



The Pet Pride Post

Fall 2025 vol. 30:4

Going the Extra 700 Miles

How Compassion Bridged the Distance for Two Abandoned Cats

"We have your cat," said the voice on the other end of the line. Was it a catnapper making a ransom demand? No, nothing so sinister, but serious nonetheless. A veterinary hospital was calling to say that two cats had been abandoned at their office. A microchip check revealed that one of them was a Pet Pride cat. "We'll come get them both. Where are you located?" asked Kari LaBounty, our operations manager. "Tennessee," the caller responded.

Undeterred by geography, Kari contacted Pet Pride board member Polly Sack, who has three decades of experience as an animal transport volunteer. Inside of half an hour, Polly established contact with Rejeena Parker, a rescue volunteer in Tennessee who agreed to pick up the cats at the veterinarian's office, foster them, and arrange their flight to Rochester.

Once a cat is admitted to Pet Pride, we do everything we can to ensure that they will never be homeless again. Our shelter associates carefully screen and counsel prospective adopters, and our adoptions liaison follows up to find out how the adoptees are adjusting to their new environments and to help troubleshoot any problems. Our adoption contract specifies that, if an adoption doesn't work out for whatever reason, the adopter is to contact Pet Pride immediately and not relinquish the cat to any other shelter, society, or person. If, as in this case, one of our cats is abandoned by their adopter, their microchip can help the cat find their way back to us—even when it's a long way home. Together with Rejeena and her rescue network, we were determined to bring these two cats to Pet Pride.

The degree of organization and coordination required to

plan a long-distance rescue flight would impress even the most exacting logistics professional. Rejeena arranged for each of three private pilots to fly one leg of the long journey, and Pet Pride transport volunteers were put on standby to meet the plane when it landed in Rochester. The weather did not cooperate. The trip was postponed due to flash floods and severe winds, and then postponed again, but the cats were safe with Rejeena.



Rescue pilot Nick Bozovich and his wife, Lisa

When the big day finally arrived, the cats were secured in their carriers and loaded aboard the first flight. Their one-day journey took them from Blountville, Tennessee, to Hamilton, Ohio, to Medina, Ohio, to Rochester, New York. After the final flight touched down in Rochester, Pilots N Paws volunteer pilot Nick Bozovich and his wife, Lisa, disembarked from their single-engine Piper Dakota bearing two carriers with passengers Crescent and Billie inside.

"I learned about Pilots N Paws while training for my pilot's license and thought it was a great way to use my new skills for 'real' trips that help animals get to new homes or better shelter or foster accommodations," said Nick. "These animals are coming (continued on page 2)

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Our Mission

Pet Pride of New York saves the lives of homeless cats in our community by providing shelter, veterinary care, and adoption into loving homes. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and a New York State Registered Shelter/Rescue.

Pet Pride of New York, Inc.
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from tough situations, and being part of a team helping to improve their lives is very rewarding.”

Crescent and Billie arrived at Pet Pride to find dinner and two cozy beds awaiting them. The girls needed time to rest and decompress, and Crescent, who had not



previously been a Pet Pride cat, had to be spayed and microchipped. After that, it didn't take long for them to charm an adopter with their sweet natures. Then, together, they embarked upon the best journey of all—the one to their new adoptive home.

Crescent and Billie's story illustrates how teamwork, determination, and boundless compassion can give animals not just a second chance but a whole new life. When hearts align and hands join across miles, the sky really is the limit! 🐾

Crescent and Billie at Pet Pride

Scouts Build and Install Cat Food Pantry at Pet Pride

Pet Pride has a new outdoor pet food pantry, thanks to members of Girl Scout Troop 60690. As one component of a service project to identify and address a need in their community, the girls built, installed, and stocked the pantry and adorned it with hand-painted images illustrating the importance of spaying and neutering pets. Located beside Pet Pride's parking lot, it is open to anyone in the community who needs assistance feeding their cats. Those with extra cat food are encouraged to help their neighbors by donating to the pantry. Pet Pride is honored to be part of this meaningful initiative to address pet food insecurity, and we congratulate the girls on earning the Bronze Award for their work—the highest honor a Girl Scout Junior can receive. 🐾



A Lifesaving Response for Cats in Crisis

Helping Four Neglected Cats Recover and Thrive

What Shirley Garner saw when she arrived at the house shocked her. The person who had called for help said there were five cats, but Shirley could see that only four were alive. One of the four lay limp on the counter. Shirley's organization, PETS of Wayne County, helps struggling owners keep their companion animals by providing them with pet food, supplies, and information. This desperate situation demanded a different response. The living conditions were unsafe, and Shirley couldn't leave these cats behind. She would take all four home with her and then figure out what to do next. As she put one of the cats into a carrier, he curled into a ball and wouldn't move. Three days passed before he lifted his head, emerged from the carrier, and began to eat.



