



The Pet Pride Post

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Dreaming BIG: Pet Pride Hosts Its First Spay/Neuter Clinic for Community Rescue Groups



Leo reports for a pre-op weight check. Photo by Dan Hucko.

Pet Pride is fortunate to have something most local rescue groups do not: a physical shelter with our own surgical clinic, staff veterinary technicians, and volunteer veterinarians. We perform most of our spay/neuter surgeries and many other procedures in house. But throughout our community, the need for affordable spay/neuter services is enormous. For many rescue groups, limited resources and long wait times make it difficult to provide cats with the care they need.

We asked ourselves what Pet Pride could do to address this critically important issue. We challenged ourselves to think big, knowing we could do more—not just for Pet Pride cats, but for cats throughout our community. Months of brainstorming, planning, and problem-solving followed. And then, in August, Pet Pride hosted our first weeklong spay/neuter clinic for cats from other rescue organizations.

Sixteen veterinary professionals answered our call to work surgery shifts. Pet Pride volunteers handled registration, patient care, and cleaning. Generous individuals and local establishments donated food and drinks to keep the team fueled.



Kate calms a clinic patient. Staff photo.

While more than one hundred cats and kittens were receiving care in our clinic, Pet Pride's own daily operations never slowed. Our staff and volunteers admitted 26 homeless cats and kittens into our shelter and foster homes and helped 11 Pet Pride cats find adoptive homes that week.

By the end of the clinic, 105 cats and kittens from 12 rescue groups had been spayed or neutered. For those 105 cats, this means healthier futures and freedom from the heartbreaking cycle of reproduction, overpopulation, and suffering.

(continued on p. 2)

"The vets, vet techs, and volunteers were just wonderful, and our cats had fabulous care."

— Robin, 19th Ward Community Cats

Dreaming Big (continued from p. 1)

But the impact goes beyond 105 cats. This clinic showed what can happen when a community shares its resources and its determination: veterinary professionals offering their expertise, volunteers giving their time, organizations supporting one another, and donors making the work possible.

"Thank you so much for organizing such an amazing and well-needed clinic for our rescue community. We are so very grateful for everyone's hard work at Pet Pride and all the wonderful volunteers coming together for such a great cause."

— Lisa, GRASP



Photo by Dan Hucko.



Clinic volunteer Dr. Carly Rasponde. Photo by Dan Hucko.

Will we do it again? "We would absolutely love to do this again! It was a wonderful week of people coming together for the same cause and forming new connections that will help even more cats," said Pet Pride Operations Manager Kari LaBounty. "We kept three kittens from the clinic to place for adoption, and so many people donated their time, food, and love. It was truly a special week."

At Pet Pride, we believe that when we work together, we can reach more cats, help more people, and save more lives. This is what community looks like. With your continued support, we can do even more. 🐾

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.

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A clinic patient. Staff photo.

The Bigger Picture: America's Spay/Neuter Capacity Challenge



Clinic volunteer Dr. Jamie Araki. Photo by Dan Hucko.

In June of this year, Pet Pride and other local rescue groups were notified by Lollypop Farm that a significant veterinary staffing shortage had led them to suspend surgeries for dogs and friendly cats from partner organizations. They would reassess their capacity at a later date.

The local situation that forced Lollypop's hand mirrors a national shortage of veterinary capacity for affordable spay/neuter services. In a 2024 study published in *The Journal of Shelter Medicine and Community Animal Health*, 73% of respondents from large animal shelters reported a shortage of veterinarians on staff, while 91% reported a backlog of spay/neuter surgeries.

The pandemic compounded the problem with its shutdowns and stay-at-home orders. According to a 2026 ASPCA publication, "The field of high-quality, high-volume spay/neuter has not returned to the same national output of affordable surgeries since the COVID-19 pandemic, putting further strain on demand for veterinary care."

When a community loses capacity, its shelters, rescues, and animals feel the pain. Local groups, now turning to private veterinary practices for care, bemoan long wait times and high costs—as much as triple what they had been paying Lollypop. With these constraints, they simply

can't help as many animals. Meanwhile, those unaltered dogs and cats are continuing to reproduce, worsening the overpopulation problem exponentially.

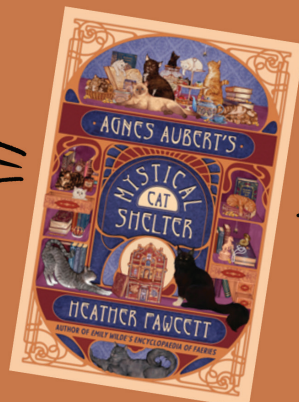
What can be done? At the national level, some of the work of spay/neuter capacity building is being done by animal-welfare organizations, such as the ASPCA and the United Spay Alliance, which offer grant funding and specialized training programs for veterinary professionals.

And locally? We're hopeful that Lollypop will be able to restore services for its rescue partners at some point. Meanwhile, Pet Pride has applied for grant funding to expand our own capacity. Another Pet Pride spay/neuter clinic for rescue groups is already in the planning stages, and our Executive Director will be meeting with Congressman Morelle's office to discuss proposed federal legislation that would support shelters.

While the lack of affordable spay/neuter services is a problem much larger than any one organization can solve, Pet Pride is striving to make a difference—one cat at a time. 🐾

Pet Pride is starting a book club!

MEOWVELOUS READS



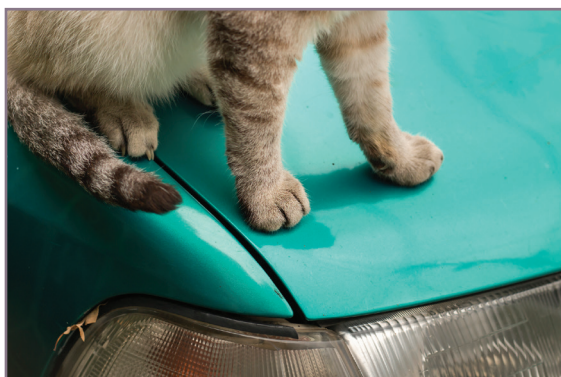
The first session of **Meowvelous Reads**, Pet Pride's new cat-themed book club, will take place on **Wednesday, November 4, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.** Meet us in Pet Pride's Community Room to discuss *Agnes Aubert's Mystical Cat Shelter* by Heather Fawcett.

The event is free and open to the public. Please RSVP using the QR code above. 🐾

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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 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, 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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