



Thank you for being there for the animals!

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## 373 Days Later... Valentine is Home!

When Valentine was abandoned at a local dog park on a snowy day, we knew we had to help. Valentine was shut down and terrified when she arrived at the shelter. She was overwhelmed by the unfamiliar sounds and smells and stayed curled up in her bed barking to scare us off. It took over a month for Valentine to trust us, but thanks to the dedication of our staff and volunteers, Valentine showed us that underneath all of her fear was a total cuddle bug.

Valentine became a staff and volunteer favorite, but remained unsure of new people. We all knew the mushy girl she was inside, but Valentine's initial nervousness made it tough to win over potential adopters. We realized that Valentine needed a family who understood that it would take a little extra time and patience before she would show them how funny and friendly she is. There had to be one!

Enter: Juliette and Bob. Juliette and Bob aren't strangers to fearful pups... their other rescue dog, Geb, was shut down and fearful when they adopted him. They're pros at helping nervous pups come out of their shells and knew that with a little patience, Valentine's sweet and silly personality would shine. Juliette, Bob, and Geb spent hours at Pets Alive bonding with Valentine. They saw Valentine's special connections to our staff and volunteers and were prepared to give Val all the time she needed to blossom.



After 373 days at the shelter, Valentine is home. She walked into her house as cool as a cucumber and has been learning, growing, and snuggling with her family ever since. Valentine's parents say it feels like she has been with them for years and that Geb is having the time of his life with his new best friend. Valentine has shown her parents that she loves belly rubs, watching people cook, and stealing the covers!

All of us at Pets Alive feel lucky that we had the chance to care for Valentine. The privilege to offer dogs a soft place to land and come into their own at their own pace is not lost on us. Thanks to your support, Valentine got the time and attention she needed to not only survive in our care but also thrive in a home.

## From Working Cat to Lap Cat

When David Hasslehoofs and his colony were abandoned at a horse farm last March, our TNR (trap neuter return) Team faced its biggest challenge yet... nearly 50 unaltered cats were left without a caregiver. Not only did they need someplace safe to go, but we were also looking down the barrel of 100 kittens being born in just one year if we didn't act fast. Within weeks, the TNR Team humanely trapped, altered, vaccinated, and medically treated a whopping 43 cats from the farm. Among them was a spunky little cat named David Hasslehoofs.



Despite living in a large colony, David does *not* like sharing his space with other cats. We're lucky to offer a cage-free living environment to the cats at Pets Alive, but our setup makes it tough to give an "only cat," like David, a safe and comfortable place to live. David's first few days at the shelter were tough. He was frustrated. He tried to start fights with cats and redirected his frustration onto the humans caring for him. We pride ourselves on providing environments where animals can thrive, and David's aggression toward other animals wasn't safe for him or the other cats in our care. We realized David needed a home where he could run the roost and a human who would give him the attention he demands.

Our Volunteer TNR Team Coordinator, Debbie, welcomed David into her care to keep him comfortable and happy. On October 21st, everything changed for David. Debbie's friend, Alex, was searching for a cat companion, and wanted to help a kitty who was tougher to place. Alex didn't have any other animals and was willing to open his heart and home to an "only cat."

After two months in foster care, Alex and David made it official. Thank you to Alex and Debbie for giving David the time, space, and unrelenting attention that he needed to be happy, and thank you to all of you for making it possible for Pets Alive to give David everything he needed to live a full and happy life.

## Not All Heroes Wear Capes...

In July 2020, Pets Alive worked alongside local law enforcement to remove 28 goats from a neglectful situation. All 28 suffer from caprine arthritis encephalitis (CAE), a progressive disease that causes inflammation, arthritis, and extreme swelling of joints. Other than giving pain medication on an as-needed basis, specialized care is often not necessary for goats with CAE.

Finding adoptive homes for animals with pre-existing medical conditions is inherently more challenging since not all adopters are equipped to care for an animal with medical needs. It takes a special person to welcome them into their heart and home, so when a Veterinary Technician with years of experience in farm animal care reached out to adopt a goat, we thought it was too good to be true.

Gabby knew that she was up to the challenge of monitoring and caring for goats with CAE. Did people think she was crazy for adopting three goats with a medical condition? Yep. But above all else, Gabby's priority was to share her home with animals who might not otherwise get adopted. TInkerbaaahll, Nanny McPhee, and Apple Jacks are thriving in Gabby's care, and can often be found snuggling together in the sunshine. We're so grateful to Gabby for loving these girls as much as we do.




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## A message from our Executive Director: THANK YOU!

Pets Alive is where it is today because of its community of volunteers, adopters, donors, and community partners.



**To our volunteers: thank you.** Thank you for being there for the shy dogs and cats who you show patience and understanding. Thank you for giving up sleep to bottle feed and care for the youngest and most vulnerable kittens every two hours. Our unsung volunteer heroes behind the scenes do critical jobs that often go unseen; washing and folding laundry, taking out the garbage, weed whacking, filing, scanning, organizing, event planning, painting, and so much more.

**To our adopters: thank you.** Thank you for opening your hearts and homes to the thousands of pets who have called Pets Alive home. No matter how long their time with us was, we cherished them as our own until you found them.

**To our donors and community partners...** "thank you," doesn't even begin to express our gratitude to you for always being there for the animals in our care and the pets in our community, and for your belief in Pets Alive's mission. You have been our rock during times of crisis, and you will be with us as we celebrate the completion of our new state-of-the-art facility.



From the bottom of my heart: thank you for being on this journey with us.



