



Thank you for being there for the animals!

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## Home sweet home after 3,426 days



*Fancy at Pets Alive hanging out with Jeannie*

**Fancy** was only three months old. She left behind a rough life in Puerto Rico and came to Pets Alive in January 2013. Staff and volunteers worked with her to help her overcome her fear of people and other dogs. In March 2017, Jeannie, a volunteer, started to work with Fancy. Soon, Fancy and Jeannie were best buddies with an incredible bond. "I was drawn to Fancy's big smile and great hugs," said Jeannie. Fancy's shyness and fear of other pets hindered her; she did not show well when prospective adopters came to visit. As Fancy aged, she started to suffer from painful arthritis in her leg. While we provided the best care she could have, it wasn't the comfort of a home.

In December 2021, Jeannie decided to foster Fancy to give him a chance in a home. "I decided to foster her because it would break my heart to leave her at the shelter," said Jeannie. After a few months of fostering, Jeannie made the decision in May 2022. "We had to make her officially part of our family," said Jeannie. She loves her backyard, taking long walks, sniffing the grass, and rolling on her back in the sunshine. "She's blossomed," said Jeannie. "She's smiling more than ever and more playful than I've seen her. She's joyful every day." Her arthritis has improved, thanks to a comfy bed and regular exercise, which has increased her mobility. She's just one happy dog! **Thank you for helping us care for Fancy for 3,426 days until that magical day came when she went to her forever home.**



*Fancy at home - always smiling!*

## Separation anxiety made Petey hard to adopt...until one day, that changed

Nothing to eat or drink. Out in the elements. Locked in a carrier on an abandoned farm. No one to help two-year-old Petey – until he was found and brought to Pets Alive in June 2018. He suffered from a severe case of separation anxiety. Can you blame him for being abandoned by his family and all alone? How scary that must have



*Lauren works with Petey at Pets Alive*

been! Once at Pets Alive, he was safe. Lauren Biel, a former volunteer and staff member, created a special bond with Petey almost from the day he came to Pets Alive. Staff and volunteers took a lot of time and patience to find a routine and medication that would help control his separation anxiety.

Lauren spent extra time with Petey to help him feel less stressed. "I've always wanted to adopt Petey, but I never thought it would be a reality, especially when I moved to Florida," said Lauren. "On my last day of work at Pets Alive, leaving Petey's room for the last time brought me to tears."

Recently, a staff member made a joke about sending Petey to Lauren on a visit to Middletown. Still, that joke turned into a

serious conversation on how Lauren and her boyfriend James could make an adoption a reality. Pets Alive arranged transportation to get Petey to Florida, and that particular day finally came in June 2022 when he arrived at his new home. "Petey now loves sleeping in our bed, in his cat tree, on the couch, in the sink – basically anywhere he can be close to us!" said Lauren. He loves to snuggle, and he's been purring all the time. Long gone are the days of being alone and afraid. **Thank you for your help over Petey's four years at Pets Alive and for making this possible with your support.**



*Petey, at home, in his cat tree*

## Who needed who?



*Bo at Pets Alive*

Sometimes, a match between a human and a pet is more than just "a match"; it's a strong bond where the cat needs the human and the human needs the cat. Such is the case with Bo, a 16-year-old cat. His owner gave him up Bo and another cat because Bo's owner no longer wanted to care for the cats. Now, Bo was faced with the possibility of living the remainder of his life in a shelter. But thanks to our Senior-to-Senior foster program, where we match up a senior pet with a senior human - and a skillful adoption team that worked hard to find the perfect placement for Bo, he found the ideal home.

After two weeks, our cat adoption team heard from Bo's mom. "It's been two weeks that Bo came into my heart and home, and he is just so wonderful," said his new mom. "I feel like a mother to him. He sleeps next to me when I take a nap on the couch. He sleeps in bed with me and curls up in my lap when I watch television at night. He is just so wonderful." Bo now has lots of toys, treats, and food - and he loves to eat fish! "I just wanted to tell you that this is the most wonderful matchup between Bo and me. It couldn't have been better. So you [Pets Alive cat adoption team] were right to target Bo and me to be together," said Bo's mom.

It's made such a difference in his mom's life. She would feel lonely before because she was the only thing moving in the house. But now she has a living cat, who jumps and runs someplace and does all good things. It makes her feel so wonderful, and Bo looks pretty content. "Bo and I are like twins!" she said. **Thank you for supporting Bo. Such a fantastic match was made!**



*Bo at home with his new mom*

## Senior dog beats the odds

Severely matted fur. Skin inflamed. Ears infected. Teeth missing with severe dental disease. Holes in his gums. Over-grown nails. Sadly this was the condition of a 14-year-old Keeper, whom we rescued from an abandoned apartment in the Bronx. No pet should have to tolerate this type of life, but lucky for Keeper, we were there for this little fellow. We rushed him to our veterinarian for diagnostics. Of biggest concern was the possibility of congestive heart failure. We started Keeper on medication for his heart and his infections.



