael J. Blackwell, DVM, MPH,
Assistant Surgeon General, USPHS (Ret.)
Founder & Director, The University of Tennessee Center for Pet Family Well-Being

Dr. Michael Blackwell is a retired Rear Admiral and former Assistant Surgeon General in the U.S. Public Health Service, with more than four decades of leadership in veterinary medicine, public health, and regulatory policy. He served as Chief of Staff in the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General, Deputy Director of the FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine, and Chief Veterinary Officer of the U.S. Public Health Service. He also served as Dean of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Blackwell's national contributions have been recognized with the USPHS Distinguished Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and two Surgeon General's Exemplary Service Medals. He is the 2025 recipient of the AVMA Frederick D. Patterson Lifetime Achievement Award, the 2021 Senator John Melcher, DVM Leadership in Public Policy Award, and the 2020 Maddie's Fund Avanzino Leadership Award, and is a Distinguished Fellow of the National Academies of Practice. A proud graduate of Tuskegee University, he continues to mentor future leaders committed to equity, innovation, and One Health collaboration.

Claire Schuch, PhD
Associate Director of Research, The University of Tennessee Center for Pet Family Well-Being

Dr. Claire Schuch is a community-based researcher, educator, and social justice advocate with expertise in qualitative research, program evaluation, and community health. She has held leadership roles in education, public health, and applied research, including work with Decision Information Resources, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, and Epiphany Community Services. Her scholarship spans immigrant integration, health equity, and civic engagement, with numerous publications and federal- and foundation-funded projects.

Fluent in English, Dutch, and Spanish, and a certified Mental Health First Aid Instructor, Dr. Schuch brings a global perspective to advancing equity and inclusion.

Amelie G. Ramirez, DrPH

Professor and Chair, Department of Population Health Sciences, UT Health San Antonio
Director, Institute for Health Promotion Research, UT Health San Antonio
Associate Director, Community Outreach and Engagement, Mays Cancer Center, UT Health San Antonio

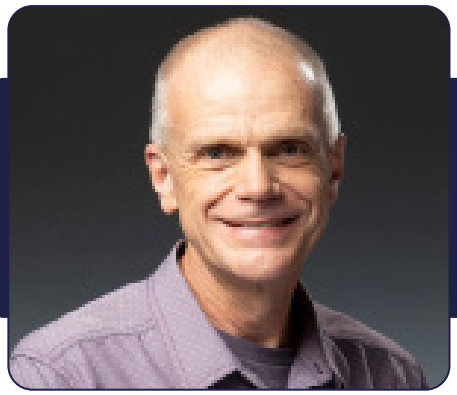
Amelie G. Ramirez, DrPH, an internationally recognized leader in health promotion and cancer research, is chair and professor of Population Health Sciences at UT Health San Antonio, where she also is founding director of the Institute for Health Promotion Research and leader of community outreach and engagement at the Mays Cancer Center at UT Health San Antonio. Over the past 30 years, Dr. Ramirez has led over 100 studies and communications projects that have enhanced health, increased participation in clinical trials, and improved health behaviors from smoking cessation to cancer screening among Latinos and all populations. She is the leader of the Salud America! national program that creates story-driven tools to empower its network of over 400,000 community leaders to push for healthy changes for Latino and all families (www.salud-america.org and @SaludAmerica on social media). Dr. Ramirez also directs the Avanzando Salud Center, funded by the American Cancer Society to tackle cancer in South Texas by addressing the non-medical drivers of health, and the South Texas site of Avanzando Caminos, a National Cancer Institute-funded multi-site study to enroll 3,000 Latino cancer survivors to help unpack the behavioral, mental, biological, medical, and other influences on life after cancer. Ramirez also has trained/mentored over 250 scholars in health fields. Nationally, she is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine and earned the Lifetime Achievement Award in Health from the Society of Behavioral Medicine. Locally, she is an elected member of the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame and is on the San Antonio Mayor's Fitness Council.

Vanessa Ashall, PhD, MRCVS

Human-Animal Interaction Technical Leader, Waltham Pet-care Science Institute

Dr. Vanessa Ashall is a strategic research leader at the intersection of veterinary medicine, social science, and human-animal interaction, making significant contributions to both academic understanding and practical applications in the fields of animal welfare and human health. Currently Human-Animal Interaction (HAI) Technical Leader for Mars Petcare, based at the Waltham Petcare Science Institute, she leads a large global program of HAI research exploring the mental health and wellbeing significance of relationships between people and pets. Vanessa has previously led pioneering research projects funded by the Wellcome Trust, with a focus on the significance of

relationships with animals for human health. She co-directed the Science and Technology Studies Unit (SATSU) based in the Department of Sociology, University of York from 2021-2024, leading a stream of research on Human-Animal Interaction within interdisciplinary studies of science and society. Vanessa holds an MA, PhD and is a European Veterinary Specialist in Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law with over a decade of clinical experience. Vanessa's qualifications and experience reflect a robust integration of veterinary clinical expertise, ethical scholarship, and interdisciplinary research, positioning her as a leading expert in veterinary ethics, animal welfare, and the social sciences applied to human-animal interaction.



