



# NEWSLETTER

## ***A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD***

As President and Chairman of the Board at Pets Alive, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to each of you who has stood beside this organization over the years. Your belief in our mission has carried us through challenges, sustained us through change, and brought us to this exciting moment in our history: life in our new Community Resource and Adoption Center.

This new building is more than a fresh coat of paint and modern walls. It is the foundation for the next chapter of Pets Alive. We view this time as a true period of transition: from being “just” a local shelter to becoming a broader community resource for our immediate area and the greater Tri-State New York Region. Our vision is to deepen our role as a trusted partner for animals and the people who love them, offering support, resources, and solutions that keep pets safe, healthy, and in loving homes.

While we are filled with excitement and hope, we must also be honest; the fundraising and the work are not over. Opening the doors of this new facility is not the finish line — it’s the starting line of a bigger, bolder future. Rising operational costs, increased utility and energy bills, and ongoing economic pressures are putting real strain on our organization. To continue saying “yes” to the animals and families who need us most, we truly need every bit of support our community can offer.

Your generosity has already built something incredible, but there is still so much more to do. We have medical bills to cover, animals to transport and treat, programs to expand, and new community services to develop. Whether you choose to make a monthly gift, a one-time donation, sponsor an animal, share our work with friends and family, or volunteer your time, every single action makes a meaningful difference.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, thank you for your unwavering support and for standing with Pets Alive during this period of transition and growth. Together, we can ensure that Pets Alive remains a strong, resilient, and compassionate lifeline for animals and our community, today, tomorrow, and for many years to come.

With gratitude and determination,  
**Joseph A. D’Abbraccio, DVM**  
President & Chairman of the Board  
Pets Alive

## ***A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR***

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on this past year at Pets Alive, I am filled with both gratitude and awe. Together, we have experienced a remarkable period of growth, change, and renewed hope for the animals who depend on us.

This year, we welcomed incredible new staff members who bring fresh energy, expertise, and compassion to our mission every single day. Their commitment ensures that every animal — from the tiniest kitten to the most senior pup — receives the love, care, and advocacy they deserve.

We also celebrated a milestone that has been years in the making: the opening of our new Community Resource and Adoption Center. This space is so much more than walls and windows — it represents a future where every animal we welcome has a safer, healthier, more comfortable place to heal and thrive. It means access to services for pet families facing hardship. And it represents the belief that every life matters, always.

Change can be challenging, but thanks to your support, it has been transformative. You have fueled lifesaving transports, funded medical

treatments, helped struggling families keep their beloved pets, and given hundreds of animals a chance at a second start.

We simply could not have accomplished any of this without you.

As we look ahead, we know there is still work to be done — more animals to rescue, more families to support, and more dreams still in motion. But with you by our side, we know anything is possible.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for being part of the Pets Alive family. You are helping create a kinder world — one wagging tail and gentle purr at a time.

Together for the animals,  
**Lisa Weisbrod**  
Executive Director  
Pets Alive

## ***FROM COAST TO COAST (AND BEYOND!) — SAVING LIVES THROUGH TRANSPORT***

At Pets Alive, saving lives doesn't stop at our local borders. Thanks to strong partnerships and our incredible supporters, we've been able to open our doors — and our hearts — to dogs in need from across the country.

Recently, we teamed up with **All Kind Animal Initiative in Abilene, Texas** and **Paws for Life K9 Rescue in Los Angeles, California** to transport at-risk dogs to safety here in New York. Many of these pups came from overcrowded shelters where their futures were uncertain.

Upon arrival, they were greeted with love, warm beds, tail wags, and the first step toward their forever homes. Some have already been adopted, while others are enjoying life with our staff and volunteers as they wait for their perfect match.

But our lifesaving journey doesn't stop there...

### **Next Stop: Jamaica**

In partnership with our friends at **Wings of Rescue**, we are preparing for an upcoming

transport of **12 dogs from Negril, Jamaica**. These pups were displaced by **Hurricane Melissa**, and while their arrival has been delayed due to storm recovery efforts, we are standing by and ready to welcome them as soon as it's safe to travel.



These transports take a village — from our rescue partners and flight crews to every donor, volunteer, and adopter who believes every animal deserves a chance.

Thank you for helping us save lives near and far. Together, we're giving animals hope, safety, and a new beginning.

**Want to be part of their journey?**

Your support helps cover transportation, medical care, and everyday needs for these incredible dogs.

Donate today:



## ***A KITTEN SEASON LIKE NO OTHER: HELP US CARE FOR THE LITTLEST LIVES***

Every year, shelters across the country brace themselves for "kitten season" — the time when unspayed community cats give birth faster than rescues can keep up. But this year, Pets Alive has seen one of the busiest kitten seasons in our history.

