

Paws and Claws Society

Partners in Prevention Not Destruction

2011 Annual Report

CIRCLE OF COMPASSION FOR ANIMALS

The “*Circle of Compassion for Animals*” brings together groups and individuals in a coalition of animal advocates with the expectation of establishing no-kill communities in South Jersey. First introduced in 2006, the “Circle” continues to build on its initial success by expanding the circle of participants each year.

“*Circle of Compassion for Animals*” objectives are to:

1. To increase the placements of adoptable, healthy cats and dogs
2. To reduce the deaths of shelter dogs and cats
3. To reduce the number of stray/feral cats in the county via TNR and placements
4. To increase the number of spay/neuter surgeries
5. To provide appropriate medical treatment, behavior modification and/or foster care to turn sick, injured, traumatized, infant or unsocialized animals into animals ready for placement.

“Circle” partners strive to find loving, permanent homes for all adoptable animals. PACS and their Partners further pledge that adoptable animals will not be killed just because they are homeless at a time when shelters and rescues are full; they pledge to find room at the inn by widening the circle of compassion. “CIRCLE” members may include representatives from local and county government, the veterinary community, animal control officers, businesses, and individuals who work diligently on behalf of animals. PACS offers financial support to “Circle” referred animals, including treatable and/hard to place animals. Support includes reasonable medical care and/or behavior modification training necessary prior to placement.

2011 NO-KILL CONFERENCE

Paws and Claws Society was again a proud sponsor of the No-Kill Conference in Washington, DC. For the third year, the No Kill Advocacy Center teamed up with the Animal Law program at George Washington University Law School to bring together the nation’s most successful shelter directors and the nation’s top animal lawyers and Paws and Claws was happy to participate and sponsor the event. Attendees learned how to use the legal system to save the lives of animals and how to create a No Kill community.

OPERATION CAPE MAY COUNTY OUTREACH

Beginning in August, 2005, PACS partnered with Cape May County Animal Shelter Alliance, Beacon Animal Rescue, Animal Outreach, Animal Welfare Society, Humane Society of Ocean City, and individual rescuers to provide new and innovative programs and services designed to reduce pet overpopulation, increase adoptions, educate the general public, foster humane legislation, and help caretakers be responsible for their pets. Operation Cape May County was designed to work in concert with PACS spay/neuter voucher and SAFER program. In addition to spay/neuter programs first implemented in 2005, PACS funded in 2008 a new sink and countertop for the county shelter and a medical care facility. During 2009, PACS continued its partnership with Cape May County Special School District in offering its Dog House Building Project. This project brought together students and animal control officers in order to build and offer dog house shelter to animals belonging to low income residents. In 2010, PACS continued its Dog House project and added a Cat House component to the project. PACS also continued its Save a Life Medical Fund for needy animals in partnership with local veterinarians. PACS offered even more medical assistance and educational programs in 2011.

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The hard work and dedication of animal advocates in Cape May County paid off. The Cape May County Animal Shelter effectively reached no-kill status in 2010. Congratulations to one and all!! We need to continue with the programs and not let up for a minute.

Paws and Claws Society contributions to this achievement are many. PACS Programs implemented in Cape May County began in August of 2005 and have included: PACS spay/neuter voucher program, PACS SAFER (Stray and Feral Eminent Rescue) TNR Program, Cat Spay Day, Spay Your Best Friend, Medical Assistance, Educational Programs of Kind News, Billboards, Library Books, Senior Scholarship Awards, Building and Distribution of dog and cat houses, Fix and Feed Our Pets in Need Program, and several Capital Projects that included a medical facility and a new countertop and sink for the Cape May County Animal Shelter.

PACS and our sister organization, the Staats Foundation implemented comprehensive and cohesive programs of spay/neuter, adoption, and education at a cost of more than \$300,000.

More than 3500 free spay/neuter surgeries were provided by PACS in Cape May County in just the first 3 years. Surgeries were performed by 11 private veterinarians and 3 clinics.

FIX AND FEED OUR PETS IN NEED

For the second year, Paws and Claws partnered with Holy Redeemer Food Pantry to provide pet food and veterinary care for the pets of clients in need of people food.

