



PO Box 3333 • Syracuse, NY 13220

Telephone: (315) 708-4520

email: [people4animalrightscny@gmail.com](mailto:people4animalrightscny@gmail.com)

[www.parcny.org](http://www.parcny.org)

NUMBER 78

SPRING/SUMMER 2022

**Story found by Gail Clark ~ Author Unknown**

*Drawing by Autumn Skye Morrison*

"My dad has bees. Today I went to his house and he showed me all of the honey he had gotten from the hives. He took the lid off of a five gallon bucket full of honey and on top of the honey there were three little bees, struggling. They were covered in sticky honey and drowning. I asked him if we could help them and he said he was sure they wouldn't survive. Casualties of honey collection I suppose.

I asked him again if we could at least get them out and kill them quickly, after all he was the one who taught me to put a suffering animal (or bug) out of its misery. He finally conceded and scooped the bees out of the bucket. He put them in an empty Chobani yogurt container and put the plastic container outside.



**INSIDE.....**

- **Animals Can Be Refugees Too**
- **Recipes:** Vegan Mac & Cheese, Best Vegan Brownies
- **Protecting Adirondack Wildlife**  
How you can help!
- **Stories:** Provided by our very own PAR members.
- **How One Man in Upstate NY is Fighting to Keep His Emotional Support Pig**
- **And MORE!**

Because he had disrupted the hive with the earlier honey collection, there were bees flying all over outside.

We put the three little bees in the container on a bench and left them to their fate. My dad called me out a little while later to show me what was happening. These three little bees were surrounded by all of their sisters (all of the bees are females) and they were cleaning the sticky nearly dead bees, helping them to get all of the honey off of their bodies. We came back a short time later and there was only one little bee left in the container. She was still being tended to by her sisters.

When it was time for me to leave we checked one last time and all three of the bees had been cleaned off enough to fly away and the container was empty.

Those three little bees lived because they were surrounded by family and friends who would not give up on them, family and friends who refused to let them drown in their own stickiness and resolved to help until the last little bee could be set free.

Bee Sisters. Bee Peers. Bee Teammates."

*We could all learn a thing or two from these bees.  
Bee kind always. ■*



**People for Animal Rights (PAR)** is a local grassroots organization dedicated to work for fundamental, nonviolent change to eliminate or reduce the oppression of non-human animals by humans. **PAR** also works to protect the earth, which sustains us all.

**What does it mean to be a member?**

According to our by-laws, a person is a member of **People for Animal Rights** when s/he agrees to our purposes as defined in the by-laws (as stated above) and has general agreement with **PAR's** goals as stated in our membership brochure, which is summarized in the insert to this newsletter. The second requirement for membership is that the person be up-to-date on dues. See the enclosed insert for more membership information.

Questions/Comments? Write or call us:

**People for Animal Rights**

PO Box 3333  
Syracuse, NY 13220  
(315) 708-4520 (8a.m.-10:00p.m.)  
people4animalrightscny@gmail.com

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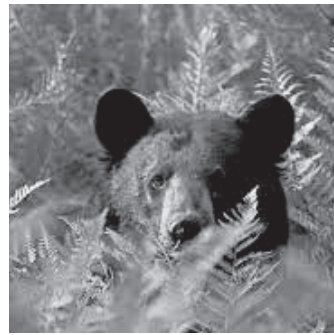
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People for Animal Rights of CNY

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PAR Contributor to *CNY Latino*: Rob English



**PROTECT ADIRONDACK WILDLIFE**

by Adirondack Council

Nearly 500 animal species, including 87 that are rare in New York, live in the Adirondack Park. As a crucial home for migratory birds, mammals like the majestic moose, reptiles, butterflies and countless types of fish, it's imperative that we protect the sensitive habitats within the Adirondack Park and preserve its wilderness to ensure the health and survival of this wildlife.

