



Social isolation and loneliness are a growing public health epidemic. Research increasingly reveals that companion animal ownership and human-animal interaction can facilitate social interactions, decrease loneliness and reduce depression. Additionally, health care practitioners are increasingly incorporating companion animals as a complementary therapy for social isolation and related health conditions.

The Human Animal Bond Research Institute (HABRI) and Mars Petcare have partnered to create the **Summit on Social Isolation & Companion Animals** in order to engage experts and stakeholders in advancing scientific research, sharing best practices, and overcoming barriers to facilitate the vital role of human-animal interaction in addressing the crisis of social isolation and loneliness in society.

On behalf of HABRI, Mars Petcare and our sponsors, we thank you for your participation.

🌐 For more information, please visit
www.habri.org | www.waltham.com

Thank you to our Sponsors



Program

May 7, 2019 | 8 AM – 4 PM

Capital Hilton, 1001 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Hosted By



Agenda

8:00 a.m. Attendee Registration & Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Welcome & Introductions

- **Rena Crumplen**, Mars Petcare



8:40 a.m. Opening Remarks

- **Pamela Mars Wright**
- **Collette Bunton**, Whistle



9:10 a.m. Purpose & Vision for the Social Isolation & Companion Animals Summit

- **Steven Feldman**, Human Animal Bond Research Institute (HABRI)



Section 1 – Overview of Social Isolation, Loneliness and Human-Animal Interaction (HAI)

9:25 a.m. Social Isolation, Loneliness & Public Health

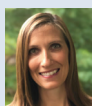
- Discussion: **Dr. Vivek H. Murthy**, 19th Surgeon General of the United States, with Steven Feldman



10:10 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. HAI Research Overview

- Speaker: **Layla Esposito**, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health
- Speaker: **Nancy Gee**, State University of New York at Fredonia, Department of Psychology, WALTHAM™ HAI Research Manager



Section 2 – Older Adults, Social Isolation, Loneliness & Companion Animals

11:00 a.m. Overview on Older Adults, Social Isolation & Loneliness

- Why is social isolation a particular problem for older adults?
 - Speaker: **Chelsea Gilchrist**, National Council on Aging



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- Examples and elements of effective programs with animals
 - Speaker: **Mary Margaret Callahan**, Pet Partners



Panel Discussion:

Moderator:

Nancy Gee, State University of New York at Fredonia, Department of Psychology, WALTHAM™ HAI Research Manager

Panelists:

- **Erika Friedmann**, University of Maryland, School of Nursing
- **Molly McAllister**, Banfield Pet Hospital
- **Dawn Carr**, Florida State University College of Social Sciences and Public Policy
- **Chelsea Gilchrist**, National Council on Aging
- **Mary Margaret Callahan**, Pet Partners



Audience Q&A

12:45 p.m. Lunch

Petco Foundation Video Presentation

Section 3 – People with Mental Health Challenges, Social Isolation, Loneliness & Companion Animals

1:35 p.m. Overview on Mental Health, Social Isolation & Loneliness

- Why is social isolation a particular problem for people with mental health challenges?
 - Speaker: **Aubrey Fine**, California State Polytechnic University, Department of Education



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- Dogs on Call: A best practices hospital-based AAI program
 - Speaker: **Sandra Barker**, School of Medicine, Center for Human-Animal Interaction, Virginia Commonwealth University



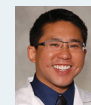
Panel Discussion:

Moderator: **James Griffin**, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health



Panelists:

- **Megan Mueller**, Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University
- **Zenithson Ng**, University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, College of Veterinary Medicine
- **Dominique Apollon**, Light on Anxiety CBT Treatment Center
- **Aubrey Fine**, California State Polytechnic University, Department of Education
- **Sandra Barker**, School of Medicine, Center for Human-Animal Interaction, Virginia Commonwealth University



Audience Q&A

3:25 p.m. Break

3:35 p.m. Summary & Next Steps / Action List (HABRI & MARS Petcare)

- Summary of discussions
- Next Steps

4:00 p.m. Meeting Adjourns

4:00 p.m. Reception Sponsored by Petco Foundation North Gate Grill, Lobby Level

6:00 p.m. Reception Ends