

PFA at the State House

On February 27, PFA joined animal advocates at the State House in Trenton to elevate the visibility of a number of animal bills that have been lagging in the legislature. PFA's tabling display focused on the Compassion for Community Cats bill (S-179/A-2275).

Brief summary of "Compassion for Community Cats" Bill : S-179/A-2275:

- Establishes a "Compassion for Community Cats Fund" to provide TNVR program start-up grants to municipalities and counties in NJ. Funding for this would be redirected from the defunct "Pilot Clinic Fund" (established in 1983) which is made up of a \$0.20 statutory fee on every dog license, generating approximately \$90,000 annually.
- Exempts Community Cats that are being TNVR'd from the 7-day hold requirement, incentivizing live releases of community cats from animal shelters. The 7-day hold will still be required for any outcome other than return after neutering.
- Maximizes the impact of the Animal Population Control Fund by allowing qualifying NJ residents who care for Community Cats to get them neutered for \$10. Currently, Community Cats are excluded from the program.

S-179/A-2275 was first introduced to NJ state legislators in 2019. Due to the unfortunate timing of its initial introduction – just before the Covid-19 Pandemic – it has not received the support and attention of our legislators. PFA is particularly interested in seeing this proposed legislation passed during the current session, which ends January 9, 2024. **We need your help!**

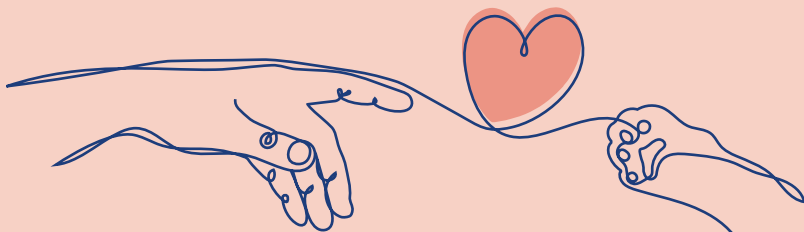
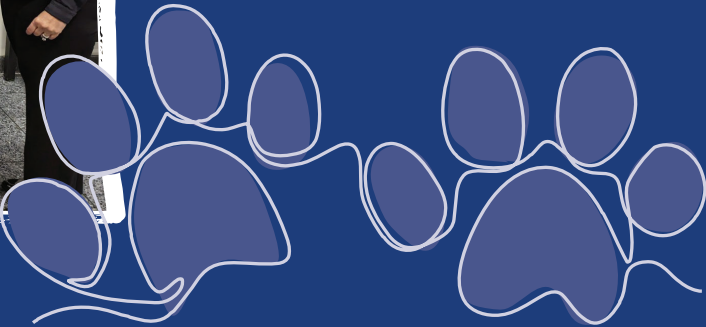


CALL TO ACTION – YOUR VOICE MATTERS

We strongly believe that this bill will change the landscape for cat population management in every community throughout our state. Our state's animal population control program, enacted in 1983, is in dire need of modernizing to address today's foremost companion animal concern in New Jersey: free-roaming unowned cat populations. Additionally, making grant funding available to municipalities to institute TNR policies and programs will promote effective, humane solutions. It's time for NJ to embrace 21st century animal welfare methods and put our dollars to more effective use!

Please contact your State Senators and Assembly Members to ask them to support and co-sponsor this bill. You can find your legislators and contact them through the state legislative website: <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/#findLegislator>

In addition, please call or email the Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, encouraging him to move this bill, at 732-855-7441 or AsmCoughlin@njleg.org.



Volunteer Corner

Pets are Family! Will you volunteer with our Whole Families Program to help families maintain their pets in their lives during times of crisis?

1. Fosters are needed to provide foster care for pets while their parents are facing extreme hardships such as, housing insecurity, domestic violence, a medical or psychological crisis etc. Pets may need fostering for 3-6 months depending on their owners' needs.
2. Trappers are needed to help provide TNR (Trap Neuter Return) for community cats. If you do not have experience trapping, but are interested in helping, we can train you and lend you traps!
3. Helpers are needed to provide emotional support and encouragement. As our program grows we will need a support network. Social Workers, Nurses, Teachers, helping professionals currently working or retired who love animals and the people who love them, are needed to volunteer their time to support people during the most difficult time in their lives.

If you are interested in learning more or are ready to start helping, please email Lori@pfaonline.org



Hillside HQ Open House



February is Spay Neuter Awareness month and on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 we celebrated World Spay Day with an Open House to celebrate our Hillside Clinic's renovations! The clinic opened in 2007 and within five years more than tripled their surgical volume from 6,000 to 20,000 per year! As our headquarters is

the oldest of our three clinics, it was starting to look rather tired. Thanks to our generous donors who supported the renovation, we now have a dedicated X-ray room, shiny new flooring, new cabinetry, front desk, and the clinic is freshly painted! We finished up the month by providing an amazing 1,600 spay neuter surgeries ensuring the good health and long life of our adorable patients!



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People for Animals, Inc.

SPRING EDITION 2023



Help Provide Access to Affordable Veterinary Care For All

Thoughts from our Executive Director Jane Guillaume

Spring is here! That time of year when we all turn our attention to getting outside in the sunshine, greeting our neighbors over the fence, and gathering for barbecue with friends and family. It's a time to wake up from our hibernation and get out there again. At our clinics, it's the start of our busiest season.

