



PawPrints

Quarterly Newsletter



TIGGER TOO WAS SURRENDERED IN EARLY JUNE 2026. ONCE AT THE SHELTER HE SHUT DOWN, REFUSING TO EAT AND REFUSING TO MOVE. NOW AT A FOSTER HOME, TIGGER IS EMERGING FROM HIS SHELL AND WILL MAKE A GREAT CAT FOR SOMEONE WITH ENOUGH LOVE AND PATIENCE TO HELP THIS TRAMATIZED BOY SETTLE INTO A NEW FUREVER HOME.

We Keep Trying

New Regulations for NYS Shelter and Rescues Causes Hardships

In December of 2025, New York State issued new laws and regulations for shelters and rescues across the state. These changes were intended to protect vulnerable animals and ensure that they are given the highest quality of care possible. However, the unintended consequences of these new regulations are stress and hardship on local rescues, forcing some to shut down.

Here at CNY SNAP, we've recently launched a fundraising campaign to help us buy the property we current operate out of so that we may do the neccesary renovations to comply with state law and to better the comfort and care of the cats in our care.

Thanks to the incredible work of Cortland Mayor Scott Steve and supporter Michael Barylski, NYS Assemblymember Dr Anna Kelles has secured the funding that will allow us to buy our current building.

This is an incredible accomplishment that will allow us to continue our work saving cats and kittens, and providing low cost spay and neuter clinics to the public.

However the work is not done. We still need at least \$400,000 in order to renovate our building in order to meet the new requirements. Any donation amount is appreciated and we send our most heartfelt thanks to everyone who has donated so far, and to anyone who will donate in the future. Without your support, CNY SNAP won't be able to give second chances to hundreds of cats and kittens each year, or provide essential low cost spay/neuter clinics that help thousands of animals a year across 12 (and counting) counties in Central NY State.



Article 26-C - Regulation of Animal Shelters

Building

- New expensive cages
- New flooring
- New heating/cooling/venting system
- Back up generator or safe back up location for all animals in case of prolonged power outage
- Noise limits that require sounds proofing
 - Requires weekly testing
- Creation of additional rooms due to a limit of 12 cats per room
- Separate office space for administrative work
- Renovated operating room with separate entrance to limit foot traffic during clinic/surgeries
- New washer/dryer

Other

- Increased PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) requirement
 - Disposable gloves for cleaning
 - Disposable isolation gowns/overalls when interacting with a sick cat/kitten
 - Disposable shoe covers

These requirements will essentially require a top to bottom renovation of our location

Article 26-C - Regulation of Animal Shelters

Administrative

- Comprehensive intake form for each cat required within 2 hours of intake. This may not sound like much but we regularly received multiple cats at once, especially during emergency situations or when a cat comes in with kittens. Each cat and kitten needs an exam and intake form filled out.
- Foster volunteers need to fill out daily paperwork, placing further strain on individuals who are not being paid for their time, efforts, and dedication to homeless animals
- Foster volunteers could face invasive home inspections if deemed necessary by the state

Veterinary Care

- All medications must be overseen by a veterinarian
 - This seems obvious but it includes “simple” medications that are given on a regular basis at shelters but now require an expensive vet visit and will restrict CNY SNAP from buying essential medication at wholesale prices, further straining our already strained financial situation
- All shelter animals must be examined every 6 months, which will involve expensive office and vet visits

A Message from a Local Rescue Volunteer

Please read with care.

The following message was posted to the Facebook page of a volunteer of a rescue in Rochester, NY. It's a powerful, heartbreaking, yet important message that covers the difficult and emotional topic of the realities of rescue work.

This is the part of rescue that people don't see.

The part that is hard and defeating.

The part that stays with you long after you've gone back to your day.

Two newborn kittens were found lying in a driveway. No mama cat. No one coming back for them. They had been there far too long before someone found them and asked for help.

I left on my lunch break to go find them and when I did, they were lying in a carport, in the dirt. Ice cold. Barely breathing.

I knew their chances of survival were extremely low. But in rescue, we still try. We always try. While quietly preparing ourselves for the worst.

Fly eggs covered their tiny bodies. The flies had found two helpless kittens who couldn't move, couldn't escape and couldn't protect themselves. These babies were barely hanging on. And they were feeling all of it as they were being eaten alive.

They should have never been conceived.

They should have never been born into a world where this was their first experience.

They should never have been left to fend for themselves.

This is why spaying and neutering matters.

Rescues see this kind of heartbreak every day. We see the unwanted litters. The abandoned babies. The animals who suffer because someone didn't spay, didn't neuter, didn't keep their cat safely indoors, or simply assumed that someone else would take care of the problem.

Maybe if more people saw what rescue volunteers see, they would understand.

Maybe if they had to gently wipe bugs from a newborn kitten's body...
Maybe if they had to comb fly eggs from impossibly tiny fur...
Maybe if they had to hold that kitten while he took his last breath...

Maybe then they would understand why prevention matters so much.

I try to take some small comfort in knowing that these babies didn't die alone in the dirt.

They died warm.
They died held.
They died with someone who cared about them.

