



# The Pet Pride Post

Summer 2026 vol. 31:3

## Wobbly Cats Welcome Here!

### *Loving a Kitten with Cerebellar Hypoplasia*

by Lisa Wehrle



Uno. Photo by Lydia Wolf.

Some may think magic exists only in fairy tales. But consider this: at Pet Pride, we see its handiwork whenever adopters find the perfect cat or kitten to welcome into their lives.

UNO, her siblings, and their mom, URSULA, were rescued from a horrifying hoarding situation earlier this year. When Colony Caregivers, one of our rescue partners, reached out for help, we welcomed URSULA and her kittens to Pet Pride and placed them with one of our most experienced foster parents, Mary Walmsley.

The feline family's rough start didn't seem to hold them back, and Mary felt grateful to see the two-day-old kittens and their mom settling in well. But by week three, some of the kittens had stopped thriving, UNO among them. Mary's heart sank when little UNO next lost interest in food and her weight dropped. Syringe-feedings helped the kitten regain some weight, but soon another symptom developed. UNO started to wobble.

Upon careful physical examination, Pet Pride's Dr. Gluckman concluded that UNO probably has a cerebellar disorder causing her coordination problems. Although there is no laboratory test to confirm it, the most likely disorder in this case is cerebellar hypoplasia, or "wobbly cat syndrome." (See related article, "Understanding Cerebellar Hypoplasia," on p. 3.)

After her initial health crisis passed and she attained a healthy weight, UNO made up for lost time by exploring her world with full feline gusto. Mary delighted in watching

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**"She didn't know anything was wrong with her."**

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the spunky kitten wrestle and jump. "She didn't know anything was wrong with her," recalls Mary. "She was just so funny and so fearless and she didn't care if she fell over."

But would an adopter feel the same way? Adoptable special-needs kittens and cats are often overlooked or assumed to require too much care, meaning they wait much longer for homes.

When Kathleen, a prospective adopter, visited Pet Pride, she had one question for staff: "Do you have any wobbly kittens?" Was it coincidence that we did? Or that Mary was visiting the sanctuary at the same time that day?

Kathleen had adopted one CH kitten, BOBBLE, from Pet Pride already. Now, spirited little UNO had her own home and a feline companion!

BOBBLE and UNO may share a neurological condition, but they take different approaches to living life to the fullest. While BOBBLE chooses a serene, less-active



(continued on p. 3)

Uno. Photo by Liv Markovitz.

# From the Executive Director

Dear Friends of Pet Pride,

One of the things that continues to inspire me most about Pet Pride is that every success story begins with a partnership. Every adoption, every medical procedure, every life saved is made possible through people and organizations working together for the benefit of cats. This spring and summer have provided wonderful reminders of the power of those partnerships.

We are honored to share that Pet Pride has once again earned the Platinum Seal of Transparency from Candid, the highest level of recognition awarded by the organization. This designation reflects our commitment to accountability, transparency, and responsible stewardship of the resources entrusted to us. We know that our supporters have many choices when deciding where to donate, and we are proud to provide the information and outcomes that demonstrate the impact of your generosity.

We are also excited to announce that Pet Pride has been awarded a grant from the ASPCA to support our adoption efforts. This funding will help us remove barriers to adoption and connect even more cats with loving families. Partnerships like this one allow us to expand our reach and ensure that more cats find the homes they deserve.

In addition, we recently joined the Pets for Patriots program and became a BISSELL Partners for Pets network member. These relationships create new opportunities to increase awareness of adoptable cats, reach new audiences, and strengthen our ability to fulfill our mission.

Of course, some of our most meaningful partnerships happen right here in our community. You'll read in this newsletter about the tremendous support we received during our Kitten Shower and the wonderful outcome for three cats adopted through our Blue-Collar Cats program. These stories remind us that compassion takes many forms and that every act of kindness contributes to a larger impact.

