

Dear Friends:

**🐾 Yes, *City Critters* has survived ten years of cat rescue and adoption!**

More importantly, countless animals have survived because we were there. We could not have done it without your help. With your support over the past ten years and the dedicated work of our volunteers, veterinary care providers, and the pet stores and websites that showcase our cats for adoption, we have saved the lives of thousands of cats and kittens, and quite a few dogs from our city's streets and shelters, and placed them in loving homes. Our heartfelt thanks to all of you!

**🐾 *Another busy year!***

Our volunteers have worked on many emergencies involving single cats and large colonies. We have responded to crises all over the city, including Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens. We've accepted many cats from owners who couldn't keep them. We particularly focused on helping outdoor cats displaced by real estate development on the Lower East Side and animals from the city shelter at 110th Street.

**🐾 *Lower East Side gardens, parking lots, church and school yards, basements, housing projects***

All year, Marilyn, Susan, Bob and David have worked with members of the community to rescue and find homes for abandoned cats from public spaces in "Alphabet City," sometimes under threatening circumstances. Keeping cats, dogs, even roosters, chickens and goats was a tradition in some of the community gardens, but with gentrification and development, animals are increasingly unwelcome and have been pushed from slightly safer to much more dangerous places. While we're dealing with what's already out there, friendly cats and kittens continue to be thrown outdoors by owners who don't want them anymore. Every week new harrowing emergencies arise. We always have Lower East Side cats for adoption at our Petco Kips Bay location, on our website, and boarding in vets' offices waiting to be shown.

**🐾 *Lower East Side synagogue cats***

Curiously, this was just one of three situations that arose in July involving cats in synagogues! We got an urgent phone call from a building super to save "two adoptable young cats" living in a synagogue on East Broadway where demolition was scheduled to begin immediately. When Richard checked out the situation, he found two young ferals living inside the building, but also more than 20 ferals (half of them small sickly kittens) right behind it, under garbage-strewn underbrush crawling with fleas, beetles, slugs, flies, etc. That's where the demolition debris was about to be dumped. No time to lose! Richard, with the help of Anise, David, Holly, Janet, Jeff, Mary, Nancy, Steffi and Tim, dealt with the whole colony. Working through heavy rainstorms in the fetid back yard, they trapped the cats and kittens in a few days, had them transported to foster care and held for spay/neuter. Thanks to the Humane Society of New York's feral cat program and the ASPCA Cares mobile spay/neuter van, all the adults, who were in pretty good shape, were fixed. Foster care was provided while they recovered from surgery. Our first plan was to release them into one of the small managed colonies in the area, but there didn't seem to be enough shelter for all of them, so only two were put back. The rest of the backyard adults were relocated to a reputable sanctuary miraculously offered at the last moment. The two indoor cats, firm in their resolve not to trust people, were rewarded with one-way tickets to an indoor/outdoor home at a friend's beautiful horse sanctuary in Maine, where they fit in right away with a small managed colony of feral Maine Coons. The sickly wild kittens took months to get ready for adoption. Most were placed by the end of November, but we still have three—cute, skittish young wiseguys who just need a place to be.



*Rescued from a schoolyard on E. 12th St., Bob is now studying the indoor lifestyle.*

🐾 **Cats and dogs from Animal Care & Control of NYC**

So far this year we have responded to calls from the city shelter system's New Hope staff to save the lives of more than 250 cats and dogs in need of special care that AC&C could not provide. These excellent creatures included little kitten feral wannabes needing socialization, cats nervous for good reasons, pregnant females, cats whose owners died, moved, became allergic, had "no time for pet", had a "new baby". There were cats left homeless in evictions, starving cats seized from hoarders, "high rise" cats (who fell out of unscreened windows), wobbly cats, one-eyed cats, three-legged cats, cats of all ages sick with upper respiratory infections requiring treatment. They were mostly beautiful domestic mix kitties, but also declawed cats, Maine Coons, Angoras, Persians, an Abyssinian, a Burmese, some Siamese (they have plenty of all breeds at AC&C). Plus Chihuahuas, a terrier, and a poodle, all needing special vet care. It is an honor to be asked to help these animals and a pleasure to work with them, but the cost of caring for them has been exceptionally high. If we are to continue working with the New Hope program, we will need **a lot** of help—financial support, foster homes and more adopters.



*Spunky little Kelly, briefly feral, was quickly tamed and adopted.*

🐾 **Faye Beckerman—dear sister, loyal friend, gracious neighbor, great lover of all cats and dogs**

Everybody in the neighborhood knew Faye at least by sight because she was all over midtown's east side every day, running from one cat-sitting job to another, walking dogs, working in her hair salon, stocking up on cat treats at the pet store, back and forth to the gym, meeting her friends nearby for dinner. When she died suddenly in June it was a profound shock to everyone who knew her.



Bighearted tough talker and all around positive presence, Faye was always a breath of fresh air and she was really, really mad for cats. That's how we came to know her and we never saw her any other way. Always wearing those huge earrings and looking great, she breezed into our adoption center every week for the last ten years and sneaked the cats special treats like baby food, turkey, or catnip. Lovingly mischievous, she'd pretend to steal a kitten or two and every so often she would take some kitty with special needs to foster for a week. Usually they'd come back again for adoption, but sometimes we wouldn't see the kitty again until she invited one of us over to see how well he or she was doing. And that's how, when she died, Faye left behind 22 beautiful, spoiled-rotten kitties, each one challenged one way or another. Faye had left her mark on so many hearts that most of the cats,

including all of the most difficult, were adopted by her friends by the end of November. Only one is still without a home: Shorty, a shy black kitty with a short tail, rescued five years ago as a terrified baby clinging to the top of a fence in Columbus Park, Chinatown. Please let us know if you might give him a home, or know someone who can.

🐾 ***We are an all-volunteer organization. Our volunteers, many of whom have been with us for ten years, have regular jobs and do their rescue and adoption work on their own time, before work, on lunch hour, at night and on weekends. City Critters has almost no overhead, yet our bills for animal care (veterinary care, food, litter and animal transport) are huge. As you know, we don't write often. We don't get to sit down long enough to write. When we do, we really need your support. Please use the enclosed envelope to make as generous a donation as you can so that next year we can continue this difficult, expensive, but very effective work on behalf of animals—and the people who care about them—for whom we are often the only hope.***

Thanks again, and all the best to you and yours from all the Critters!

