

**Tuesday, March 6 – Joint Session**  
**8:30 am – 12:00 noon**

### **Animal Hoarding**

Animal hoarding is a complex animal welfare problem which requires a multi-disciplinary approach. This general session panel will discuss the aspects of animal hoarding from various perspectives – legal, medical, investigative, psychological and human health and safety. Hear the thoughts on animal hoarding from a psychologist, attorney, animal cruelty investigator, veterinarian, and specialist in cleaning and restoring animal hoarding homes. A question and answer session for the panel will be included.

Moderator: Marcia Mayeda, CAWA

### **Catherine R. Ayers, PhD**

*Dr. Ayers is the Program Director of the Anxiety Disorders Clinic at the VA San Diego Healthcare System (VASHS), an Assistant Professor at UC San Diego's Department of Psychiatry, and Associate Director of the VA Evidence-based Practice Center. She has clinical and research expertise in the treatment of late life anxiety disorders, OCD, and compulsive hoarding. Dr. Ayers earned a PhD in Clinical Psychology from George Mason University and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at VASHS.*

### **Captain Cory Chalmers**

*Captain Chalmers works full time for the Garden Grove Fire Department and owns Crime Scene Steri-Clean, a crime and trauma scene decontamination company that he founded in 1995. He has seen hundreds of crime scenes and is very passionate about helping crime victims in any way possible. Captain Chalmers also appears as a regular featured guest on the A&E series "Hoarders," where he helps clean up some of the most difficult hoarding cases ever seen.*

### **Commander of Field Services, Rita Gutierrez**

*Commander Gutierrez supervises all field service staff at Riverside County, Department of Animal Services (RCDAS), including ACO's, Dispatch, phone center and associated support staff. In 13 years at RCDAS, she has been involved in cruelty cases many of which have successfully been resolved with felony convictions. Commander Gutierrez has also helped write state legislation concerning animal welfare. She started as a volunteer with San Bernardino County and later spent four years with the Inland Valley Humane Society as a Humane Officer.*

### **Bonnie Lutz, Esq.**

*Ms. Lutz is a partner in the Orange County law office of Klinedinst PC. Her practice consists of defending veterinarians and registered veterinary technicians in malpractice and board actions, acting as general counsel for several private non-profit animal shelters, and consulting with veterinarians and practice managers on contract, standard of care and practice management issues.*