Ross Barker
Program Director, Pet-Inclusive Housing, Michelson Found Animals Foundation, Inc

Ross Barker is Program Director of the Pet-Inclusive Housing Initiative (PIHI) at Michelson Found Animals Foundation. His work focuses on how housing systems shape the well-being of people and pets, using research, policy analysis, and cross-sector collaboration to address structural barriers that separate families from their companion animals. Ross works with housing providers, policymakers, public health leaders, and animal welfare organizations to develop evidence-informed approaches that support healthier, more stable communities. Previously, he led research and innovation teams at Banfield Pet Hospital and Kinship, both part of Mars Petcare. He earned a Master of Public Policy from Oregon State University, an MBA from Northwestern University, and a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of California, Berkeley.

Kelly Bremken, MSSW, LCSW, VSW
Manager, Veterinary Social Work, Oregon Humane Society

Kelly Bremken is the Veterinary Social Worker with Oregon Humane. Originally a Midwest native, with a BA in Organizational Communication, Kelly graduated in Spring 2021 with a Master of Science in Social Work (MSSW) from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, with a certification in Veterinary Social Work (VSW). She has worked in animal sheltering for more than 20 years at Arizona Humane Society, Humane Society of the Treasure Coast, Seattle Animal Shelter, and Oregon Humane.

At the Community Veterinary Hospital and within the animal shelter, Kelly serves as Oregon Humane's first veterinary social worker and is paving the way in the field for greater workplace wellbeing and community partnership.

Meghan Davis, DVM, PhD, MPH
Chair, Master of Public Health Program, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
Associate Professor, Environmental Health and Engineering, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Meghan F. Davis, DVM PhD MPH, is the Chair of the Master of Public Health Program and Associate Professor in Environmental Health and Engineering at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (BSPH). She directs the Johns Hopkins P.O.E. Total Worker Health Center in Mental Health, which takes a holistic approach to the health and well-being of workers, particularly frontline workers in agriculture, healthcare, and service sectors. She received her D.V.M. from the University of California at Davis School of Veterinary Medicine in 2000, and her M.P.H. and Ph.D. from BSPH in 2008 and 2012, respectively. She is affiliated with the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future and was a Lerner Fellow during her PhD training. Prior to her faculty career, she has over a decade of experience in veterinary medicine, including dairy and small animal practice. Her research is grounded in One Health efforts that promote transdisciplinary, systems-thinking efforts towards improved human health, environmental health and animal health.

Stacey Evans, JD
Founder, JurisPet Animal Health Consulting, LLC

Stacey Evans, JD, certified pet funeral director, founder of JurisPet Animal Health Consulting, works at the intersection of law, One Health, and the evolving relationship between people and animals. She is a legal executive in the animal health industry, bringing a practical perspective on the legal, ethical, and policy issues affecting companion animals and the people who love them. She is an associate editor of the One Health Journal.

Stacey is a past member of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary's Advisory Committee on Animal Health and a past chair of the American Bar Association Animal Law Committee.

Michelle Evason, DVM, BSc, DACVIM, MRCVS

Director, Veterinary Education & Outreach, Antech Diagnostics (Mars Petcare, Science & Diagnostics)

Michelle Evason, BSc, DVM, DACVIM (SAIM), MRCVS, serves as Director, Veterinary Education & Outreach for Antech Diagnostics (Mars Petcare, Science & Diagnostics). She has worked in general practice, academia, specialty clinical practice, and in the animal health industry. Michelle has published on numerous infectious diseases, antimicrobial stewardship, nutrition, contextualized care, veterinary- and pet-owner education related topics. She keeps busy (and humble!) with two teenage daughters, one husband, and multiple creatures on her farm in Prince Edward Island.

Jon Geller, DVM, DABVP, MPH

Adjunct Faculty, Colorado School of Public Health

After an earlier career as a carpenter and builder, Dr. Geller graduated from Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1995. After graduating, he practiced as a house call veterinarian for several years, and then embarked on a 20 yr. career as an emergency clinician in Colorado. During that time, Dr. Geller and his partners started up 4 emergency clinics. He became Board Certified as Veterinary Practitioner in Canine and Feline Medicine in 2010. He was an ER clinician and hospital director for 21 years.

