Opening Remarks and Introductions (5 minutes, Jane McBride)

Tips from one of the Country’s Top Animal Crimes Prosecutors
Michelle Welch is a Senior Assistant Attorney General in the Virginia Attorney General’s Office. She is the Director of the Animal Law Unit at the Attorney General's Office. She is called on by agencies all over the Commonwealth to act as a special prosecutor in animal cruelty and animal fighting cases. She has been appointed a special Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Virginia to aid in animal fighting prosecutions. She frequently gives advice to local law enforcement authorities and prosecutors all over Virginia and across the nation. Michelle will discuss investigation and case preparation for neglect, cruelty and fighting cases. She will review various aspects of criminal procedure, include search and seizure. She will call upon her wealth of “teaching moment” cases to illustrate her talk.

Learning from Defense Counsel, Dangerous Dog Proceedings
Fred M. Kray has 40 years of experience in all areas of civil litigation in both the state and federal courts in Florida, including appeals. Since 2000, he has limited his practice area to Animal law in the areas of dangerous dog claims, pet store litigation involving puppy mill sales, Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act, Pet Lemon law claims, replevin actions for companion animals, veterinary malpractice and litigation against breed discriminatory laws. He achieved repeal of breed discriminatory legislation in the cases of Nelson v. Town of New Llano, US Dist. Ct. Western District of Louisiana, and as co-counsel in Criscuolo v. Grant County, U.S. Dist. Ct. Eastern District of Washington. Mr. Kray will discuss procedural and evidentiary considerations in dangerous dog cases, including due process.

Break

General Liability and Litigation Involving Shelters
After practicing for six years as a public defender and seven years with a civil litigation law firm, Heidi Meinzer set up the Law Office of Heidi Meinzer, PLLC in Alexandria, Virginia in 2013. Heidi focuses her practice on animal law and the pet care industry, and is licensed to practice law in Virginia, Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Washington State. She devotes countless hours to animal welfare and state and local legislative efforts as a board member with the Virginia Federation of
Humane Societies, Homeward Trails Animal Rescue, and the Association of Professional Dog Trainers. Heidi will talk about the aspects of shelter operations that are the source of greatest liability exposure, and will teach by example presenting select examples of litigation involving shelters.

2:50 – 4:10

**Cats in the Community:**
This panel will feature the following three foci: (1) traditional law (applicable law common in most jurisdictions across the nation), (2) evolving law to accommodate evolving paradigms (TNVR and Return to Field), and (3) community cat program analytics, that is, a little help from wildlife biologists applying population dynamics science and adaptive management techniques. Prof. Joan Schaffner, George Washington University School of Law, will present an overview of law that has traditionally been applicable to community cats in jurisdictions across the country. Richard Angelo, Best Friends Animal Society, will discuss the evolving area of law that has come into being to accommodate the new paradigms of return to field and trap, neuter, vaccinate and return programs. This session will also feature a presentation by Dr. John Boone. Dr. Boone received his PhD in Environmental, Population, and Organismal Biology from the University of Colorado at Boulder. In 2006, he joined the Great Basin Bird Observatory, where over the last ten years he has conducted dozens of applied research projects, population monitoring programs, and conservation planning exercises throughout the Western U.S. In 2012 Dr. Boone began to consult with national and international humane organizations to provide expertise in cat and dog population management, the design and analysis of monitoring programs for outdoor cats and free-roaming dogs, and program impact assessment. Dr. Boone also serves at the Vice-Chair for the Alliance for Contraception in Cats & Dogs, and as a board member and past-Chair of the SPCA of Northern Nevada.

4:10 – 5:00

**Shelter Animal Transport and the Law**
The transport of shelter animals across the country to shelters in different geographic locations has become a prevalent aspect of shelter operations. What law and regulations apply? What can go wrong? If and when things go wrong, who has exposure to liability and what is the nature of the liability? Regulatory liability? Tort liability? Fran Ortiz is Professor of Law at South Texas College of Law Houston and the former Director of the STCL Animal Law Clinic. Professor Ortiz received her J.D. from Harvard Law School and her B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin. She currently serves as chair of the Animal Law Section of the American Association of Law Schools and is a vice chair of the ABA-TIPS Animal Law Committee.