No one should have to relinquish their pet because they cannot afford to feed it. Paws and Claws is committed to providing pet food - and relief - to pet owners through the Holy Redeemer Food Pantry so that neither they, nor their pets go hungry. We maintain a high level of consistency delivering the same kind of food so that pets have a stable diet, which is important to maintain good digestive health.

During this time of economic uncertainty, families especially need the comfort of their pets. To have to take the heart-wrenching step of giving up your beloved pet to an already overflowing shelter would be devastating to the emotional stability of the family, especially the children. Children don't understand recessions and job loss; they only understand that they love their pets. Our pets are part of our families. They make us laugh, they're fun to snuggle and they are a great source of comfort during difficult or stressful times.

Paws and Claws Society provided more than 3500 pounds of dry pet food each month, plus cases of canned pet food at a cost of more than \$2,600.00 per month. This equates to more than 8800 bowls of food each month to meet the needs of over 300 cats and dogs. **PACS Fix and Feed our Pets in Need Program** insured that your neighbors didn't have to make that impossible choice of feeding their pets or feeding themselves. These pets in need also received routine veterinary care and were spayed or neutered. Several pets even received life-saving surgeries as a result of this program. Participating veterinarians drastically discounted their fees. Our heartfelt thanks to these compassionate veterinarians.

GIVE A LITTLE BOWL OF LOVE

2011 unfolded as another year of great economic uncertainty for many families and their beloved pets. Paws and Claws Society continued our commitment to helping people keep their pets. The need was urgent and PACS met that need for the third year with the purchase of more than \$13,000 in pet food. PACS commitment to this life saving endeavor insured that struggling families would not be forced to surrender their animals to already overflowing animal shelters.

CAT SPAY DAY

Paws and Claws Society, in cooperation with veterinarians and clinics in the target area, sponsored its 17th annual "Cat Spay Day" to coincide with National Spay Day on the last Tuesday in February. Coupons redeemable for free cat spay/neuter surgery were given to eligible residents. Information about the importance of spay/neuter, free rabies clinics and various humane topics was made available at coupon distribution sites.

FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION PROGRAM

Our dedicated volunteers play matchmaker to some wonderful people and some equally wonderful pets. They counsel residents before, during and after adoptions, sharing with them many gems of wisdom and pearls of knowledge about pets. Our volunteers serve as ambassadors, educators, counselors, and animal caretakers who nurture abandoned pets, providing them with lots of love and companionship while they wait for a second chance at life.

Some animals arrive at PACS in various stages of neglect and may need more TLC (tender, loving, care) than any shelter is able to give. Our special volunteers provide foster care for these pets; they lavish them with attention until they are whole again and ready to be placed in a permanent, loving home.

PRETTY PETS PROGRAM

The animals that arrive at PACS are a truly mixed group. They come in all sizes, all ages, all coat types, and all types of condition. There are cats with mats down to the skin, and dogs with toenails that have completely grown into the pads. Some animals have fleas and ticks, while others have spots or mange. Many of the animals need a quick bath, while others need a complete shave. We have no control over the condition of the animals that we rescue, but we want to give them the best possible opportunity for adoption. Improving their appearance can often save their lives.

Homeless animals are bathed, combed, clipped, ears are cleaned and nails are trimmed. We don't look for fancy results, but work hard to make the animals presentable. We know that clean, unmatted animals will appeal to the public and it is the public that will open their hearts and homes to these wonderful pets.

DOUBLE ADOPTION PROGRAM

First introduced in 1994, our Double Adoption Program is a real win win service. Adopters double their pleasure when they double adopt and two homeless pets find love and companionship. PACS knows that the only thing better than having one pet is having two pets. Today, many individuals have very busy work schedules and, consequently, their pets spend much of their day alone. Many prospective adopters recognize that it could be advantageous to adopt two pets so they have each other for company, but find the initial cost of spay/neuter prohibitive. Our Double Adoption Program make it financially possible for them to adopt two pets by underwriting the cost of the second lower-cost spay/neuter surgery.

