

# Pets Alive



Pets Alive has saved more than 3,500 animals this year at our three locations! We could NOT have done it without you.

Happy Holidays!



## Matching Gift!

Two of our most generous supporters have offered to *match every dollar* we can raise (up to \$20,000), before the end of year!

**If you have been considering a donation, NOW is the time. We desperately need this funding and hope you will help us this holiday season so that we can reach this goal. This is a challenge that we have to meet. We have many major expenses coming up this year, and your support is vital.**



## Goodbye...

### *Farewell to the brick house*

We are very sad to announce that in the Spring, we will be knocking down our beautiful, old, brick house at the Middletown location. This building houses all our cats (and the director's office), and has for more than 20 years. We have evaluated every other option, but the fact is this 1800's house will soon no longer be safe. Water in the basement has damaged the support beams, the floor joists to the first floor are rotted, and lack of care and maintenance over the years by prior management has resulted in major damage in the walls - creating serious electrical issues and fire hazards.

After consultations with many different experts, we have found no affordable alternative. In the spring, we will be reaching out to you to help foster the many cats that currently live in the brick house.

This will be an incredible undertaking for us. With already limited resources, this project will stretch our limits, and we know we can not do it alone. We will look on this as an opportunity to perhaps build something beautiful, maybe with a medical facility on site (which we do NOT have now!). This would save us many thousands of dollars in veterinary costs (to have an onsite veterinarian) and enable us to help the community by offering low cost services! Stay tuned!

## Save the Date! – FurBall June 1

This year our annual FurBall will be June 1 at the beautiful Double Tree Hotel in Tarrytown. FurBall is a fabulous formal evening celebrating the animals that have been saved by Pets Alive. There are cocktails, dinner, music, dancing, auctions and award presentations. Save the date!



Visit us at [PetsAlivePR.org](http://PetsAlivePR.org)



## Pets Alive Puerto Rico

*Thanks to your support, these dogs are finally living the life they have always deserved – as cherished members of a loving family.*

Pets Alive has been rescuing and finding loving homes for dogs from Puerto Rico since 2010, but we knew we had to do much more to help the unwanted, abandoned and stray dogs that are EVERYWHERE across this beautiful island. In January of 2012 - less than 1 year ago - we arrived in Puerto Rico eager to save even more lives.

**RESCUE:** Since then, we have given sanctuary to 265 dogs – including 6 pregnant mamas who gave birth to 44 babies, 20 nursing mothers with 101 babies, 59 orphaned pups under the age of 5 months, and 35 other dogs in need! 207 of these awesome dogs have gone on the “journey of a lifetime” to our sanctuaries in NY, and 205 of them are already in loving homes!

**NEUTER/IMMUNIZE/RETURN:** With more than 100,000 dogs in need, we quickly realized that we had to do more to make a difference here and we started a program to spay/neuter, immunize, and return healthy dogs (TNR). The safety and well-being of the dogs is ensured by enlisting committed, caring citizens to act as “Guardians” of the released dogs. Guardians watch over the dogs in their neighborhood and provide them with food and water. We are working towards the day when EVERY dog is a cherished member of a loving family. Until then, TNR instantly breaks the cycle of a female having litter after litter on the streets and prevents the suffering of her offspring as they struggle to survive.

**LOW COST SPAY/NEUTER/IMMUNIZE:** Many of the dogs roaming the streets here are not strays. They are pets - unconfined by fencing or chains, allowed to run free. Because spaying and neutering of pets is not common, the freedom enjoyed by these dogs inevitably results in pregnancies and the births of thousands of unwanted puppies born on the streets or ultimately abandoned to the streets.



*Please help change the world for these dogs!*

The most important and effective thing that an individual can do to reduce the number of unwanted dogs in Puerto Rico is to spay/neuter their own pet, so we are making it easy for them to do that by offering low cost spay/neuter & immunizations. Two months into the program, we have a waiting list of people who are not just willing to spay/neuter their pets – they are EAGER when the price is within their means!  
*Your gift helps us continue this very important work!*

**THESE PROGRAMS ARE WORKING:** Mrs. Walita was (very) pregnant when we rescued her from the parking lot where she was living! Just a few hours later, Mrs. Walita gave birth to 7 beautiful babies at the sanctuary. *Thanks to YOUR support, Mrs. Walita's gorgeous babies will NEVER know what it is like to be alone and unwanted on the street, struggling for survival.*

**Your gift of a monthly sponsorship in ANY amount will ensure that these programs continue throughout the year.**



Visit us at [PetsAlive.org](http://PetsAlive.org)

# Pets Alive Middletown

**We need your help. This newsletter is not just to update you on what we are doing, and share good news with you, it is an appeal for your help. To help us survive. To help us grow. To help us save more lives every single year. Please join us in our lifesaving efforts. We need you. THEY need you.**



Over the years as we have watched Pets Alive grow from a small local rescue to a national organization, it has truly filled our hearts. Six years ago our founder died and Pets Alive's future was in doubt. We were very fearful about the ability of this rescue to survive. We had \$5k in the bank, payroll was due, we had no money, but somehow we made it. The community, our supporters, sponsors, all stood up and refused to let us close down. Each year we see more and more volunteers attending our orientations on Saturday's (sometimes as many as 40-50 in a single day!) and we see more and more lives saved.