After encountering a man and his pit bull experiencing homelessness on a bridge in Nashville in 2015, he founded The Street Dog Coalition, a non-profit charity, which provides free medical care, and other related services, to pets of owners at risk of, or experiencing homelessness in over 50 US cities. The Street Dog Coalition has developed a One Health Outreach model to support community health.

In March 2022, Dr. Geller set up a vet tent on the Ukraine-Romania border, and in 2023 mobilized a mobile veterinary hospital to Ukraine, partnering with Worldwide Vets. He is currently working on a Gaza Veterinary Relief, to provide care to the animals of Gaza.

In 2024, he received his MPH from the University of Minnesota and is currently teaching at the Colorado School of Public Health with a focus on Homelessness in the US. He is also completing a certification in QPR Training to increase awareness and intervention strategies for those considering suicide, a looming challenge in veterinary medicine.

Christine Kim

Founder & Executive Director, My Dog is My Home

Christine Kim is a macro social worker with a specialized interest in building programs and policies that recognize the power of the human-animal bond. During her time working in supportive housing, Christine became acutely aware of the barriers people experiencing homelessness with animal face when attempting to access shelter and housing services. Christine's research and work with human-animal homeless families includes a publication in the pioneering book Animals in Social Work: Why and How They Matter (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014), an exhibition for The Animal Museum called My Dog Is My Home and the founding of the non-profit organization by the same name. She served as the first director of the NYC Mayor's Office of Animal Welfare under Mayor Bill de Blasio, and she is the recipient of the ASPCA's 2021 Public Service Humane Awards for her leadership at the NYC's Mayor's Office during the COVID-19 pandemic. Christine currently serves as the Vice Chair of the board of directors for Animal Care Centers of NYC.

Katie Kuehl, DVM

Associate Professor, Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine

Director, Shelter Medicine Program, The Washington State University (WSU) College of Veterinary Medicine

Veterinary Health Director, One Health Clinic

Katie Kuehl is a veterinarian and associate professor for Washington State University's College of Veterinary Medicine. She is the director of the WSU Shelter Medicine program based at Seattle Humane where she guides 4th year veterinary students through hands-on training in shelter medicine, surgery and community outreach. She is also the veterinary health director for the One Health Clinic, a partnership with the University of Washington that provides integrated medical care to people and their pets while allowing UW and WSU students to collaborate inter-professionally.

She received the Washington State Veterinary Medical Association (WSVMA) 2020 WSU Faculty Member of the Year Award and University of Wisconsin's School of Veterinary Medicine Young Alumni Award in 2021. She was also awarded the Wescott Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching at WSU in 2024 and the Dr. Jordan Award for Distinguished Teaching in 2026.

Emily McCobb, DVM, MS, DACVAA

Professor, Clinical Accessible Veterinary Care, University of California at Davis

PetSmart Charities Endowed Chair, Accessible Veterinary Care, University of California at Davis

Emily McCobb is Professor of Clinical Accessible Veterinary Care, and the PetSmart Charities endowed chair in Accessible Veterinary Care at the University of California at Davis. Prior to joining the faculty at UCD, she was an Associate Clinical Professor of Anesthesiology and Community Medicine at Tufts University's Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, where she directed the Shelter Medicine Program and on campus Spay Neuter Clinic and assisted in opening a low-cost student training clinic, Tufts at Tech.

A board-certified anesthesiologist, Dr. McCobb has expertise in community medicine, anesthesia and pain management and animal welfare and policy. She is a past Chair of AVMA's Animal Welfare Committee for the AVMA and is a founding member of the editorial board for the Journal of Shelter Medicine and Community Animal Health. Her recent scholarship has focused on developing the evidence base for low cost effective care.

Amy Moore, PA-C

Team Lead, Street Medicine San Antonio

Amy Moore is a Street Medicine San Antonio team lead, having served with the organization since 2020. She is also the Board Secretary for Imago Dei Par Vias, the non-profit which governs Street Medicine San Antonio, and the organizational coordinator assisting with operations, volunteer and patient care coordination. Amy serves as an Adjunct Assistant Professor for the Long School of Medicine and is a retired Army emergency medicine physician assistant. In addition to her work with SMSA, she is a homeschooling mom of two.

