

DECEMBER  
2025

# CASTAWAY CRITTERS

THE JAMES A. HUEHOLT  
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION  
FOR ANIMALS

OFFERING HOPE & NEW BEGINNINGS TO THE  
FORGOTTEN, THE SICK AND THE ABANDONED.

## 2025 STATS

(TOTALS AS OF 11/01/25)

ADOPTIONS: 119

RESCUES: 222



**Readers' Choice for Best Animal  
Shelter or Rescue**

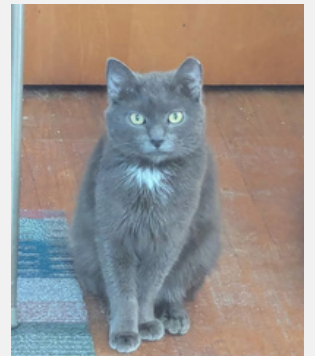
## THE BEGINNING OF A NEW YEAR!

Start the new year right by setting a healthy tone for your pet! If it's been a while since your furry family member's last wellness check, now is the perfect time to schedule one. Regular vet visits are essential for preventive care and catching potential health issues early.



Since they're another year older, start by looking at their diet and readjusting their nutritional needs for their current age. Don't forget their mental and emotional health: interactive play is key for physical activity and mental stimulation, and a positive, structured environment supports good behavior and lasting happiness.

Maybe along with a new year you have decided to adopt your first pet (or add another family member). Designate a quiet "safe room" (like a spare bedroom) for the new pet. This dedicated space—complete with their own bed, food, water, litter box/crate, and toys—allows them to decompress and adjust without being overwhelmed by the current residents. Before any face-to-face meeting, let your pets get used to each other's smell. Scent swapping can be done by trading blankets/bedding or feeding them on opposite sides of the closed "safe room" door. Gradually move the food bowls closer over a few days. Once they seem relaxed by the scent, begin short, controlled introductions on neutral ground. Use tools like a baby gate to separate them. If introducing dogs, keep them leashed. For cats, try using a feather wand to encourage playful, positive interactions. Throughout this entire process, consistently use treats and praise (positive reinforcement) to build good associations and prevent conflict. Ensure both your new pet and existing pets receive individual attention to maintain good relationships. And remember patience is key. The introduction process can take one day, or weeks. Rushing can create conflict and hinder bonding.



### 3-3-3 Rule - It Doesn't Happen Overnight

**First Three Days** - Let them decompress. Give them space and don't try to force them.

**Next 3 Weeks** - They will become more comfortable. More of their personality will appear.

**First 3 months** - They will feel at home and bonds will start developing.

All animals are different. Some may be fine immediately, others might need more time.



## SAYING GOODBYE TO 2025!

This year tested us with countless challenges, but we've successfully navigated the storm. As we near the end, we're hoping for a calm finish after the busy start. Let's take a look at the year's highlights and share our exciting plans for the year ahead.

The year began with the highly successful reopening of our dog adoption program. While we anticipated a gradual launch, the immediate need required us to fully commit right away, and we were thrilled to quickly connect our dogs with forever homes.

However, the start of the year also brought unexpected challenges. January included two serious cat emergencies that resulted in substantial medical expenses. Throughout the year, we responded to three different cat hoarding situations, taking in an unplanned total of 56 cats. This sudden influx of animals put a tremendous strain on

our budget. Despite the high volume of unexpected intakes, we continued to welcome many more animals into our care, and we remain dedicated to saving lives as long as we have the space.



Along with our usual events we also started expanding and trying out new events. We went to a couple of nighttime events where we were able to join in some businesses "after hours" events and show off some of our kittens and cats. We had our first Valentine Day cards event, "Pictures with the Easter Bunny", our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual March Indoor Yard Sale, Soup/Bake sales, DIY Tie-Dye t-shirts, our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Auction, our Calendar Contest, our Fall Auction and our Pop-Up Tattoo events. Whew! That isn't even all of them. We are always thinking up new and exciting events so make sure you follow us on Facebook to see what's coming next.