I wrapped their tiny bodies so they could be buried with dignity. And then, about ten minutes later, I went back to work.

Because that's another part of rescue people don't see.

You go from holding a dying kitten in your hands, feeling completely broken, to answering messages, cleaning litter boxes, feeding the cats in your care, returning phone calls and caring for the next one who needs you.

People in rescue can sometimes seem callous. Detached. Uncaring. But we're not. We've just learned how to build a wall around our hearts because we have to.

You can't experience this over and over again and stay completely untouched by it. If we allowed ourselves to feel every loss at full volume, every single time, we wouldn't be able to keep going. And we have to keep going because somewhere out there, another kitten is cold. Another cat needs help. Another animal is waiting for someone to care.

So we swallow the heartbreak, put up the wall, wipe our eyes, and keep going.

For the ones we can save.
And for the ones we couldn't.

Please spay and neuter your pets. Please don't let an accidental litter become someone else's rescue emergency.

Because behind every statistic is a tiny life.

And sometimes, that tiny life is lying alone in the dirt, waiting for someone to come.



Volunteer Spotlight

M.C.



From the Volunteer Coordinator: "I would describe M.C. as hard working, and driven. She cleans cages effectively, and gets done quickly. She is willing to stay longer if needed. M.C. has a positive attitude, and is sarcastic, which brightens everyone's day."

Tracy Barton



I started volunteering in the spay/neuter clinic and then help was needed on the cleaning side so I trained doing that. As a cleaner I got to know all the cats in the building and realized that there was a need for some of them to find a safe barn home in order to get out of the shelter. So far this year I have successfully placed 51 barn cats and counting. It is so rewarding to see these cats get a job and a safe place to live out their lives. I love all the updates I get seeing them happy and loved on their terms.

Meg M.



I don't remember a time in my life that didn't include animals. I started volunteering at SNAP last September after I retired from my job. The people at SNAP were instrumental in helping me get a feral colony under control in my neighborhood, and I wanted to give back. It was so rewarding working alongside such dedicated and giving people. My favorite part of volunteering is sending a cat home with their new adoptive family.

Animal Spotlight

Adoption Story

Holstein came to the shelter in 2023 as a super feral cat. Over the years, one of our long time volunteers was able to build trust with Holstein and he became comfortable with her. Eventually, he would eat treats out of my hand but not allow me to pet. Although I fully support our barn cat program for feral cats, I had a feeling he would thrive just as much in a home. I finally brought him home in April 2026 and he has progressed so much to the point that I can pick him up now. At the shelter, he loved the other cats and had quite the posse with him at all times. At home, he's blended right in with my dogs and other cats. I'm very proud of the progress he has made and I'm excited to official adopt Holstein!



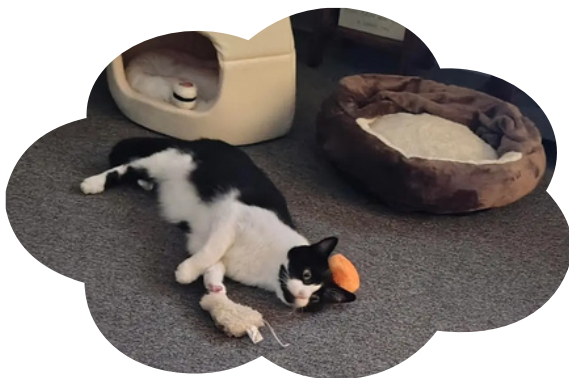
Holstein

Adoption Update

Six years of love, care, attention and hopes at the shelter went into helping Morgan get here! Adopter says, "She loves the little mouse with the cat nip in it. She rubs her face all over it, she's hilarious to watch."

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for giving this shy girl a chance to have a home after she spent her life, to date, in the shelter.

The adopter said she couldn't stop thinking about Morgan after her story was posted to the CNY SNAP Facebook page, and just had to give her a home.



Morgan



Interested in Helping CNY SNAP?

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CNY SNAP
@CNYSNAP



venmo

[Volunteer](#)

We're always in need of dedicated volunteers to help clean and care for the cats, volunteers to help with our spay/neuter clinics, and loving foster homes. Please feel free to check out our website or use the link above to fill out a volunteer application

[Amazon Wish List](#)

[Chewy Wish List](#)

About CNY SNAP

CNY SNAP is a volunteer-run, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization located in Upstate New York.

We're committed to offering affordable spay/neuter services and finding loving homes for cats and kittens through our adoption program in Cortland, NY, and PetSmart in DeWitt, NY.

We rely on grants, adoptions, and donations for our funding and we're managed entirely by volunteers. Our mission is to create a positive impact in our community by addressing the issue of cat and dog overpopulation in central New York.

[Adopt a Cat](#)

[Spay/Neuter Clinic](#)

Stay Connected

For the latest CNY SNAP news, updates and events, [check out our Facebook page!](#)

Hours

Visit Us!

Monday: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Tuesday: 5-6 p.m.

Wednesday: By Appointment

Thursday: 6-7 p.m.

Friday: 9-11 a.m. & 6-7 p.m.

Saturday: 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Sunday: 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Address

17 Salisbury Street
Cortland, NY 13045