



NYC Animal Shelters Home to Thousands of Pets in Need

other city shelters, or "pounds," such as the Animal Care and Control of New York City (AC&C) takes in approximately 40,000 animals each year, many of which are euthanized.

While some pets are thankfully reunited with their owners, an overwhelming amount are left behind at shelters and even euthanized due to a lack of funding, space, or because there are simply not enough adopters adopting. Many people may not realize that in many cases, the dogs and cats in shelters are purebred, in case finding a purebred pet is a priority. "Adopting a dog or cat from a shelter or rescue organization is a great way to not only add a loving member to your family, but also save the life of an animal in need," says Dr. Michael Farber, DVM and Co-Chief of Staff at West Chelsea Veterinary in Manhattan. "We are proud to support a number of New York City's many shelter and rescue organizations, and promote pet adoption within the West Chelsea community."

Have you seen our adoptable cat condos? They're located in our hospital lobby. Most of the time, these unique condos are occupied by rescued cats and kittens from City Critters. City Critters is a volunteer-run cat rescue and adoption organization in Manhattan. The group works with other local volunteer organizations we have an overtaxed NYC shelter system and unfortunately thousands of animals are euthanized each year needlessly, care for, and adopt kittens and cats; promote the spay/neuter of all animals and educate the public on local animal issues. Placing hundreds of cats into loving homes every year, City Critters is always in need of help in the form of financial support, donated supplies, adopters and foster homes. To donate, visit citycritters.org

Tens of thousands of dogs and cats are rescued every year in New York City through dozens of animal rescue and shelter organizations. That's the good news. Unfortunately,

Find the right lifestyle fit

A shelter or rescue center may be a great place to find a cat or dog to add to your family. Because shelter staff and volunteers are looking to provide a loving, long-term home for animals, they work with adoptive parents to find the best breed and age of pet to fit the family's unique lifestyle. And because most shelters have a large population of pets in need of a home, a wide selection of cats and dogs is likely to be available.

Discover an unexpected friendship

While shelters do house many puppies and kittens, especially in the summer and fall seasons, they are also home to many adult and senior cats and dogs in need of loving homes. Older pets can be a wonderful addition to your family. They can often be already house-trained, less excitable and more relaxed. Choosing to provide a comfortable home for an animal to live out his or her golden years in a loving, permanent home can result in a special and memorable relationship for both parent and pet.

Contribute to your community

While so many New York City shelters work diligently to reunite lost pets with their owners and adopt rescued animals to loving homes, supply still outpaces demand. Unfortunately, more than 60,000 animals rescued in New York City over the past five years have been euthanized. Shelter adoptions can have a long-lasting effect on a community. Every time an animal

is adopted from a shelter, the life of your pet is spared and a space is provided for a new pet to potentially be adopted as well. Because New York law stipulates all animals must be spayed or neutered before being adopted from a shelter, adoption helps control New York City's pet population, resulting in the need for fewer euthanizations in the future.

★ HOW DOES SHELTER ADOPTION WORK?

Most shelters begin the adoption process through the completion of a pre-adoption questionnaire. This helps provide insight for an adoption counselor to advise adoptive families on finding the right cat or dog for their home.

In general, those seeking to adopt must be 18 or older, have valid photo identification, proof of current address and, if renting, their landlord's contact info. Shelter staff will most likely encourage visits with all members of the family (including any children and other pets) before proceeding with an adoption.

Once the decision is made to move forward, an adoptive parent will fill out paperwork and pay an adoption fee. Depending on whether the animal has been spayed or neutered, or is under treatment for a medical condition, the family will likely take their new pet home with them within a few days of adoption.



Adopt a Star Player!

West Chelsea Veterinary is proud to take on a new role this winter – official veterinarians for Animal Planet's 8th Annual Puppy Bowl! A much beloved Animal Planet program running on the same afternoon as the 2012 Super Bowl on Feb. 5, the Puppy Bowl features a pack of adorable puppies roughing it up on a faux football field. All of the star players are rescue center puppies up for adoption. West Chelsea's own Dr. Jillian Pagano, DVM, and veterinary assistant team members, Crechelle Olivera and Brenda Nieves, were on set ensuring the health and wellness of all puppy players. To learn more, visit www.animal.discovery.com/tv/puppy-bowl

Supporting NYC's Animal Rescue Organizations

West Chelsea is proud to support many of New York City's animal rescue organizations including City Critters, Stray from the Heart, Urban Cat League, Metropolitan Maltese Rescue, NYC Shiba Rescue, and the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals, to name a few.

About the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals:

There are 150 animal rescue groups and New York City shelters that make up the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals. Founded in 2002, the alliance works with

numerous local rescue groups, to help end the killing of healthy and treatable cats and dogs at city shelters. They do this through public education, finding adoptive and foster homes for pets in need, and through key initiatives, such as its Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) program, in which feral cats are humanely trapped, neutered or spayed and then returned to their neighborhood to live and be cared for by volunteers. To learn more, visit animalalliancencyc.org