At PFA, we treat every season like Spring. Being there for our community is on our minds all year long and we don't "hibernate." This newsletter highlights some of PFA's accomplishments over the winter months, but there are so many more successes occurring every day in our clinics that don't get celebrated as often as they should; like neutering over 20,000 cats and dogs each year, giving over 24,000 vaccinations, and treating thousands of sick or injured animals that might otherwise go untreated. In addition, emergency spay surgery at PFA saves the lives of over 100 dogs and cats suffering with life-threatening pyometra (uterine infection) every year. No time to hibernate; this is what we do every day, all year long.

Routine or extraordinary, none of our important work is possible without the support of our friends and donors. Your generosity of time, energy and funds, but most of all your continuing kindness, make all of this achievable.

Jane Guillaume

Penny Returned to her Throne!

Myriam did not know what to do. Her beloved Penny, a beautiful 3-year-old Chihuahua, had a lump that Myriam feared might be cancer. Deciding that she had to do all she could to help Penny, she brought her to our Hillside Clinic. After an exam by our wellness veterinarian, Penny was checked by our surgical team and Myriam was relieved to learn that the lump was a hernia that could be repaired during spay surgery. Myriam is a senior citizen with limited income and she was concerned that she could not afford the entire cost of the surgery. Luckily, our Sweet Pea Medical Fund was able to cover the cost of surgery and ensure Penny's healthy, happy future. Now Myriam is excited to report that Penny is back to being to her royal self – the 'Queen of the House' with her furry family members bending to her every whim! Myriam was so pleased with the care that Penny received that she has been asking her friends to support PFA and our Sweet Pea Medical Fund. ***Will you donate today to help more animals, like Penny, when a medical crisis occurs?***



Celebrating Partnerships

PFA believes strongly in partnering with other animal welfare organizations to help save more animals by working together. Our partnerships were exceedingly helpful at our third free vaccination and microchip event for residents of Trenton on Saturday, February 25, 2023 at Trinity Cathedral.

It can be difficult for people to accept help and we ask everyone who volunteers and attends our events to treat the people and animals who attend with compassion, understanding and kindness. It is our goal to keep pets at home with their loving families and fortunately, our partners were in full agreement! All of the volunteers and groups who attended the Trinity event worked tirelessly to ensure that everyone who attended was comfortable and received the help that they needed.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Terry Peifer from Companion Animal Advocates NJ, Lisa Parsley and Carol from Trenton Cats Rescue, Jose Munoz from Trenton Animal Shelter, Anne Freund from Meals on Wheels of Mercer County, Tammy Anne Duffy from Elbra's Dream and Bill Machado from Plainfield Animal Control. You all pitched in to help ensure that the residents of Trenton received help at the event and also with follow-up services to ensure that their pets will remain happy and healthy at home!

All of us enjoyed working with everyone from the Trinity Cathedral Team – Dean Rene John, Deacon Christopher Cox and Patrice D'Angelo – who were warm and welcoming to us and more than 300 animals and their people to their beautiful Cathedral! Lastly, to our amazing volunteers for braving the cold and working tirelessly all day long – Elda, Cynthia, Sue, Dave, Deacon Chris, Hilary, Lyn, Lucy, Brian, Ulander, Ange, Tammy and Stan. You are all amazing and wonderful people! The event was made possible by grants.



Animal Vaccination & Microchip Clinic – A Great Success!

by the Rev. Christopher Cox. Trinity Cathedral, 801 West State St. Trenton NJ 08618

On Saturday, February 25, Trinity Cathedral hosted a cat and dog Free Vaccination and Microchip Clinic, organized by People for Animals (PFA), a Board member for PFA and a founding member of the diocesan Animal Welfare Ministry, brought this opportunity to the Cathedral, and we eagerly accepted the challenge!

The response to the clinic was astonishing. Trenton pet owners arrived with more than 300 animals to get their shots and microchips and sign up for free spay or neuter. When the clinic opened, the line of clients and beloved pets wrapped around the Cathedral's parking lot to West State Street.

PFA reported that it was the highest turnout they had seen. Volunteers were kept busy all day helping with medical paperwork and surveys, directing "traffic", and keeping the process flowing while PFA's team of veterinarians, vet-techs and event organizers did their work. Channel-12 News showed up to capture the fun.

My heart is warmed by knowing that this event served our local neighbors struggling with the cost of veterinary care, as well as providing health and well-being for their beloved pets. It was truly at the intersection of human need and that of God's larger Creation. I think all who attended left buoyed up in spirit and more grateful than ever for the gift of our companion animals. (Animals will do that to you!) The need is there and we hope we can do this again at Trinity Cathedral in the future!



The Kindness of Vaccination Events

by Ulander Miott, Volunteer



As a volunteer at the vaccination events, I expected to help animals but unexpectedly I found myself listening to rescue stories and observing kind gestures between strangers. Pet parents rescued their pets from unthinkable situations and some pets rescued their parents with love. Stories such as: a pet parent who climbed into a dumpster to rescue kittens, another saved her pitties from dog fighting, while a lovable pup provided their owner with emotional support, were shared with me while they waited for their turn.

The kindness people displayed to each other and to their pets truly defined what it means to be a part of a community. Helping people help their pets is one of the most rewarding ways to spend time.