**Adirondack wildlife is facing serious new threats every day:**

- Climate change is altering the characteristics of the rare lowland boreal and boreal forest areas that provide habitat for many of our protected species.
- Ticks and diseases harmful to wildlife are proliferating.
- The winter season is becoming milder and shorter, threatening the habitats wildlife depend on.
- Overuse, poorly planned housing, and road development reduce and fragment habitat, interfere with migration pathways, and put wildlife at risk of collision with vehicles.

The future survival of Adirondack wildlife depends on all of us. Please sign the petition asking the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to better protect Adirondack wildlife and their habitats. Website (where you can take action and help wildlife): <https://www.adirondackcouncil.org/page/wildlife-petition-296.html> ■

*Please Join*

**PEOPLE FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS:**

Use the white insert in this newsletter to sign up.

**TWO DIFFERENT WAYS YOU CAN JOIN:**

send a check or join online at:  
[www.parcny.org](http://www.parcny.org)

**If you are already a member,** please see back page for an explanation of how you know when your yearly dues are due. *Thanks!*

**THE ABSOLUTE BEST VEGAN BROWNIES**

by Nisha Vora

*You've never tasted vegan brownies like this before! Supremely fudgy and chewy, intensely chocolatey, and with a gorgeous shiny, crinkly top. Truly the best vegan brownie you'll ever try!*

Prep Time: 15 minutes • Cook Time: 35 minutes

Total Time: 50 minutes • 12 Servings

**INGREDIENTS:**

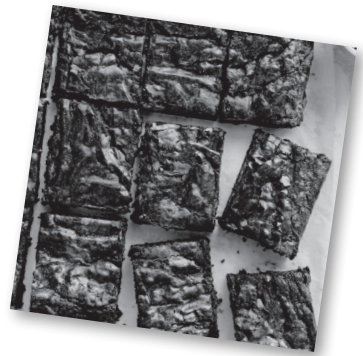
- 8 tablespoons (120 mL) aquafaba (liquid from a can of chickpeas, use unsalted chickpeas)
- 1 ½ cups (290g) organic cane sugar or pure cane sugar
- 6 ounces (170g) 65-75% dark chocolate, roughly chopped
- ½ cup or 8 tablespoons (112g) vegan butter, cubed
- 1 ½ cups (180g) all-purpose flour
- 7 tablespoons (42g) Dutch process cocoa powder\*
- ¾ teaspoon fine sea salt
- 1 tablespoon pure vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon espresso powder\*\*
- 3 ounces (85g) dark or bittersweet chocolate chips, or finely chopped dark chocolate

**DIRECTIONS:**

1. Line an 8x8-inch (20x20 cm) square metal baking pan with parchment paper and ensure there is some overhang on the sides (this will make it easy to lift the brownies out of the pan). Preheat the oven to 350°F (176°C).
2. Sift the flour and cocoa powder together in a medium bowl.
3. Add the aquafaba and sugar to a large mixing bowl. Use an electric handheld mixer or a stand mixer on high speed and beat the mixture for 2 ½ to 3 minutes until thickened, glossy, and wavy ribbons frequently appear in the bowl.
4. Add in the vanilla, salt, and espresso powder, and fold with a silicone spatula until well combined (the espresso will continue dissolving into the mixture as it rests).
5. Assemble a double boiler. Grab a heatproof bowl that can be nestled into a saucepan. Fill the saucepan up with a few inches of water – not so much that the bottom of the bowl would touch the water. Heat the water on the stove and keep at a rapid simmer.
6. Add the chopped dark chocolate and cubed vegan butter to the bowl on top of the saucepan. Allow the chocolate mixture to melt, whisking occasionally until smooth and the chocolate is completely melted. Once the chocolate is completely melted, keep the bowl on the saucepan for an additional 30 to 60 seconds to further warm through.
7. Pour the warm butter-chocolate mixture over the aquafaba-sugar mixture and fold together with the silicone spatula.
8. Add the flour-cocoa mixture to the wet ingredients and stir until just combined (stop mixing once the flour

traces are gone). Fold in the chocolate chips. Pour the batter into the lined pan and smooth out the surface with the spatula.

