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## Webinar: Transports and Spay/Neuter in the South: Experiences from Tennessee & Virginia

presented by

Julie Jacobson  
Spay Tennessee

Melisa Miller-Piselli  
Spay Virginia  
HSSC

Bruce Myers  
United Spay Alliance



Does your organization run or participate in a spay/neuter *or* rescue transport program? Are you considering one? Properly used, transports can be a powerful tool for advancing spay/neuter initiatives and saving the lives of cats and dogs. In Southern states, transports are increasingly common.

Why are transports important? What's working and what isn't, on a big-picture level? What can we do better—and how can we do it?

**Please join staff from Spay Tennessee, Spay Virginia, and United Spay Alliance for a one-hour webinar to discuss the evolving role of transports in protecting animal welfare in the South.**

Date: Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Time: 6:00 – 7:00 pm ET

Cost: FREE ([pre-registration required](#))

### Speakers:

- Julie Jacobson  
Program Manager, [Spay Tennessee](#)
  - Melisa Miller-Piselli  
State Coordinator, [SpayVA](#) (a program of the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies)  
President, [Humane Society of Shenandoah County](#)
  - Bruce Myers (moderator)  
Director, [United Spay Alliance](#)
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## Speaker Bios:



**Julie Jacobson** is a self-described crabby old maid, born and raised in Minnesota. She spent her career as an

intelligence specialist in the US Air Force, retiring as a Lt Col. She has lived all over the world, and after settling in Tennessee, Julie got her first dog from an area shelter in 2002. Kalamity Jane was a large mutt and she changed Julie's life with her personality, pushing Julie to take in another rescue mutt (Emma Sue) and get involved in a local animal welfare group. Jackson County, TN has no animal control, no shelter, and no veterinarian, and the group has made a tremendous difference in the unwanted pet population—with a focus on spay/neuter and education.

Since January 2010, Julie has been Program Manager for **Spay Tennessee** and taken on the challenge to define rural reality, which does not match national expert data. Her retired life is devoted to working with others to grow more effective spay/neuter programs across the state and encourage all shelters and rescues to alter before adoption.



**Melisa Miller-Piselli** is the State Coordinator for the **SpayVA** program of the **Virginia**

**Federation of Humane Societies**. Locally, Melisa is President of the **Humane Society of Shenandoah County**, which has coordinated a spay/neuter transport program since 2005—resulting in over 10,000 animals being fixed in Shenandoah County, VA. This grassroots program began with two volunteers in the hatchback of an old car in the local municipal shelter parking lot and has since evolved into acquiring a permanent transport location and shed at a town park with numerous volunteers and widespread community support.

Melisa resides in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley with her husband, 15-year old son, and five rescue dogs in an old farmhouse that the Pisellis have spent the last 15 years restoring. Melisa is employed by Merck and Co., Inc., in Elkton, VA as a Release Coordinator for the Gardasil vaccine.



Bruce Myers is a passionate lawyer who has dedicated his public interest career to animal protection. After

spending more than a decade as a senior policy attorney for a national environmental nonprofit, Bruce became director of **United Spay Alliance** in July 2016 to promote affordable, accessible, and timely spay/neuter.

Over the years, Bruce has researched and written on a wide range of animal protection and environmental topics. He has spoken on animal issues at events around the country, including at the annual Animal Law Conference at Lewis & Clark Law School.

Bruce is the principal of a Washington, DC-based public interest law practice and consultancy, Animals | Environment PLLC, where he works to advance animal protection priorities. He also serves as an adjunct associate professor at the American University Washington College of Law in DC. He lives in Silver Spring, MD with his wife Michelle, a small-animal veterinarian and avid spay/neuter advocate. They have four rescues—dogs Brie and Mei Mei, and cats Nufie and Patrick.



This [webinar](#) is presented by United Spay Alliance and is open to the public. It will be recorded.