The cats were admitted to Pet Pride as soon as space became available. "Thank God Pet Pride took those four cats, because I don't know what would have happened to them," Shirley said. All were covered in flea dirt and scabs from scratching. Some had wounds, and one had an upper respiratory infection. All four needed neuter surgery, and three required costly dental care. All had to be examined, tested, vaccinated, and treated for parasites.

Our shelter staff and veterinarians got busy and saw to it that the cats received everything they needed to recover and thrive. Cactus, Streaky the Supercat, and Buckwheat have since been adopted. Only Clark Kent (AKA Superman) is still looking for his family. A senior, Clark is no longer faster than a speeding laser pointer or able to leap tall cat trees in a single bound, but this sweet cat still has superpowers—he can fill an entire home with love! 🐾

Clark Kent

Rooted in Love, Grounded in Service



When Pet Pride groundskeeping volunteers Sami and Glenn Gilberg were planning their wedding, they kept things simple. There would be no formal gown, no pricey photographer, no lavish meal. The couple chose to elope quietly. Later, they held a reception for family and friends. There were no dishes or bath towels on their gift registry. There was no registry at all. Instead, the couple asked their guests to contribute to a project close to their hearts: exterior improvements at Pet Pride. Their generosity—and that of their loved ones—is making a visible difference.

One upgrade will be the addition of a beautiful Japanese Maple, strategically placed to camouflage our generator. The newlyweds are also laying pavers and adding an attached catio that will be accessible from the isolation room—something our team has long hoped for. This new space will allow cats recovering from illness to enjoy fresh air and sunshine in a safe, separate environment while they heal.

We're deeply grateful to Sami and Glenn and to everyone who contributed toward their meaningful wedding gift. Their kindness will be felt every day—by our staff, our visitors, and most importantly, our cats.

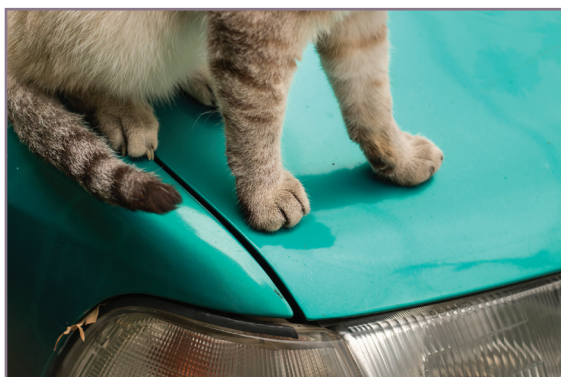


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Mark your calendars for United Way's **ROC** the Day on Tuesday, December 2, 2025!



Cars for Cats

We've partnered with **Vehicles for Charity** to offer you a quick and easy way to get rid of your unwanted vehicle and help Pet Pride's homeless cats and kittens at the same time. For more information, visit our website at <https://www.petprideny.org/donate/cars-for-cats>, or call Vehicles for Charity (VFC) at 1-866-628-CARS.



YES, I want to give homeless cats and kittens a better life!

Enclosed is my gift of \$50 ____ \$100 ____ \$250 ____ \$500 ____ \$1000 ____ Other ____

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

☐ I would like to make a recurring, monthly gift in the amount of \$ ____ .

☐ My gift is in honor of / in memory of **(circle one)** _____.

Please send notification of my gift to _____ at the address below:

**Make checks payable to Pet Pride of New York and mail to P.O. Box 338, Mendon, NY 14506,
or donate online at www.petprideny.org/donate.**

Pet Pride of New York, Incorporated is a private, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. Our tax ID number is 16-1121426. A copy of our latest annual financial report is available on the New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau website at www.charitiesnys.com, or upon request from the New York State Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 28 Liberty Street, New York, NY 10005, phone (212) 416-8686, or from Pet Pride.

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