9. Bake the brownies in the preheated oven for 34 to 37 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the middle comes out with some moist crumbs and/or a tiny bit of thick batter (the latter could be the melted chocolate chips). If the batter is liquidy or runny, though, the brownies need about 5 more minutes in the oven.
10. To avoid overbaking and since every home oven varies, I err on the side of underbaking and check the brownies 5 minutes before I think they're going to be done. My oven usually takes between 34 and 37 minutes.
11. Transfer the brownies to a wire rack to cool for 30 minutes. Then carefully lift the brownies out of the pan using the parchment paper handles onto the wire rack. Allow to cool for a further 20 to 30 minutes before slicing. Slice the brownies and enjoy! ■



**ONONDAGA COUNTY CAN AFFORD TO SPEND MORE ON OUR COMPANION ANIMALS**

Retrieved from Syracuse.com • By Your Letters

**To the Editor:** Onondaga County Executive Ryan McMahon proposes spending \$85 million on a new aquarium. To be a humane community, shouldn't we do a better job taking care of the animals already living among us?

Mr. McMahon, you've said there is surplus money available right now. You've told critics that the county is already investing "\$900 million in our people."

Meanwhile, it spends a pittance on the welfare of our companion animals.

That's shortsighted. Good animal stewardship enhances the county's economy and quality of life.

Ignoring animal welfare takes its toll. Dogs bite children. Residents on fixed-incomes fear eviction because their pets aren't neutered or vaccinated. Sidewalks and yards reek of cat spray. Animals roam neighborhoods unvaccinated. Children witness pets treated like disposable objects.

Mr. McMahon, we cannot support the aquarium project. Not while local animals can't receive basic services. Animal welfare nonprofits often pay out of pocket to compensate. But a thimble can't hold an ocean.



## A MAN IN UPSTATE NEW YORK IS FIGHTING TO KEEP HIS EMOTIONAL SUPPORT PIG

by Hans Pennink

Ellie the pot bellied pig snuggles up to Wyverne Flatt when he watches TV and sometimes rolls over to let him pet her belly. The 110-pound pig is “family,” Flatt says, an emotional support animal who helped him through a divorce and the death of his mother.

Officials in his upstate village of Canajoharie see it very differently. To them, the pig is a farm animal Flatt is harboring in the village illegally.

The case could soon be headed to a criminal trial. But it has already caught the attention of pig partisans who believe the animals should be respected more as companions instead of just a food source.

“I could never dream of giving away somebody who’s part of my family,” Flatt said recently as he patted the pig in his kitchen. “She’s very smart. She’s more intelligent than my dogs. I think she can kind of hone in on you when you’re feeling bad because she’ll want to come in and snuggle with you.”

Ellie is a knee-high Vietnamese potbellied pig with a black coat and hooves that clack on the floor as she walks from her kitchen food dish. Flatt was living in South Carolina when he got the pig in 2018, when she was “about as big as a shoe.”

She came north with Flatt in 2019 when he moved to Canajoharie, a modest village on the Mohawk River dominated by the husk of the old Beech-Nut food plant.

Flatt, 54, bought a fixer-upper near the business center of the village with plans to remodel it and maybe open a restaurant on part of the ground floor. He also has two dogs and two cats.

A village code officer told Flatt he was housing Ellie illegally in October 2019 during a visit for a building permit request. When the village noticed Ellie was still there six months later, Flatt was formally notified he was violating the local code barring farm animals in the village. Violation of a zoning code is a misdemeanor under state law, according to court filings.

Both sides have dug in since then.

Flatt says the village is picking on his pig, which he says is clean and smart. Several of his neighbors have signed affidavits saying they like Ellie.

Village Mayor Jeff Baker said the board has no comment while the court case is pending. But an attorney for the village wrote in a court filing that the pig is a potential public health hazard. She argued that if “every citizen were to openly scoff at the Village zoning codes...we would live in a lawless society.”