As we move through kitten season and continue caring for the hundreds of cats who depend on us each year, I remain deeply grateful for the partnerships that make this work possible. Whether you volunteer, adopt, foster, donate, advocate, or simply share our stories with others, you are an important part of the Pet Pride family. Thank you for believing in our mission and for helping us create brighter futures for cats throughout our community.

With gratitude,



Danielle Howard  
Executive Director  
Pet Pride of New York

Platinum  
Transparency  
2026

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**PETS FOR PATRIOTS®**  
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**BISSELL PET FOUNDATION®**  
Until every pet has a home.

## 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)



# Wobbly Cats

(continued from p. 1)

lifestyle, UNO “just throws herself all over the house,” relates Kathleen. She adds, “They make me laugh every single day.”

Kathleen didn’t expect to adopt either cat when she did. In fact, she self-identifies as a “dog person.” But, she says, “Fate picks you to pick your cat.” BOBBLE and UNO couldn’t agree more.

Fate, magic, destiny.

Whatever you call it, this powerful force surely guides us toward choices we then convince ourselves we’ve made all on our own. If you need

confirmation that magic exists, just ask any special-needs cat who’s looking for an open-hearted adopter like Kathleen. But don’t be surprised if the fearless feline is too busy playing or exploring or living their best life to field your questions. You will still, of course, have received your answer. 🐾

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**"Fate picks you  
to pick your cat."**

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## Oh, Ricky!



Photo by Dan Hucko.

LITTLE RICKY recently returned to Pet Pride after his owner passed away. He came back a bit larger, so we now call him NOT-SO-LITTLE-RICKY. Although he's on a weight-loss plan, he's slacking on the prescribed exercise routine. RICKY is available for adoption and would make an ideal couch companion. 🐾

## Understanding Cerebellar Hypoplasia

by Stuart Gluckman, DVM

Kittens grow and change quickly during their first few weeks of life, checking off developmental milestones in rapid succession. By three weeks of age, they’re taking their first unsteady steps. At four weeks, they’re walking with more balance and confidence. At five or six weeks, they may tear past you at breakneck speed, execute a 180-degree turn, and leap into the air to catch imagined flying prey.

This coordinated movement depends upon a properly functioning cerebellum. As in humans, a cat’s cerebellum is responsible for motor coordination and balance. Among the most rapidly dividing cells in the young kitten are those of the cerebellum, which completes its development in the first three weeks of the kitten’s life. If a kitten becomes infected with the panleukopenia virus in utero or during those critical first three weeks, however, the cerebellum will not fully develop. This neurological condition, called cerebellar hypoplasia (CH), will quite literally throw a body off balance and, depending on the severity of the problem, make it difficult to walk or even stand.

UNO presented with the classical signs of a poorly functioning cerebellum. A wobbly uncoordinated gait was the first apparent symptom of cerebellar hypoplasia. Less obvious, but just as diagnostic, was the surprise on UNO’s face when her forelimbs would hit the ground an inch or two further forward than she expected—a condition known as hypermetria. She also exhibited the intentional head tremors that always accompany this disorder. When UNO tried to perform any activity that required her to focus on an object—a small cat treat, for example—the developing head tremor got in her way.

The good news for UNO is that her condition will never worsen. With time, she will learn to compensate for her disability and become better able to negotiate her day-to-day activities. In fact, social media platforms are filled with heartwarming videos of what are commonly called “wobbly cats” thriving despite the challenges of CH. UNO is fortunate that an adopter experienced with a CH cat chose to open her heart and home to another.





# Kitten Shower 2026



It was our biggest and best kitten shower ever! The line to meet our little ones stretched out the door, but visitors enjoyed outdoor attractions and warm, sunny weather while they waited. Once inside, people met and fell in love with the stars of the show—our adoptable kittens! Guests also had a chance to win fabulous prizes and apply to take home the best prize of all—a new furry family member. Thank you to everyone who attended, donated, volunteered, adopted, and helped make the day a BIG success!