KIND NEWS

Paws and Claws Society first offered *KIND News* in 1994 to every child enrolled in the third grade throughout Gloucester County. Later in September, 2006, Paws and Claws Society introduced a formalized program of humane education to the children of Cape May County. *KIND News*, an award-winning newspaper that teaches children respect for animals was made available monthly to more than 3,000 children enrolled in the second, third and fourth grades throughout the county. This teaching tool establishes a classroom theme of kindness, fosters compassion and responsibility, and motivates learning using the high-interest topic of animals. Responsible pet care is one of the main themes of the publication which emphasizes the importance of spay/neuter. Each issue features a KIND Club Project designed to benefit animals. The program also provides each classroom with a poster-sized calendar of humane announcements--a different one for each school day--for students to read. Many years later, the Kind News offering, is still loved and used by thousands of students and teachers.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

An educational component accompanies all programs at all stages using all means of communication available. PACS has identified four steps that residents must climb in order to eliminate the cycle of cruelty caused by pet overpopulation: **(1) STOP AND ADOPT** from your local animal shelter or rescue group; **(2) SPAY/NEUTER** your pets; **(3) SPREAD THE WORD** to friends, family, and others; **(4) SUPPORT** your local animal shelter or rescue group by volunteering your time, talent and dollars.

BOOK DONATIONS

Paws and Claws donated two award-winning books authored by Nathan J. Winograd to the libraries of every high school in the state of New Jersey. As a result, thousands of students and teachers have the opportunity to read:

Redemption: The Myth of Pet Overpopulation and the No Kill Revolution in

America

from Amazon

Redemption is the story of animal sheltering in the United States, a movement that was born of compassion and then lost its way. It is the story of the 'No Kill' movement, which says we can and must stop the killing. But most of all, it is a story about believing in the community and trusting in the power of compassion.

Irreconcilable Differences: The Battle for the Heart & Soul of America's Animal Shelters

from Amazon

We are a nation of animal lovers. But the shelters we expect to save animals are instead needlessly killing about four million of them every year. Thankfully, animal lovers all over the U.S. are increasingly rejecting the excuses and blame shifting of shelter administrators used to justify that killing. And it is that rejection of the status quo, propelled by the American public's great love of companion animals, which is explored in this book's essays.

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Paws and Claws Society designed Circle of Compassion Scholarship Awards to tap into the vitality and creativity of our young people by challenging them to put their active minds into solving an old problem – how to get more animals adopted from animal shelters.

Graduating seniors in four southern New Jersey counties were invited to submit their animal shelter adoption ideas in the 2nd Annual Circle of Compassion Annual Senior Scholarship Awards. Students in each county had the opportunity to win 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards in the amounts of \$500, \$750, and \$1,000 for the best **original** and **practical** ways to increase the adoption of shelter pets.. In addition, there was a \$1,500 scholarship award for the student with the best overall idea from the four counties.

KENNEL BOARDING

PACS developed and implemented a new and innovative program that brought together the owner of a local kennel and a local animal rescue organization in order to save more animals. For a year and a half, PACS paid the entire cost of the kennel project that provided 11,940 days of boarding for animals waiting for a second chance for a loving home.

In addition, Paws and Claws also paid the entire cost of \$64,000 to spay/neuter and vaccinate 972 of cats and dogs rescued by Animal Sanctuary Society.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

PACS is sometimes called upon to provide medical assistance necessary to alleviate the pain and suffering caused by illness or injury. Many times, this assistance means the difference between life and death.

86 pets received medical care as a result of this program; 19 pets received life-saving surgeries.

SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM

"I ask for the privilege of not being born ... not to be born until you can assure me of a home and a master to protect me, and a right to live as long as I am physically able to enjoy life ... not to be born until my body is precious and men have ceased to exploit it because it is cheap and plentiful." Need we say more? Pet overpopulation is a monumental problem. Spay/Neuter is the solution.

576 cats and dogs were spayed/neutered under this program

CAT LOVERS CAMPAIGN

PACS has identified unchecked cat reproduction as the number one pet problem in South Jersey (actually in the country). Most of the cruelty endured by cats can be directly attributed to the failure of residents to spay/neuter their cats. These cats produce litter after litter adding to the surplus numbers of unwanted animals. Let's face it; there just aren't enough homes for all the cats being born.

Our "Cat Lovers Campaign" seeks to interrupt this reproductive cycle of cruelty at its roots; with the first cat or cats in the cat lovers' control, before the numbers get out of control. The program reaches out to residents with unaltered cats, educates them on the importance of spay/neuter and, if necessary, assists them physically and financially.