**We have started many new programs to help the community, and to help keep animals in their loving homes!**

**TNR** – we are now doing Trap/Neuter/Return for the cities of Middletown and Wallkill. This is the ONLY way to control Feral Cat communities, and we're dedicated to making it happen. We return all ferals to their original locations, friendlies and kittens we take in and make available for adoption, and injured cats are provided with medical attention. We need MORE help with our TNR program. Please contact us to volunteer to help us trap, alter and help these cats and our community!

**Seniors for Seniors** – we are really proud to have started this program. So many senior citizens are lonely, but resist getting a pet due to their age, the financial burden, or lack of transportation. At the same time so many senior animals who sit in shelters can be difficult to find homes for. We have put the two together to provide senior citizens with cats (or dogs if able to care for) at no expense to them - we cover all their food and medical expenses! Plus, no matter what happens, we always take the animal back here. Best of all, these senior animals have an opportunity to be out of the shelter and living with a loving companion.

**Pet Chow Pantry** - our pantry continues to provide food and litter to people who are financially struggling. So many requests would come in to surrender pets, when all that was needed was a few months of some help caring for those pets. Why take an animal from a home where they are loved, if it can be avoided? This program keeps people and their pets together, while keeping another animal from entering the shelter system.

**Dog training** – another way to prevent animals coming in the shelter system is to help people overcome canine behavior issues. We found that by offering a free class each week to address pet behavior issues, we can enable people to work on those issues with their pets and keep those animals in their homes.

But while we are growing bigger and saving more lives, financially we still struggle every month. Most months we don't make ends meet. We need your help. Please sign up to be a monthly sponsor. Your first month's donation will be matched as part of the donation challenge. **Your sponsorship WILL save the life of an animal EVERY SINGLE MONTH.** There is no better gift you can give, than to help save the life of an animal in need. Please join us in our life saving efforts. We need you. The animals need you.



# Pets Alive Westchester

As we reflect back on the last year at Pets Alive Westchester we cannot help but smile with pride and happiness with the amazing progress we have made against great odds and so many obstacles along the way.



When Pets Alive took over the Elmsford Animal Shelter we were faced with over a thousand animals in residence - since then, we have worked tirelessly to place these deserving cats and dogs in homes, most of which were senior or special needs animals. We have placed over 900 of these “legacy animals”.

This year, we were able to resume admissions of felines in need, allowing us to rescue hundreds of lovable cats including several large rescue pulls from the NYCACC. We are also proud to have collaborated with other organizations to save hundreds of worthy dogs during three mass rescues this year. This was in addition to our weekly admissions of animals from high kill shelters.

In the midst of all of these amazing rescues and lives saved, we were proud to announce the opening of the Pets Alive Clinic! This center offers a low cost spay/neuter and vaccine option to our community, as well as trap/neuter/return for feral colonies. These services are in high demand and we hope to add a fulltime veterinarian soon so that we can accept even more patients. In just a few short weeks, (with veterinarians available only two days a week), we have seen over 70 patients at the clinic.

As we move into the winter season we find ourselves fearful of the months ahead and the significant impact on our budget the rising fuel costs will cause. We are thankful to all of you for your contributions to help us replace the broken heating system - we now need to be sure we can keep the oil in the tanks. We understand the financial toll the economy has taken on so many and we truly appreciate all of your love and support. Out of necessity, we have methodically reduced our monthly expenses by over 30%. Unfortunately there are many costs that we cannot control and are vital to support a facility of our size.

As we walk through the kennels each night we cannot help but see the many empty runs that we simply cannot afford to fill at this time – lives we can not save. We MUST help them, but we MUST be able to financially support each and every animal we take into our care. YOU can make that happen. YOU can make the difference. Please help us keep our doors open to the thousands of homeless animals that need our help. Help us continue to be their voice – to pick them up and hold them, treat their wounds both physically and emotionally, and provide them with the love and care they deserve and to find them their forever homes. Please make a donation today and take advantage of this opportunity to have your gift matched. With this support we will be able to rescue twice as many deserving animals.

**Our 100 senior dogs and cats need you. Sponsor, foster, adopt - help us get them “home”!**