

November 1- — Legislation – LE1

Dangerous Dogs, Reckless Owners & Community Cats – Innovative Approaches to Animal Ordinances

Katie Barnett is a graduate of the University of Kansas School of Law. During law school she worked as a contract lobbyist for Best Friends Animal Society and as a legislative attorney upon graduation. After traveling the country working on legislative matters, Katie opened Barnett Law Office where she focuses on animal law and municipal law; representing pet owners, several Kansas cities, training law enforcement, and works as a special prosecutor on animal cases.

Ledy VanKavage is the Senior Legislative Attorney for Best Friends Animal Society located in Kanab, Utah. Before coming to Best Friends Ledy was the Senior Director of Legislation and Legal Training for the ASPCA. She has spearheaded the passage of over 35 humane state bills during her lobbying tenure and is a past Chair of the American Bar Association's Animal Law Committee. Ledy is the recipient of the ABA's Excellence in Animal Law award for 2014 and the current chair of the Illinois State Bar Association's Animal Law Committee. She is a co-author of the USDOJ publication, "The Problem of Dog Related Incidents and Encounters." She is an instructor for the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board and presented at the CALEA conference in March of 2006. She has been interviewed by numerous television, radio, and newspapers including MSNBC, NPR, the Chicago Tribune, Time Magazine and the New York Times.