Ellie’s fate could hinge on federal housing guidance that says municipalities should provide a “reasonable accommodation” when a person can demonstrate an

animal provides emotional support for a disability-related need. Flatt’s attorney argues that his client meets that test, saying that Ellie allowed Flatt to get off his medication and cope with his anxiety.

The village has argued in court filings it is willing to make reasonable accommodations, but that Flatt never met the standard.

A note from a nurse practitioner saying Ellie helped Flatt get off of medication is in dispute. And while he keeps in his wallet a laminated card illustrated with a headshot of Ellie saying she is a “registered emotional support animal,” the village’s attorney said it was obtained online for a fee with no formal legal process.

“Defendant provided no legitimate proof that he is a person under disability, and no proof that his disability was remedied by having an emotional support animal, nor that the particular animal — a pig — was the only suitable remedy for his condition,” attorney Kirsten Dunn wrote in a filing last year.

A trial was scheduled to start March 22, but has been delayed. If found guilty, Flatt could face jail time or have the pig taken from him, according to his attorney.

Emotional support animals have become common in recent decades. After years of passengers bringing pigs, rabbits, birds and other animals on airplanes, federal transportation officials in 2020 said airlines no longer had to accommodate emotional support animals.

And Flatt is not the first pig owner seeking emotional support to run afoul of local housing laws.

In 2019, a family in the Buffalo suburb of Amherst were not allowed to keep a potbellied pig, named Pork Chop, they said was an emotional support animal for their daughter-in-law. An Indiana woman was told in 2018 to get rid of her emotional support pig for similar reasons.

Although people in the United States have been keeping smaller pigs as pets for decades, their advocates say they’re still viewed by some people as little more than livestock.

“There’s a disconnect in most people’s minds that even though these animals were imported originally as pets, they were never intended to be food. There’s still a lot of people who do that equation: Pig equals food,” said Kathy Stevens, founder of the Catskill Animal Sanctuary



## THE SELFLESS FIGHT FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS

By Diana Kozenyatko

Forgetting the fight that’s the most selfless of all  
A fight we put up for peace to the ones we say we love most

A selfless nature is taught by the ones who are most selfless of all  
Animals we see that teach us more than we thought at all

In a world filled with troubles and war we lean on companions who open the door  
Opening the door for a better hope helping us pray and comforting us most

Animals put up a fight so selfless we get distracted by how much love they really give us  
Showing us that we will forever keep fighting for them most

For their journey we fight to put up a peaceful fight for their voices to be heard  
We fight with words and protests for no harm although many think the act is harsh

The act we put on is one that shouldn’t just be a human right but an animal right  
Imagine a world where animals and humans had the same rights  
With rights where they would live a life of **freedom**  
With rights where they would live a life of **free will**  
With rights where they would live a life of **no harm done to them**

What a beautiful life that would be. ■

### A MAN IN UPSTATE... continued

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for rescued farm animals and a supporter of Flatt.

Still, many municipalities around the country allow residents to keep pigs as pets. Some local laws sometimes specify that pet pigs must be under a specified weight. Other laws allow only pot-bellied pigs.

Canajoharie approved a new law in January clarifying its laws on keeping animals, citing a surge in violations. Farm animals are still barred under the law, which spells out rules for residents seeking reasonable accommodation.

Flatt said he’s received offers from people to house Ellie outside the village, but he wants to fight to keep her.