### What's new for 2026?

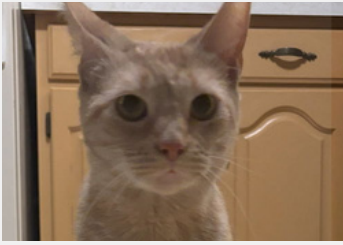
Get ready for BINGO! We're thrilled to announce we'll be adding a Bingo event, with the first one already scheduled for 2026. More information about this at a later date.

Now, for the biggest surprise for 2026! This is a first for us! We're thrilled to announce that we're expanding our cat and dog foster base by establishing a partnership with Bethany Village Senior Living Community. This unique collaboration welcomes some of their Independent Living residents into the Castaway Critters family as fosters. This goes beyond traditional rescue; it's a community-focused initiative that provides a wonderful solution for two groups: our animals in need of temporary care, and residents who desire the therapeutic benefits of a pet--companionship, purpose and the joy of having a pet--but not the long-term commitment of adoption. We're currently finalizing the details and look forward to sharing more about this impactful collaboration.



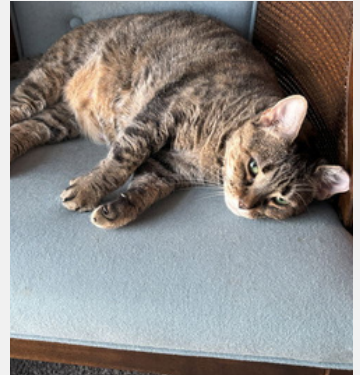
## ROUGH STARTS - WAITING FOR BRIGHT FUTURES

These are some of our harder-to-place animals, as they may not be young lap cats who constantly crave attention. Still, we believe every animal should have the chance to find their own loving, forever home.



Cersei is a 2-year-old sassy, sweet, talkative orange cat who was rescued from Uptown Harrisburg. Cersei would thrive best as an only cat, as her time on the street has made her defensive toward other felines. She has a lot of love to give and is a fun-loving companion who goes crazy for laser pointers, small sticks from outside, and reusable grocery bags. She will let you pick her up and nuzzle her and very vocal and will tell you when she wants attention or just wants to sit in her chair by a window or doorway to watch the world go by.

Venelope is a sweet 8-year-old cat seeking a patient and loving forever home after being surrendered to the shelter which left her anxious, overweight, and completely shut down. Despite a difficult start—never having seen a vet and struggling with fear, anxiety, and being defensive—she has made remarkable progress and has so much love to offer the right person. Venelope can be shy when first meeting people and may act "spicy" when scared or intimidated, especially by other cats, which makes her ideal for a home where she is the only cat. She is a delight when she feels secure, loving to rub up against things, make "biscuits," and enjoys head pets and butt scratches. Though she's still working on tolerating being picked up and transported for vet visits, she loves to sleep in her cushioned chair by the window to watch the birds. With patience, this beautiful girl's sweet personality shines through.



You wouldn't believe that Carl is 10 years old! This gentle old boy, one of the first cats rescued from a hoarding situation, still has plenty of spunk. When he was found, he was severely emaciated and in poor condition, but with proper care—including baths, flea/tick and ear mite treatments, and a good diet—he's ready for his forever home. Carl tolerates other cats but, like a distinguished older gentleman, he'd much prefer to nap alone or with his human.

## AND NOW, A WORD FROM ONE OF OUR ADOPTERS...



Walter was a loveable sweet tank of a dog. He was obese and 10 years old when he was surrendered. Our two years with Walter showed us what unconditional love was truly about. He ate from a huge mixing bowl because his head was so big and proudly carried his beloved chubba toy around wherever he went. He loved to sleep and snore in the shower. He adored us as much as we adored and loved him. It was a short two years that we had with the big boy but he left my husband and I with a lifetime of fun and treasured memories. He showed us that most of all you don't have to be a puppy, in shape or perfect to deserve happiness and love, you just have to be you.

Miss you every day Walter. What a good boy!

*FROM THE SMITH FAMILY*

*Need a Stocking Stuffer?*

Our 2026 Calendars are here. You can purchase them via Facebook, our website or at one of our events.



