



Paws and Claws Society, Inc.

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PARTNERS IN PREVENTION NOT DESTRUCTION

2023 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. 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.

BURLINGTON REPORTS & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Paws and Claws Society was pleased to unveil its first issue of its newsletter, Burlington Reports, in April of 2011. The fictional character of Burlington the Cat was born, and he began to share his life story and experiences with us. Each issue builds on the original story of Burlington and the family that adopted him. For the last 12 years, readers have not only been entertained, but have learned many things as they followed Burlington through his life journey. PACS Burlington Reports offering is both educational and entertaining.

Burlington Reports can be found and read by visiting Paws and Claws Society website www.pacsnj.org

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SAFER “Cats on the Border” PROGRAM

Another year has come and gone and the volunteers working for the S.A.F.E.R. Cats on the Border Project have taken full advantage of the resources so generously provided by Paws & Claws Society. Over the past year we spayed/neutered 351 cats and kittens and also adopted 35 cats and kittens into loving homes. These adoptions, made possible in large part by the PACS Petfinder pages, were not only a blessing to the cats and kittens that were able to leave the stray and feral colonies, but also a blessing to the colony caretakers as it reduced the number of cats in their care.

We had many success stories but two come to mind. The first is the story of the “fire cats”. There was a house fire in a community that was outside of our target area and 40 cats and kittens, and their owner, lost their home. Paws & Claws Society stepped up, even though the fire didn’t occur in our target area, and paid for all the medical work for these cats! We were able to bring 17 of these cats to the farm and ultimately to the permanent homes of dedicated volunteers of the TNR program. Some of the cats involved in the fire have been returned to a very grateful owner, but the rest have remained with SAFER volunteers.

The second story involved a neighborhood in our target area. A family had about twenty cats and they decided to move leaving all the cats to fend for themselves. The family just tossed the cats out the door and left. The volunteers jumped into action and all of the cats and kittens were fixed with many receiving much needed extra medical attention. While the neighbors could not afford to get all the cats fixed, they were willing to work with us to ensure that the abandoned cats shelter and nutritional needs were met. These cats would not have survived without PACS Cats on the Border program.

As we look back over 2023, we are grateful for the dedicated volunteers and all of the colony caregivers. Cats on the Border program has, over the eight years of its existence, spay/neutered 3351 stray or feral felines, thereby preventing the birth of millions of kittens; Kittens that would have had no future in our communities. After eight (8) years and 3351 cats, Paws and Claws is able to bring the SAFER “Cats on the Border” program to a very successful conclusion!

**Paws & Claws Society volunteers TNR’d 351 stray/feral cats on the border in 2023
With a total of 3351 stray/feral cats on the border tnr’d and
completely vetted over the last 8 years**

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 to establish no-kill communities. Our “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.

Paws & Claws Society partnered with local organizations to spay/neuter 200 felines

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GIVE A LITTLE BOWL OF LOVE

2023 unfolded as another year of great economic uncertainty for many animal caretakers and their beloved pets. Paws and Claws Society continued our commitment to helping caretakers feed their pets. The need was urgent and PACS again met that need. PACS commitment to this life saving endeavor insured that struggling cat colony caretakers received the support they and their cats deserve.

Paws and Claws Society provided more than \$ 16,000 in pet food assistance in 2023

HOPE TO HOME RESCUE SUPPORT

A life saving partnership with several of our Circle of Compassion partners to rescue animals that many shelters would consider 'unadoptable' was implemented by Paws and Claws in 2021. That means any animal that can't go immediately up for adoption. Often they are sick or injured. Some are underage, unfriendly, or unthrifty. They need 24 hour care, sometimes emergency surgery, a lot of TLC, and a safe place to heal. Every animal in our program has their own individual needs and we strive to address those needs. We are able to take on the hard special needs cases thanks to our wonderful rescue volunteers. Many grateful furry angels were saved from certain death because we provided extensive medical care that included major surgeries... And because someone dared and cared to believe that they could be saved and adopted!!

Paws & Claws Society provided more than \$ 8,227 in medical assistance in 2023

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.