“I’m hoping this sets a precedent that people start understanding that these are pets,” he said. “These are not something you go home and slaughter and eat.” ■

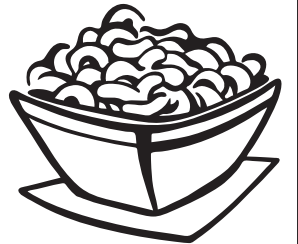
## GLUTEN FREE VEGAN MACARONI AND CHEESE

by Kelly Roenicke

Prep Time: 5 minutes  
Cook Time: 20 minutes  
Total Time: 25 minutes  
Servings 4 • Calories 496 kcal

### INGREDIENTS:

8 ounces gluten free elbow macaroni  
¼ cup vegan buttery spread  
2 tablespoons gluten free flour blend  
⅛ teaspoon dry mustard  
⅛ teaspoon sea salt  
⅛ teaspoon pepper  
1 cup non-dairy milk  
8 ounces Daiya non-dairy shredded cheddar cheese



### DIRECTIONS:

1. Cook gluten free macaroni until tender, about 15 minutes. Drain.
2. In a medium saucepan melt the buttery spread, then stir in the gluten free flour and the spices. Stir.
3. Slowly add in the dairy free milk.
4. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until mixture boils; reduce heat to a simmer, but keep stirring constantly.
5. Gradually stir in Daiya cheese. You will have to really whisk the cheese in so it melts and incorporates into the sauce. Daiya cheese melts nicely, but for the sauce to be smooth, you have to use a little bit of muscle.
6. Add elbow macaroni and stir to combine. Serve hot, season with more salt and pepper if desired.

Enjoy! ■

## AMAZON SMILE

In addition to your regular dues and donations to PAR there is an effortless way to do more. When you shop Amazon Smile you can designate PAR as the recipient of a percentage of your purchase. Thank you! ■





## ANIMALS CAN BE REFUGEES TOO

by Alan Taylor

Earlier today, a spokesperson for the United Nations International Organization for Migration said they estimate that more than 3 million people have now fled Ukraine since Russia's invasion began on February 24. Families fleeing the violence are limited in what they can carry, but many are making the effort to bring their beloved pets with them, uncertain of what lies ahead. Some pets that have been left behind, or are unable to be cared for, are also being rescued by organizations in neighboring countries. Gathered here are images of some of the refugee cats and dogs of Ukraine being cared for as family members, and brought to safety.



A woman carries a dog while crossing the Irpin River on an improvised path under a bridge, as people flee the town of Irpin, Ukraine, on March 5, 2022. *Image by Vadim Ghirda*



A woman carries her cat as she walks near Kyiv-Pasazhyrskiy railway station, in Kyiv, on the morning of February 24, 2022. *Image by Daniel Leal*



Yulia Vigrinyak, from Mykolaiv, cries as she holds her dog at the Isaccea-Orlivka border crossing in Romania after fleeing Ukraine, on March 14, 2022. *Image by Stoyan Nenov*

Volunteers arrive with more than 50 dogs and cats at the ADA Foundation in Przemyśl, Poland, on March 8, 2022. Pets are among the hundreds of thousands seeking refuge in Poland since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The ADA Foundation was started to provide shelter for abandoned animals. Its priority now is to provide food, medicine, and medical assistance to animals in



Ukraine, but mostly to evacuate animals into Poland. The organization has been able to evacuate more than 300 animals that have been brought to Lviv from the eastern

part of the country. *Image by Omar Marques*

Dogs are seen in an animal shelter at Orzechowce, close to Przemyśl, Poland, near the Ukrainian border, on March 10, 2022. The shelter welcomed 38 dogs and 32 cats

from Ukraine on March 9, 2022, taken from Kyiv by the German organization White Paw in several cars. "Many owners travel with their dogs and cats and they don't have anything for them, they are leaving home so fast. So after work here, I go to the center to bring some food to those animals," the shelter's manager said. White Paw is evacuating not only animals from Ukrainian shelters, but also the organization's Ukrainian volunteers to the west. *Image by Louisa Gouliamaki*



A veterinary assistant carries cats from a group of 20 at the ADA Foundation on March 8, 2022, in Przemyśl, Poland. *Image by Omar Marques*



A bag full of puppies, carried by a Ukrainian family to a railway station after crossing the border at Záhony-Csap, as they fled Ukraine on March 6, 2022, in Budapest, Hungary. *Image by Janos Kummer*