**Castaway Critters depends on your donations to continue to save the lives of homeless pets. We cannot do what we do without you. Thank you for your generosity.**

\$50 Disease Testing (Cat)

\$125 Tests and Vaccines (Dog)

\$80 Ongoing care for shelter-in-place dogs/cats in our care

Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

Donations may also be made via PayPal or credit card on our website. Please make checks & money orders payable to Castaway Critters.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## A Special Message from our Family of Volunteers

To all of our supporters, we want to express our profound gratitude as the year draws to a close. Thank you for your generosity in helping us provide safety and loving care for animals who have suffered through neglect and abandonment. Your compassion is a real force for good. Because of you, we can provide everything these animals need: from urgent medical attention and food to litter and a safe place to stay. With your help, we are able to make sure that every animal leaves their past behind to find a truly forever home—and is a castaway no more.

*Wishing you and yours lots of laughter, belly rubs, wet nose kisses, and love this holiday season as well as good health and prosperity this coming new year.*

The Official Registration and financial information of Castaway Critters, The James A. Hueholt Memorial Foundation may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling their toll free number, within PA, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



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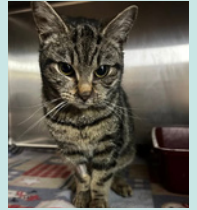
Winter 2025



2025 brought us new beginnings and  
lots of changes.

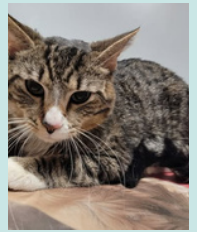
Dear Friends,

Four-month-old, three-pound Amelia (above) began her life in utter suffering, battling a severe upper respiratory infection with discharge, along with life-threatening dehydration and anemia, leading the hospital doctor to give her a very slim chance of survival. After a few days of syringe-feeding in the hospital, she was moved to a foster home, but her condition worsened six days later when she became lethargic and severely anemic once more, nearly requiring a blood transfusion. Fortunately, her blood counts stabilized on their own, and she was eventually diagnosed with Hemobartonellosis, a microscopic bacterial parasite that infects a cat's red blood cells and causes anemia, from which she would have eventually died without medical care.



This year we rescued 56 cats from three different hoarding situations—a number far exceeding our capacity. However, our existing and new fosters rose to the challenge. Among the rescued was Valkyrie, who required major medical intervention. Her eyeball had been ruptured for so long that it was severely infected, necessitating a nearly two-hour surgery under anesthesia. Imagine the agony she endured, living in those conditions with that level of chronic pain. Valkyrie has since made a full recovery and is now thriving, sharing her best life with another one-eyed cat. Some of her hoarding mates are still waiting for their forever home.

Terk arrived as a sweet, healthy-looking cat who instantly charmed us with his need for attention. However, after a couple of weeks, his behavior suddenly changed: he became lethargic, started vomiting, and was barely eating or using the litter box. A trip to the emergency room was immediate. Doctors initially suspected a foreign body, like a piece of string, causing an intestinal blockage that required emergency surgery. Unfortunately, the actual problem was something the doctor had never encountered: Terk's entire upper intestine was wrapped around itself like a barber pole. His abdomen was filled with fluid, and his kidneys were beginning to fail. After surgery to unwrap and secure his intestines, and a hospital stay for IV fluids and antibiotics, Terk made a full recovery and has been adopted.



The majority of animals we take in need medical attention. This is due to our Mission to take in the “hard cases”. The sick, injured and abandoned in our community. 10- and 12-year-old Eddie and Kellen were no exception. Their owner, who they lived with since they were puppies, passed away. They came to us emaciated, with major dental problems, not neutered, bloody diarrhea and fleas. Kellan had pneumonia and Eddie had Alopecia. They are with a foster and are currently working on getting better.

We spend nearly \$100,000 annually to provide life-saving medical care to animals like those above, who would certainly perish without our help. Your generous support has made a vast difference, helping these animals and thousands of other cats and dogs over the decades that we have been rescuing animals. Yet, the current need is constant and overwhelming—we receive over 30 requests for help daily. While we know the fight against animal homelessness will be long, your commitment enables us to keep going. Your donation is the crucial link that supports medical care, life-saving rescue, rehabilitation, foster, and adoption programs, guaranteeing our castaways find the safe, happy lives they deserve. Thank you for making our work possible!

Sincerely,  
*Barb Holmes*

Barb Holmes  
Director

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*P.S. We speak on behalf of those who cannot. Please open your heart and donate to these voiceless animals. When you give, they live.*