



# The Pet Pride Post

Spring 2026 vol. 31:2

## The Kittens Are Coming!

*Spring Brings a Tidal Wave of Tiny Lives to Save*



Photo by Chloe Zuhlsdorf

Oh, the harbingers of spring: lengthening days, a rising chorus of birdsong, and bright yellow daffodils poking through the soil. At Pet Pride, we watch for a different sign of the changing season—kittens! With spring rains comes a tidal wave of tiny felines headed our way.

Playful, adorable kittens bring smiles and warm hearts. Sadly, however, their background stories can be chilling. We hear these stories all the time. One caller sought our help for two young, undernourished mother cats and their ten kittens after someone stuffed them all into two small carriers and abandoned them behind a building. Another individual reached out after a property owner threatened to poison stray cats and kittens that had taken shelter in his barn. The caller brought us two young moms, their seven newborn kittens, and a six-month-old male. In both cases, and so many others, we gave everyone all the nourishment, veterinary care, and love they had been missing.

Stories like these remind us that rescue requires a community effort. Compassionate bystanders take action when animals are in danger. Our experienced staff, our

skilled veterinary team, and our dedicated foster volunteers provide lifesaving care. And our supporters—all of you—make this essential work possible. Together, we can turn sad stories into happy ones.

That's why we're excited to host our **Annual Kitten Shower** in May.

It's a wonderful opportunity for community members to visit the sanctuary, enjoy activities and refreshments, meet our adoptable kittens, and "shower" them with needed supplies. We hope you'll join us for this fun event at **Pet Pride on May 30, noon-3:00 p.m.** Can't make it? You can still help! Order from our [online wish lists](#) and have items shipped directly to the sanctuary, or [donate online](#) or by check and let us do the shopping! See page 2 for details.

Every bit of help makes a difference—and every kitten we save gets the chance to grow up healthy and loved. 🐾



Dr. Kelly Gough. Photo by Kate Page.



Photo by Laura Ruffino

# From the Executive Director

Dear Friends of Pet Pride,

As I reflect on my first six months as Pet Pride’s Executive Director, I feel incredibly grateful to be a part of this organization. In a short time, I’ve seen just how deeply this community cares about the cats who depend on us. Getting to know the dedicated staff and volunteers who tend to our feline guests each day and the supporters who make this work possible has been a joy. I quickly realized that Pet Pride is more than a shelter—it is a place built on compassion, patience, and the firm conviction that every cat deserves a loving home. Every day, I see that guiding principle reflected in everything we do.

Some days, we’re delivering urgently needed medical care to a frightened new arrival. Other times, we’re doing the quiet work of helping shy cats learn to trust again, one small step at a time. As spring unfolds, we’re preparing for our busiest time of the year: kitten season, when we focus our efforts on giving these little ones the best possible start in life. Always, this work is made possible by Pet Pride’s wonderful staff, volunteers, and supporters like you who share our commitment to caring for cats in need.

Every cat who comes through our doors has traveled a different path, but each receives the same promise upon arrival—here at Pet Pride, they will be lovingly cared for, protected, and given the chance to find a home of their own. Thank you for being a part of the Pet Pride community and for helping us fulfill and renew that promise every day.

With gratitude,



Danielle Howard



## KITTEN WISH LIST

- Fancy Feast canned kitten food
- Dry kitten food
- New cat toys
- New scratching posts
- Carriers
- Paper towels
- Feliway spray & plug-in refills
- Garbage bags—13-gal.
- Gift cards—Country Max, Pet Supplies Plus, Tractor Supply, Target
- PetAg Kitten Milk Replacer Powder
- Pet grooming wipes
- Microwaveable pet heating pads

**You can shop our online wish lists and have items delivered right to Pet Pride!**

<https://www.petprideny.org/donate>

### 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.

**Pet Pride of New York, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 338  
Mendon, NY 14506

**Pet Pride Cat Sanctuary & Adoption Center**  
7731 Victor Mendon Road  
Victor, NY 14564  
585-742-1630

[info@petprideny.org](mailto:info@petprideny.org)  
[www.petprideny.org](http://www.petprideny.org)