205 Cats in Salem, Camden, and Burlington County were spayed/neutered ensuring that they will not add to the tragedy of cat overpopulation

SAFER (STRAY AND FERAL EMINENT RESCUE)

Stray and Feral Eminent Rescue Program is a PAWS AND CLAWS SOCIETY initiative developed and implemented under the auspices of the STAATS FOUNDATION in accord with their plan for a NO-KILL COMMUNITY in Southern New Jersey. This "Stray and Feral Cat Assistance" program certainly epitomizes our philosophy of prevention, not destruction. The SAFER network of local rescue groups and individuals is committed to improving the quality of life for homeless and unwanted felines by providing and finding homes, assisting and educating the community, and controlling overpopulation. The SAFER network advocates compassion towards felines, community support and the belief that felines are life-long companions.

79 stray or feral cats will no longer contribute to suffering endured by an abandoned cat population.

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As part of our Paws and Claws Society "Share the Love" holiday celebration, we especially enjoyed playing Santa to other organizations in our Circle of Compassion for Animals.

Paws and Claws Society was happy to share some financial gifts with the following wonderful organizations:

- [Animal Sanctuary Society, Inc.](#)

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- [Best Friends Animal Society](#)

Best Friends Animal Society runs the nation's largest sanctuary for abused and abandoned animals. Best Friends operates a low-cost spay/neuter program, runs a wildlife rehabilitation center, sponsors a network of members in rescue, provides foster care and humane education, and works with humane groups nationwide to bring about a time when there will be No More Homeless Pets.

PACS donated \$2,000.00 to Best Friends Animal Society in support of their Medical Guardian Angel Program.

- [Keepers Of The Wild](#)

The Keepers of The Wild Mission Statement:

"Keepers of the Wild is a 501(c)3 non profit organization dedicated to the protection of abused, neglected, abandoned and retired captive wildlife. To provide the best standard of care and help enforce the humane treatment of all animals.

"The preservation and protection of wildlife and the environment is paramount in our goals.

"Through education and public awareness we seek to alleviate all animals suffering and help eliminate use of wild animals as pets and their exploitation in show business.

"Keepers of the Wild provides a permanent home and true sanctuary to all the animals it rescues."

Paws and Claws donated \$10,000.00 toward the work of Keepers of the Wild.

- [Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine](#)

PCRM is a nonprofit 501c3 organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. From their web site's About PCRM page: "Since 1985, PCRM has been influencing advancements in medicine and science. We advocate for preventive medicine, especially good nutrition, conduct clinical research, and advocate for higher ethical standards in research. More than 125,000 health care professionals and concerned citizens are dedicated to creating a better future for animals and people."

Paws and Claws donated \$20,000.00 to PCRM's cause.

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- [Kindness Ranch](#)

From the Kindness Ranch about Us page:

"Kindness Ranch is the only sanctuary in the US that takes in all kinds of research animals. While new, it is the result of a decade of work, saving, and planning.

"Laboratory animals have long held a special place in the heart of Dr. David Groobman, Founder of Kindness Ranch. Successful in business, Dr. Groobman first saved enough to provide for his family into the future. Once this was accomplished, he dedicated all the profits of his business for ten years to the ranch. He searched four years to locate the perfect 1,000 acre parcel near historic Hartville in Wyoming.

"Groobman's passion attracted caring board members to the cause. Together, they began planning for a sanctuary with the expectation that the residents will always receive the best in animal care and that dogs and cats would be rehabilitated in a home-like environment. Ground was broke in 2006. After building four guests yurts, a dog yurt, a cat yurt, and a managers' yurt, construction was finished in the summer of 2007.

"The benefits to the animals are obvious: they are well-cared for in every aspect of their lives."

PACS shared a gift of \$20,000.00 with Kindness Ranch.

- [No Kill Advocacy Center](#)

From model legislation, to model policies, to ground-breaking studies, to support for activists, to advocacy, to conferences and seminars, to direct assistance, to legal action, the No Kill Advocacy Center is working to end the systematic killing of animals in U.S. shelters.

PACS supports the No Kill Advocacy Center with its membership and financial sponsorship and advertising of their annual conference, totaling \$15,000.00 in December of 2011.