Rustin M. Moore, DVM, PhD, DACVS
Dean, The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Rustin M. Moore, the Rita Jean Wolfe Endowed Dean in Veterinary Medicine, is a nationally recognized veterinary surgeon, academic leader, and advocate for animal and human wellbeing. A native of West Virginia, he earned his BS from West Virginia University and his DVM and PhD from The Ohio State University, becoming a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons in 1994. He spent 12 years on the faculty at Louisiana State University, where his clinical focus on equine lameness, surgery, and colic complications was paired with a prolific research career, serving as principal or co-investigator on approximately 120 funded grants and authoring more than 125 peer-reviewed manuscripts. Recruited back to Ohio State in 2006, Dr. Moore has held multiple senior leadership roles, including Chair of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, Executive Director of the Veterinary Medical Center, and Associate Executive Dean, before becoming the college's 11th Dean in 2015. He is widely known for his community outreach and disaster-response leadership, including efforts that "led to the rescue, rehabilitation, and rehoming of nearly 500 horses after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita." Since delivering his 2016 TEDxOhioState talk, The Power of a Pet, Dr. Moore has become a sought-after speaker on the human-animal bond, One Health, wellbeing in the profession, and biodiversity. His recent books—Unleashing the Bond (2025), Unlocking the Bond (2026), and the forthcoming Restoring the Bond (2026)—offer "broad and deep exploration of the often-mystifying connection between humans and animals." The views expressed in these works are solely his own and not those of The Ohio State University.

Amanda Preczewski, DVM
Associate Veterinarian, Animal Defense League of Texas

Amanda Preczewski is a shelter veterinarian and street veterinarian. She currently lives and works in San Antonio as an associate veterinarian for the Animal Defense League of Texas. Dr. Preczewski joined the Street Medicine San Antonio team in 2025 as the first veterinary team lead and adopted a One Health approach to care for people and their pets on the streets of San Antonio. Dr. Preczewski is also a volunteer vet for the Street Dog Coalition and has fostered partnerships between the two organizations. She holds a Veterinary degree (DVM) and Master of Public Health (MPH) from Kansas State University and an undergraduate degree from the United States Military Academy-West Point. She served as an Army medical evacuation Officer prior to pursuing a career in veterinary medicine. In her free time, she and her husband David enjoy fostering senior dogs and sampling the endless foods that San Antonio has to offer.

Vickie Ramirez

Senior Research Coordinator and Center Manager, The University of Washington Center for One Health Research
Co-Director, One Health Clinic

Vickie Ramirez (she/her/hers) is the Senior Research Coordinator and Center Manager for the University of Washington Center for One Health Research, where she supports research, training, and clinical activities at the human-animal-environment interface. Trained as a medical anthropologist, she works to improve health access and outcomes for communities facing persistent structural barriers to care through outreach, evaluation, and applied qualitative and mixed-methods research. Her work includes local and global research on zoonotic disease transmission and surveillance, as well as coordination of projects such as the occupational health of those working in animal agriculture and antimicrobial resistance research. She is also Co-Director of the One Health Clinic, an integrated human and veterinary care clinic that serves people experiencing homelessness and their animal companions while training future health professionals in holistic, trauma-informed care.

Jessica Simpson

Program Manager, Public and Corporate Policy, Companion Animals

Jessica Simpson is a Program Manager for Humane World for Animals, formerly The Humane Society of the United States. For the past six years, she has specialized in companion animal policy, focusing on expanding access to affordable, pet-inclusive housing, repealing breed-specific legislation, and advancing laws that protect companion animals and keep pets and people together at the local, state, and federal levels.

Prior to joining Humane World, Jessica graduated from Christopher Newport University and worked with the National Park Service. Her professional background spans multiple sectors, all centered on improving outcomes for both people and animals.

Anna Stout, MA, CAWA

Executive Director, AlignCare Health Inc.

Anna Stout is the Executive Director of AlignCare Health, where she leads efforts to integrate the human-animal bond into health and social service systems through policy development, cross-sector partnerships, and systems design. She recently led the development and passage of Colorado's HB26-1229, which recognizes the human-animal bond as a social determinant of health, establishing a foundation for future policy and systems integration across health, housing, and social services.

Previously, as CEO of Roice-Hurst Humane Society, Anna developed nationally recognized programs at the intersection of animal welfare and community health, including "Homeward Hounds," a co-sheltering model developed with a local homeless shelter that enabled people and their pets to stay together in private, dignified shelters during periods of housing instability. She also served as Co-Chair of the Advocacy Committee for the Animal Welfare Association of Colorado, helping to advance statewide policy initiatives.

Anna brings 20+ years of experience in nonprofit leadership and public service, including serving as Mayor of Grand Junction, Colorado.

Ingrid Taylor, DVM

Director of Guidelines, American Animal Hospital Association

Ingrid Taylor, DVM, is Director of Guidelines at the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA), where she leads the development of evidence-directed clinical and veterinary practice guidelines. Before joining AAHA, she practiced emergency, urgent care, and primary care veterinary medicine. She also served as a public health officer in the U.S. Air Force, overseeing disease prevention, food safety, and deployment health programs. Prior to AAHA, Dr. Taylor was a freelance journalist and staff writer for Sentient Media, where she covered animal welfare, food systems, and emerging technologies. Her diverse background in clinical practice, public health, and science communication informs her work advancing evidence-based veterinary medicine and supporting high-quality patient care.