A woman carries a cat while crossing the Irpin River on an improvised path under a destroyed bridge on March 5, 2022. *Image by Vadim Ghirda*



A woman comforts her child as a pet dog looks on, at a refugee shelter after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, in Beregsurány, Hungary, on March 7, 2022. *Image by Bernadett Szabo*



A Ukrainian civilian takes shelter with a cat in his backpack at the Przemyśl train station, 20 kilometers from the Ukrainian border, in Przemyśl, Poland, on February 28, 2022. *Image by Abdulhamid Hosbas / Anadolu Agency*



People carry evacuated dogs after crossing from Ukraine into Poland, at the Medyka border crossing, on March 7, 2022. *Image by Louisa Gouliamaki*

## MY PROMISE

By Sabrina Bowker

I loved my dog Bear. He was with me for thirteen years. I had him since he was six months old.

It hurt to put him down. I went to Kansas City to the Blue Pearl veterinary hospital. I had been there before because it took CareCredit. He needed emergency surgery as his stomach was twisted. He had his surgery the Saturday before Easter. He was saved! I was so overjoyed.

I had him for an additional three years. When I put him down, I went back there as they took CareCredit.

I went back home on the interstate and was yelling at the slaughterhouse trucks. Yelling, "I know what you're doing!" Every single one.

When I got home, I was getting ready for sleep, I made a promise to Bear to finally go vegan. As I was falling asleep, there were animal spirits above me celebrating.

Shouting with joy.

It took a year or two, but I made it. Ten Years vegetarian and one and a half years vegan currently.

I loved Bear and I will keep my promise. ■

## ANIMALS CAN BE REFUGEES... continued

continued from previous page



A cat meows in its owner's bag after fleeing from Kiev to Romania, at the border crossing in Siret, on March 10, 2022. *Image by Clodagh Kilcoyne*



Antonina, age 84, sits in a wheelchair after being evacuated along with her 12 dogs from Irpin, at a triage point in Kyiv, Ukraine, on March 11, 2022. *Image by Vadim Ghirda*



A dog is seen among refugees from Ukraine who arrived at a bus station in Kraków, Poland, on March 11, 2022. *Image by Beata Zawrzel / Anadolu Agency*



A man carries his dog as he flees fighting in Irpin via a destroyed bridge after Russian forces entered the city on March 7, 2022. *Image by Chris McGrath* ■

## THE PENNSYLVANIA MONKEYS

by Rob English, PAR Member

Maybe you heard about the crash of the truck that was transporting 100 monkeys through Pennsylvania in late January. Each monkey was captive in its own box on the truck and when the crash occurred the boxes spilled and several monkeys briefly escaped. The escapees were soon caught and euthanized, but not before, out of an abundance of caution, one local woman had to be vaccinated for rabies. It's not known what diseases, if any, the escaped monkeys brought with them from Mauritius, their home.

Now why, you might ask, are 100 monkeys from an island in the Indian Ocean being transported through the Northeast US? Yes, Pennsylvania (Penn's sylvania) does mean "The forest of Mr. Penn", but the American state is not the kind of forest habitat that is home to monkeys.



Guardian news reports that the monkeys were being transported to a laboratory where they would be the subjects of toxicology studies – in other words many of them would be poisoned to see what happens. How gruesome! And how unnecessary!

The results of most, if not all, toxicology studies are known in advance because the studies have already been done on countless other animal victims. It's mindless to repeat such confirmatory experiments.

What's more, animal bodies are so different from human bodies that the only way to learn about human biology is to perform very careful clinical studies on human volunteers.

All results derived from animal studies must be retested in humans because one never knows if the animal results are correct or not. Absent that certainty, the animal experiments are ALWAYS a waste. Consider that scientists have rejected adolescent cats for studies on adult cats because the physiology of the adolescent cats is too different from adult cats – and yet we're giving experimenters monkeys to find out about human biology? It's ridiculous.