## KITTEN SHOWER

Saturday, May 30  
noon–3 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

adoptions	raffles
donation station	crafts
food truck	face painting

Shop our online wish lists at <https://www.petprideny.org/donate>

## The Shy Cats Club

*How Socialization and Social Media Helped Club Members Find Homes*

Are you an introvert? There is an abundance of self-help titles to guide you in navigating challenging situations: *Communication Skills for Introverts*; *Networking for Introverts*; *The Introvert's Guide to Leadership Success*. There's even a coloring book titled *Introverts Unite to Color! But Separately and In Your Own Homes*. But what if you're an introverted cat in search of a loving home—and you can't read?

The eight original members of Pet Pride's Shy Cats Club watched and waited as the seasons came and went. Their sweet faces became familiar to staff and volunteers, but visitors might never have known they were here. When the shelter bustled with activity, Oreo escaped to the uppermost cubbies of the Community Room. Lynette tucked herself into drawers and cabinets. Adopters passed these cats by or never saw them at all.



Oreo looks down from on high.

After Shelter Associate Lydia Wolf joined the Pet Pride team last year, she made it her mission to get these cats adopted. She and our enrichment volunteers tailored activities to each cat's personality and devoted a year to patiently socializing them. Socialization activities can help shelter cats become more comfortable interacting with people, reducing fear and increasing their chances of adoption and long-term success in homes. Strategic use of a back scratcher allowed volunteers to initiate gentle, indirect contact with Jet. Treats were key for Lynette and Eeyore, while Lydia was able to engage Ivan by teaching him tricks. Gradually and cautiously, other members of the Shy Cats Club began emerging from their hiding places.

Meanwhile, volunteer Madison Lauffer decided that these cats needed good PR. She posted heartwarming narratives



Lydia with Billie, a new club member. Photo by Madison Lauffer.

on social media, emphasizing the need for patience on the part of adopters. Volunteer Lisa Wehrle crafted imaginative profiles for our website, with Sam playing Meow Jongg and Lynette singing about her favorite things à la Julie Andrews in *The Sound of Music*.

The dedication, patience, and creativity of our team paid off. When the new year ushered in a wave of adoptions, every original member of the Shy Cats Club went home. Ivan now spends his days confidently exploring his new environment. Oreo, still a fan of high places, looks down on his family from the top of his very own cat tower. Each of these cats is finally enjoying what every cat deserves—a home and family of their own. 🐾

**206**  
adoptions in  
Q1 of 2026



Photo by Liv Markowitz

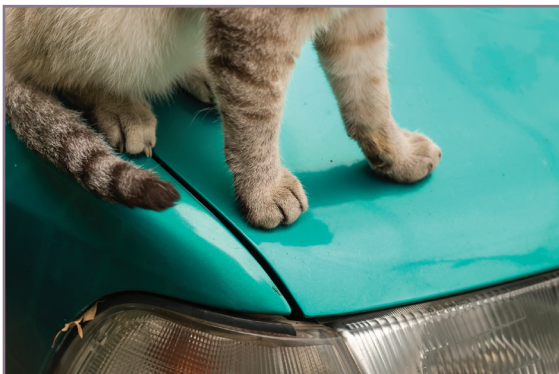
### Adopt me!

Our Shrek is no ogre! He's just a confident 7-year-old who struts around here like he owns the place, rocking his gold chain and collar charm. Are you looking for a mellow fellow who's always up for a game of laser tag? Come meet Shrek. Bring treats. 🐾

# PET PRIDE OF NEW YORK, INCORPORATED

P.O. Box 338  
Mendon, NY 14506

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Rochester, NY  
Permit No. 26



## 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](http://www.petprideny.org/donate).**

Pet Pride of New York, Incorporated is a 501(c)(3) charitable 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](http://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.

N.Sp.2026