Becky Tegze  
Executive Director



## Welcome to the Future of Pets Alive!

We have some big updates to share... 12,000 square feet big! Five years in the making, alongside KLM Architect and Martell Builders, Pets Alive broke ground on its new Community Resource and Adoption Center in November.



Pets Alive's 50-year-old kennel building served us incredibly well, but a leaking roof, inadequate space, crumbling mason work, and other structural issues are just a few of the reasons that we hired Shelter Planners of America to help us figure out how to improve our kennels and in turn, improve the lives of the animals in our care. The new building will feature heated floors, an expanded adoption area, more intake, quarantine, and medical evaluation space, a community room, 51 dog kennel enclosures, and large garage doors in the kennel area to provide sunlight and fresh air for the dogs.

The construction team has made immense progress during the first five months of work. The day that the walls went up was exhilarating, to say the least! As we watch the steel framework go up, the outline of each kennel door take shape, plumbing and drainage systems installed, and spaces we recognize materialize, our excitement is almost overwhelming. We've all been watching in awe as the kennel starts to take shape and we can't help but envision the building in its completion.

The new building will provide larger, healthier, and safer environments for the dogs as well as our staff, visitors, and volunteers while opening up avenues to expand our community programs that support our local community and neighbors. Simply put, Pets Alive would not be where it is today without the unwavering support of our donors, volunteers, and local community. The sense of comradery during a time of change sustains us every day, and we are so grateful to everyone who has supported us over the years.



We're thrilled to share that \$1.5 million has been contributed by Pets Alive donors and a grant from New York State. The total cost of the building and site-work is projected to land between \$5-6 million, and your ongoing support helped us raise nearly 30% of the total cost of the project already. As a nonprofit organization, Pets Alive is funded 100% by donations from each and every one of you. We have launched a special fundraising campaign that invites individuals who would like to contribute toward the project with naming opportunities that recognize a wide range of gift levels. Naming opportunities begin at \$1,000 and provide an opportunity to support our efforts while recognizing a loved one or companion animal. For more information about our capital fundraising campaign, please contact Robert Lane at [development@petsalive.org](mailto:development@petsalive.org).

## 225 Animals Still Need Your Help

We're big believers in always doing our best at Pets Alive. We wish we could help every animal that needs us, but we can't. But do we let that stop us from helping as many as we can whenever possible? Nope. When NYC ACC reached out to its rescue partners in dire need of help this fall because Space was critical, we needed to support our friends as much as possible. We welcomed four dogs to the Hudson Valley, including a lovable meatball with four legs, Cali.

Cali has come out of her shell and proven that she is silly, smart, and eager to please, and has quickly become a pro at our dog agility course! **Thanks to your donations, Cali was not only given the opportunity to live, but to blossom.**



We welcomed Tokyo to Pets Alive in January from a condemned house with over a dozen animals still inside. There was no running water, septic system, electricity, or heat for almost a year, and the animals who were left behind had nowhere to go. All 12 of the surviving animals were in rough shape — emaciated, dehydrated, and injured — and went without medical attention for years.. **Because of your support, Pets Alive was able to say "yes!" to cases like this when everyone else says no.**

Freckles was rescued from a neglectful situation this fall. We quickly realized that he has Cushing's Disease, an endocrine condition that leads to chronic infection, laminitis and broken bones, ligament degeneration, type-2 diabetes, kidney stones, and more. We don't know how long he was left untreated, but we're grateful that daily medication and monitoring control his pain and fight the

long-term effects. There's no cure for Cushing's, but with proper care Freckles will live a comfortable and happy life.

We're grateful that Freckles' previous owner gave us legal ownership of him, but there are still 18 farm animals in our care indefinitely as we provide a safe haven for them during their ongoing legal cases. We cover the cost of all of their medical care and food during their stay with us no matter how long they are with us. **We couldn't do it without you: your donations to our Medical Fund make long-term care for animals like Freckles possible.**



You can make a difference today by sponsoring animals like Cali, Tokyo, and Freckles. Sponsorships make it possible for us to welcome more animals in need because we know that we have your support behind them. **Make a one-time donation today to help us meet the immediate needs of the Pets Alive animals or become a monthly donor to help save lives year-round!**

There are several ways to donate to help all the animals that come through our doors:

- Make a donation **NOW** using the enclosed Reply Card and envelope to mail your gift or charge it. Your contribution goes to work immediately!
- Become a **Monthly Sponsor** for any amount! Your recurring gifts help provide unconditional love month in and month out. You can use the enclosed Reply Card to set up a monthly contribution with a credit or debit card. Remember to check "Recurring Monthly Sponsorship."
- Donate via **PayPal**. Reference our website to set up payment: <https://petsalive.org/sponsor-a-pet>.

### Here's examples of the impact of your gift:

- \$5 buys a squeaky toy for a dog or a catnip toy for a cat
- \$25 provides a comfortable bed and cozy blankets
- \$50 covers a round of vaccines for a pet who just arrived
- \$100 pays for one spay or neuter before a pet is adopted
- \$250 subsidizes the cost of hay for barn animals for 2 weeks
- \$500 underwrites the cost of one pet's vet care
- \$1,000 covers the cost of food for 25 pets for an entire month

Check out our pets available for adoption at: <https://petsalive.org>. For questions, email us at [info@petsalive.org](mailto:info@petsalive.org).

Upon request, you can obtain a copy of the latest Pets Alive annual report by writing at Pets Alive, 363 Derby Road, Middletown, NY 10940, or from the New York State Attorney General's Charity Bureau by writing the Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10271. Our tax-exempt number is 11-2975276.