- [Cat Camp Foundation](#)

The Cat Camp Foundation, Inc. is a privately owned, non-profit, NO-KILL organization whose mission is to provide for the needs of the stray and feral cat. Cat Camp Foundation receives no state or federal funding and relies on donations and the income from their [pet sitting service](#) for the funds to continue their work. ALL earnings from this service go the support of the cats in their care. They are licensed and bonded and care for all domestic pets in the Medford, Tabernacle, Shamong, etc., areas. Plants watered, mail brought in, and vet transport service also available.

Paws and Claws donated \$5,000.00 to Cat Camp Foundation to provide food for the cats in their care.

- [Hearts and Paws](#)

Hearts and Paws is a private, non-profit, no-kill animal sanctuary in Voorhees, New Jersey. Hearts and Paws provides a safe haven for rescued animals awaiting loving adoptive homes.

PACS, through its Circle of Compassion for Animals, shared a gift of \$5,000.00 to Hearts and Paws for sheltering and adoption.

- [Freedom Center for Wildlife](#)

Their Mission: "Through rehabilitation, education, and research programs, Freedom Center for Wildlife, Inc. strives to increase public knowledge and appreciation towards the conservation, protection and preservation of native New Jersey habitats and animals."

PACS shared a gift of \$2,500.00 with Freedom Center for Wildlife for their shelter and rescue efforts.

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- [Strays R Us](#)

From their About Us section:

"Strays R Us is a non-profit, all volunteer animal rescue group located in Rahway NJ. We are working to improve the lives of homeless cats.

"Our mission is to decrease the amount of kittens born to stray, feral and abandoned cats through Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) efforts, and to place the adoptable cats we find into permanent, loving homes.

"Since we do not have a shelter facility, our cats awaiting adoption are in foster homes. Unfortunately, due to financial constraints and very limited space and are not able to take in many of the cats and kittens we are asked to help."

Paws and Claws donated \$2,500.00 to Strays R Us to help cover veterinary costs for stray or feral cats.

- [LaMancha Animal Rescue](#)

LaMancha Animal Rescue, a No-Kill shelter located in Unionville, Pennsylvania, is a privately funded 501c3 charity that was originally formed as an alternative to the slaughterhouse for ex-racehorses. Their web site states, "Many of these horses are perfectly sound, but simply too slow to continue racing. Some are injured, but can be healed to make suitable trail riding mounts, show horses, and three-day eventers. Today LaMancha rescues and finds homes for not only horses but also dogs, cats, goats and the occasional exotic animal that requires more space or specialized knowledge than most SPCAs can offer."

Paws and Claws donated \$1,000.00 to LaManchia Animal Rescue for shelter assistance.

- [Joe Joe's Place](#)

Joe Joe's Place is an Animal Rescue Center formed in memory of Joey Lloyd, whose love for his dogs and other animals was immeasurable. Their mission statement explains, "To honor him and keep his spirit alive, we are starting small by fostering puppies that are waiting for homes. Our vision is one as big as the void that the loss of Joey's smile left. We hope to raise enough money to actually build a rescue and sanctuary to help any domestic animal in need of medical treatment and shelter with the hope of preparing them for adoption into loving, forever homes. Those who are considered 'unadoptable' will be taken care of with love and compassion until they cross the Rainbow Bridge where Joey will be waiting for them."

PACS donated \$1,000.00 to Joe Joe's Place for shelter assistance.

- [Tabby's Place](#)

"Young or old, sick or healthy", Tabby's Place is "a cage-free sanctuary for cats rescued from hopeless situations". Tabby's place provides emergency and special medical treatment for homeless cats.

Paws and Claws donated \$20,000.00 to enable Tabby's Place to extend the "Circle of Compassion" to critically ill or special needs cats, providing the lifesaving medical care that they need and deserve. PACS also shared a gift of \$15,000.00 for a special program to help cats in exceptional circumstances.

- [Daris](#)

Daris is a new group dedicated to helping stray and feral cats through TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) and adoption when possible. PACS donated \$2,500.00 for stray and feral cat assistance.

Paws and Claws Society is a 501(c)(3) Federal and New Jersey registered charity operated entirely by volunteers. All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.