The Kitten Shower is one day in May, but kitten season runs from spring through fall. The need is great, and it's never too late to donate. You'll find our wish lists online at [www.petprideny.org/donate](http://www.petprideny.org/donate). 🐾









# Help Wanted

## Three Cats Find Their Ideal Job

During the bitterly cold winter months of 2026, TRES LECHE was facing eviction from the barn that had been his home. COAL, a homeless kitten, was trying to survive outdoors with his siblings. TOBIAS, a stray, was accidentally caught in a trap intended for a coyote.

These boys were terrified when they arrived at Pet Pride, and their fear didn't markedly dissipate during their stay, even after some time in our foster homes. Unhappy as shelter and foster cats, it was clear they were unlikely to be happy as house cats. They might, however, be ideal candidates for Pet Pride's Blue-Collar Cats program. This special adoption initiative provides opportunities for unsocialized or semi-socialized felines to live their best lives as working cats.



After losing their barn cat Bandit, the people at EquiCenter in Honeoye Falls decided that the best way to honor his memory was to continue their barn cat tradition. In May, they welcomed all three of our boys. "Adopting from a shelter like Pet Pride is so rewarding because it gives cats like these a chance to live the life they were meant for—patrolling the aisles, greeting our participants, and being part of a community that loves them," said a representative of EquiCenter.

With a gentle, patient



serves as greeter, meowing at all who enter.

We're grateful to EquiCenter for giving these boys the opportunity to thrive in a setting that's right for them. Every cat deserves a home. Pet Pride's Blue-Collar Cats just need a different kind of home. 🐾

**Photos provided by EquiCenter.** Top left: TRES LECHE accepts a treat. Bottom left: TOBIAS allows a chin scratch. Top right: TRES LECHE snuggles with TOBIAS.

## When you go in for a kitten and come out with a cat-and-a-half.



She came to Pet Pride to adopt a kitten, but JOSH had other ideas. When this squishy, affectionate, and completely irresistible 14-year-old plopped all 22 pounds of himself into her lap, the deal was sealed. The cat always knows best. 🐾

## Is your cat a SuperCat?



The answer is obvious. Of course! That's why you need to enter them in our SuperCats photo and calendar contest. It's easy, it's fun, and it's your cat's path to fame and fortune. (Well, okay. It's a path to local recognition and bragging rights.)

Pet Pride's 4th annual photo contest begins August 15. Submit your best photo of your own SuperCat to our online contest site, encourage friends and family to vote for your cat, and win a page—or maybe even the cover of **Pet Pride's 2027 SuperCats Calendar**!

Visit our contest site for more information and to enter:

<https://www.gogophotocontest.com/petprideny>



## An Extra-Sweet Entrepreneur



When her mom's employer announced a business fair for young people, Kennedy set right to work developing her business plan. This cat-loving Girl Scout combined two interests into her business "Cookies & Cats" to promote Girl Scout Cookie sales while raising funds and awareness for Pet Pride. Kennedy offered cookie samples and custom cat drawings, displayed Pet Pride's 2026 calendar\* and newsletters, and collected donations on our behalf. Thank you, Kennedy!

\* Kennedy's cat Merlin, a Pet Pride alumnus, was featured in our **2026 Cool Cats Calendar**. To see your cat's picture included in **Pet Pride's 2027 SuperCats Calendar**, enter our contest, at left! 🐾

## How can you support Pet Pride?



Give today online or by check.



Shop our wish lists.



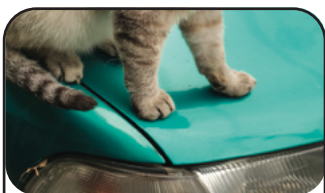
Honor a life with a memorial brick.



Make an annual or planned gift.



Take your place on our Wall of Gratitude.



Donate your used vehicle.



Host a fundraiser.



Give through United Way. Our number is 3459.

Visit [www.petprideny.org/donate](http://www.petprideny.org/donate) for more information about any of these giving opportunities.



# PET PRIDE OF NEW YORK, INCORPORATED

P.O. Box 338  
Mendon, NY 14506

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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:

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**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](https://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.

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