Experimenting on animals is a waste of money and time. When Dr. Jonas Salk invented the oral polio vaccine, he did it without using animals. The sellers of monkey cages and monkey food made no money from his efforts but society got its vaccine much faster.

God help the Pennsylvania monkeys that will be delivered to the toxicology lab. Some will be used as controls and some would be poisoned. The others will wish they had escaped into the wilds of Mr. Penn's sylvania, or better, that they had lived normal lives in their Indian Oceanic home. ■

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YOUR DUES DATE!**



**PLEASE  
check your  
dues date!**



**NOTE TO INDIVIDUALS:** Please check the expiration date on your mailing label to see whether you are due. This shows the month and year you are due, e.g., 4/22 means you are due April, 2022. All dues become due in either April or September of the year following the year you joined, whichever month is closest to the month you joined. The purpose is to coordinate dues with arrival of the newsletter since we do not send separate reminders. **There are two different ways you can renew your membership. Send a check or pay online at: [www.parcny.org](http://www.parcny.org)**

**NOTE TO ORGANIZATIONS:** We do not expect any contribution for you to remain on our mailing list, but we would appreciate receiving your newsletter in exchange.

*Why not check your address too? If you've moved, send us your new address and phone(s) so we don't have to spend extra money and time accepting return newsletters with those yellow stickers providing (sometimes) a forwarding address. Then we must collect and re-send the newsletters with those nasty stickers! Thanks very much!*



This paper contains 30% post-consumer recycled fiber

## **ONONDAGA COUNTY... continued**

*continued from page 3*

Part of the surplus money should fund a county-wide animal care and control system. It should provide sheltering/ adoption, spay/neuter, humane education, and basic wellness services. Here's why:

- Most – if not all – local animal shelters and rescues are bursting at the seams. Necessity forces them to turn away animals in need.
- Countless local pets have no access to rabies vaccinations or healthcare.
- Cat rescuers estimate tens of thousands of homeless cats live here. Funding "Trap, Neuter, Return" is the only humane way to reduce their numbers. TNR prevents cats from reproducing.
- The pandemic blindsided veterinary practices. The growing number of patients, new and established, wait longer for appointments. The sickest pets must take priority. This delays vaccinations, wellness care, and treatment for minor conditions. Vets compete to hire more staff from a limited pool of applicants.
- The waiting period for spay/neuter appointments has grown longer. Yet, spay/neuter remains the most effective way to reduce pet overpopulation and homelessness.

Low-income pet owners are animal rescuers at heart. They open their homes to strays. They rescue pets from unsafe, abusive or neglectful situations. They want their pets fixed and vaccinated. But money is scarce.

Fixing to Help assists the county's low-income pet owners with those costs. To date, we've sponsored close to 1,000 cats and dogs.

There are roadblocks. In Onondaga County there is only one low-cost spay neuter clinic. It serves low-income pet owners and does outstanding work. But one single clinic can't handle the overwhelming number of animals needing its services.

To fix a cat today, a low-income owner must wait up to three or more months for an appointment. For dogs, it's five to six months – half a year... lots of time for unwanted litters to pop up.

The need for a county-wide system of animal care and control has never been greater.

Mr. McMahon, to those suggesting other uses for these surplus funds, you ask for data. The county spent \$120,000 on an aquarium feasibility study. Local animal welfare nonprofits haven't the money or staff to prepare such a study. They're all barely keeping afloat.

Why not poll the 50+ animal organizations struggling to pick up the county's slack? Ask whether they need help.

How you can help - send a letter to Ryan McMahon highlighting your voice to stop the aquarium project (Send all letters to) - Open Letter to Ryan McMahon by County Legislator Mary Kuhn. Published monthly by: URBAN CNY Send mail c/o Eagle Media 2501 James Street, Syracuse, NY 13206. EMAIL: [news@urbancny.com](mailto:news@urbancny.com) ■