*Keeper goes home with his new dad*

He quickly became loved by our staff and volunteers - and one family that took a deep interest in fostering Keeper. What started as a foster situation ended up as an adoption, and Keeper found his new home! He quickly found "his space" in his new home, got along with the other family pets, and became a natural snuggle bug with his new humans! He'd sit anxiously at the front door, awaiting his family to come home from work or other activities.

Shortly after he was adopted, Keeper's eye burst and he had it removed. He was no longer in pain and quickly learned how to navigate his home with only one eye. Recently he was diagnosed with congestive heart failure. He's now on medication to help stave off his heart condition for as long as possible. While his prognosis is a hospice situation at this point, he's thrilled to embrace his routine; he's very peaceful, still likes to snuggle in bed, and gives the occasional gentle lick. **Keeper is grateful for his adoptive family and the support you've shown him either as a volunteer who helped him or donor to his medical fund.**



*Keeper hangs out with his new family*

## A message from our Executive Director: Challenges and Victories

**CHALLENGES.** 2022 is one of the most challenging years we have experienced. The animal shelters in our country are in **CRISIS!** An estimated 100,000 more dogs and cats are in our country's shelter system than last year. Let that sink in—**100,000 more homeless animals.** Families are losing their homes, being forced out of their apartments, and unable to find affordable housing that accepts pets. Pet food prices are increasing, and families struggle to feed their pets. An estimated shortage of nearly 7,000 veterinarians in the United States makes it harder for families to access veterinarian care. A perfect storm is happening across the country, including here at Pets Alive. We are experiencing a massive spike in stray pets brought to us by our Animal Control Officers; owner surrenders are up, pleas for help with pet food and veterinarian care are up, and adoptions are way down.



*A dad & his dog at Helping Hands Helping Paws event*

Our community needs us, and we need you. Our community outreach programs are **VITAL** to help keep families together and pets out of at-capacity shelters. Our Pet Chow Pantry provides free dog and cat food, and our Helping Hands Helping Paws program brings affordable and accessible medical care. Our TNVR (Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return) and trap loaner programs stop homeless kittens from being born. We are building intake diversion programs: a searchable database for pet-friendly housing, rehoming resources, and pet-friendly hotels. The animal shelter crisis is real; we must work harder to keep pets with their families and out of the overcrowded shelter system. We must make it possible for us to be there for those who have no family, have been abused, are victims of neglect and cruelty and truly need shelter and protection.



*Providing vet care at Helping Hands Helping Paws event*

**VICTORIES.** 2022 has seen the return of community and adoption events, public training, humane education, and so many more in-person events. It feels good to be engaging with our community again! Awaiting the signature of the NYS Governor are two bills that will improve the lives of homeless animals and shut down the puppy mill pipeline into OUR STATE. The NYS Senate and Assembly passed the Companion Animal Care Standards Act and the Shut Down the Puppy Mill Pipeline bills.

We are so close to breaking ground on our new state-of-the-art facility; we can feel it. Here is a sneak peek of the lobby and the kennel area! Our new facility will be a huge victory for not only the homeless animals we care for but for our animal-loving community! I'm so glad you, our adopters and supporters, are on this journey with us, celebrating victories AND standing by our side, supporting us through the challenges we face. Side-by-side, we are moving into the future with the construction of our new building. We will build a community where all animals are loved, respected, and treated humanely by working together. Together we can and will make a difference. Thank you for your continued support, and cheers to a brighter and life-saving year!



*Individual kennels area*



*New building lobby*



*Becky Tegze*

Becky Tegze  
Executive Director

## **There is still so much to do to save animals – and you can help**

**You can make a difference in the lives of Ariel, Willow, Nanny McPhee, Brewster, and so many other animals.** Make a one-time donation today to meet the animals' immediate needs or become a monthly donor to save lives year-round. Use the enclosed reply card and envelope to mail in a donation, or donate online at [www.petsalive.org](http://www.petsalive.org). **Thank you for being so helpful!**

P.S. Are you interested in adopting any of the pets featured here? Contact us at [adoptions@petsalive.org](mailto:adoptions@petsalive.org) or call 845-386-9738 for additional information. Also, check out all our pets available for adoption at [www.petsalive.org](http://www.petsalive.org). Adoptions are by appointment.

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

- \$15 buys a bag of kitten chow
- \$25 buys a bag of dry dog food
- \$45 will spay or neuter a kitten or cat
- \$75 helps spay or neuter a puppy or dog
- \$100 helps feed our farm animals for a month
- \$250 or more provides medical support for a sick, abused or neglected animal

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.