

Course Completion Requirements

The following are *required to be considered as having completed the course and to receive the Certificate of Completion.

- Completion of online coursework and materials
- Attendance at 3 (of 4) virtual classes
- Final project submission
- Completion of the Evaluation Survey

Virtual Classes and Pre-Coursework

Participation in virtual classes is an essential part of the learning in this instructor-led educational opportunity. There are (4) 90-min virtual (Zoom) classes, including time for Q&A. Students who miss more than one class will be dropped from the course.

Content:

- ***To complete before Class 1:***
 - Traditional to Innovative: The Future for Cat Intake at Shelters
 - Let's Talk About Cats Webcast
- ***Class 1:***
 - Housekeeping, Introductions and Expectations
 - Discussion of Current State of Feline Lifesaving in Students' Communities and Challenges
 - Guest Speaker: Dr. Willie Bidot, President and DVM, Veterinarians for Puerto Rico
 - Dr. Bidot discusses access to care in low-income and marginalized communities and real-world TNR experiences.
- ***To complete before Class 2:***
 - Shelter-Neuter-Return
 - Intake Management
 - Building Foster Programs for Cats and Kittens:
 - Introduction to the Austin Pets Alive! Feline Foster Programs
 - Cat Foster Program Structure and Process
 - Cat Foster Program Management Tools
 - Special Considerations of a Neonatal Program
 - Foster Caregiver Recruitment and Retention
 - Language That Harms Cats Webcast
 - Feral and Fractious Cat Handling
- ***Class 2:***
 - Discussion on This Week's Completed Modules
 - Identify Language that Harms Cats (Group Activity)
 - Guest Speaker: Tara Tomcsik, Founder and CEO: The Feline Fund



- Tara presents on conflict management and change management to navigate detractors of community cat programs, concerned residents, and rescue groups.
- **To complete before Class 3:**
 - Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) (optional)
 - Feline Lifesaving: Feline Leukemia (FeLV)
 - Feline Lifesaving: Ringworm
 - Panleukopenia
- **Class 3:**
 - Discussion on This Week's Completed Modules
 - Identify Barriers to Adoption, Foster Care, and Community Engagement (Group Activity)
 - Guest Speaker: Leah Long, Senior Regional Strategist: Best Friends Animal Society
 - Leah teaches how to make intake or return decisions for free-roaming cats, special considerations for kittens, intake diversion, and when to admit.
- **To complete before Class 4:**
 - Building a Working Cat Program
 - Sheltering Working Cats
 - Finding Homes for Working Cats
 - Placing Working Cats in Homes
 - Feline Lifesaving: Adoption
 - Feline Lifesaving: Matchmaking
 - Feline Lifesaving: Marketing
 - Feline Lifesaving: Behavior Programs
 - Designing and Implementing a Pilot Program (optional)
- **Class 4:**
 - Discussion on This Week's Completed Modules
 - Creating a Culture Shift to Change the Way your Community Views Cats
 - Choose a Lifesaving Program:
 - Begin to Develop a Pilot Program
 - Craft an Appeal
 - Wrap-up, Evaluation Survey Request, Final Project Due in 1 week

Additional Coursework (Optional)

- Increasing Feline RTO Training Guide:
- Keeping Families Together Eviction Response Toolkit