Since spring, our team has taken in a surging number of tiny kittens in need — many orphaned, sick, or too young to survive on their own. Some



arrived barely a day old, requiring round-the-clock bottle feeding. Others came to us malnourished, battling upper respiratory infections or parasites that could be deadly without immediate care.

Every little life matters. And saving them takes a lot.

What goes into caring for a single kitten?

- ✓ Specialized kitten formula
- ✓ Vaccines, microchips & spay/neuter
- ✓ Medical care for common illnesses
- ✓ Warm bedding, heating pads & safe housing
- ✓ Staff and foster caregivers offering constant attention



Multiply that by dozens and dozens of kittens, and the costs add up quickly.

Yet when we look at these tiny paws, bright eyes, and trusting hearts, we know every effort — and every dollar — is worth it. Because every kitten we care for today becomes a beloved companion tomorrow.



You can save a life.

Your support helps provide urgently needed food, medicine, and care for the kittens currently depending on us.

Please donate today to help us continue saying “yes” when the smallest and most vulnerable need us most.



Give now and be a hero for a kitten in need.

## ***NEW NYS SHELTER REGULATIONS ARE COMING — AND PETS ALIVE IS READY TO MEET THE CHALLENGE***

New York State has announced comprehensive new companion animal shelter regulations that will take effect on **December 15, 2025** — the first major update to our state’s shelter standards in nearly two decades. These important changes are designed to improve the quality of care and ensure safe, healthy environments for animals waiting for their forever homes.



At Pets Alive, we welcome these upgrades with open arms... and wagging tails! From enhanced housing requirements to improved ventilation, sanitation, enrichment, and medical care standards — every component supports the welfare of the dogs and cats who rely on us.

The good news: Our **new Community Resource & Adoption Center** has been thoughtfully designed to meet and exceed these regulations. The Center provides brighter, healthier, more comfortable spaces for animals and a more welcoming experience for adopters and the community.

The challenge: Compliance is **costly**. To move forward successfully — and ensure smooth transitions for our animals — we’re relying on compassionate partners like you. Your support will help us complete the project, outfit new rooms, and secure essential equipment that meets regulatory standards.



**With your help, Pets Alive will continue its mission without interruption:** Saving lives, building families, and giving every animal the second chance they deserve.

**Please consider making a donation today** to support this vital progress: Every gift brings us one step closer to fully opening our doors to the future of animal care in New York State.

Together, we will rise to meet these new standards — and set the bar even higher.

## ***HAPPY TRAILS: PETS ALIVE LAUNCHES MONTHLY HIKING ADVENTURES FOR SHELTER DOGS!***



At Pets Alive, we believe every dog deserves the chance to stretch their legs, sniff the fresh air, and explore the world beyond the shelter. That's why we're thrilled to announce our new **Monthly Dog Hike Program** — a fun and enriching way to give our pups a taste of adventure while they wait for loving homes!



On the fourth Sunday of each month, staff and volunteers will pair up with some of our canine residents for a refreshing outdoor hike at a dog-friendly local nature trail. Our first outing took place on October 26 at Thomas Bull Memorial Park, where **seven very excited pups** enjoyed an afternoon of sunshine, leaves to crunch, and new scents around every corner.

Tails were wagging the whole way!

These walks provide more than just exercise — they help reduce stress, build confidence, and allow us to learn even more about each dog's personality outside the shelter environment. That means better matchmaking for future adopters... and a whole lot of joy for the dogs in the meantime!



### **Want to join us?**

Our next hike is scheduled for Sunday, November 23. We'll meet at Pets Alive at 1:00 PM, then head to a new trail for a fun afternoon together. Keep an eye on our social media for the location announcement!

Whether you're a volunteer, supporter, or someone thinking about adopting, this is a wonderful opportunity to spend quality time with our amazing pets — and help them take one step closer to their forever homes.

## ***THE 2026 PETS ALIVE CALENDAR IS HERE!***

Looking for the purrfect holiday gift? Our brand-new Pets Alive calendar is now available — featuring adorable cats, dogs, and goats from our community! Every purchase helps provide food, shelter, and medical care for the animals who need us most.

Only \$25 each — and guaranteed to bring smiles all year long! Pick yours up at the shelter or order online by simply sending us an email at [info@petsalive.org](mailto:info@petsalive.org). Give the gift of joy and support second chances!

***Prefer to send a check? Mail to Pets Alive, 363 Derby Road, Middletown, NY 10940***