



HUMANE URBAN GROUP

Improving the Lives of Community & Feral Cats

SUMMER/FALL 2022

JOANIE'S Surgery

Joanie and her brother, Dustin, were living in a phenomenal foster-to-adopt home, having a great time. One day, Joanie's fathers noticed that she was breathing rapidly while lying down. Taken to the vet, she was diagnosed with Pectus Excavatum, also called "funnel chest." It's an uncommon congenital condition where the



▲ **Joanie wore a chest plate for three weeks.**

sternum and rib cage are misshapen and sunken. A kitten with this condition can develop cardiac and respiratory issues when there isn't enough space for the heart and lungs to grow. According to the cardiologist, Dr Goodwin, Joanie's heart was fine, but she still urgently needed surgery. This operation is more successful in young kittens because their bones are still pliable. It involves re-shaping the ribs and expanding the chest to allow more room for the lungs and heart to expand. To do this, the surgeon anesthetized Joanie and pulled her ribs forward, attaching them to an external chest plate on the outside of her body.

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A TRIBUTE TO ONE OF A KIND

FAREWELL and thank you to Peggy Ash. Peggy's generosity and dedication enabled HUG to provide several costly procedures that saved the lives of many cats. She adored animals and was deeply committed to their well-being. Even before she passed away, Peggy arranged to have her outdoor kitties permanently cared for by the Patricia H. Ladew Cat Sanctuary.



The plate remained there for three weeks to stabilize the bones in a proper position.

We're delighted to report that the surgery was successful. The plate has been removed and Joanie's sternum is as straight as an arrow! It was difficult finding a surgeon who had the expertise

to do this surgery. Many thanks to Dr. Carver from Veterinary Medical Center of Long Island.

Surgeries like this are complicated and expensive. If you would like to help cover Joanie's costs, please complete the form on the back of this newsletter or donate online at humaneurbangroup.org/donate.

◀ **Joanie was an excellent patient and very cooperative.**

A SHORT TAIL ABOUT AMONTE

One day, HUG was contacted by a member about a wounded feral cat named Amonte, whose tail was badly injured. The fur had been stripped off and the wound was severely infected. The cat urgently needed to be taken to a vet.

After several unsuccessful days of trying to trap Amonte, all grew concerned. The infection was spreading and could be fatal. Finally, feral cat advocate John Debacker was contacted for his trapping expertise. John is dedicated to rescuing animals and uniquely skilled with even the most difficult cases. He's in great demand but understood the urgency of the situation. Once



Amonte quickly recovered.



▲ The infection spread up Amonte's tail.

John arrived on the scene, Amonte was quickly caught and immediately rushed to the vet.

Most of Amonte's tail had to be amputated but he quickly recovered. He was taken back home and is doing great. Thank you, John Debacker, for always coming to the rescue!



Charity

Charity's CASE

Charity was found at a feeding station at only five weeks old. His continual cries drew the feeder's attention to the kitty's injured neck. Taken to the vet and treated, Charity completely recovered and is incredibly sweet. If you would like to adopt him, please go to humaneurbangroup.org/adoption-application.



▲ The wound made Charity continually cry.

Paw it Forward

By Ruthie & Rosie

Hello, dear readers, we are Rosie and Ruthie. We were rescued by Humane Urban Group in 2018 and are now eager to announce that we recently became big sisters to Simon the kitten! She was seven weeks old when she was found crying underneath our car, dirty, hungry, and scared. Simon was taken to the vet and guess what? She's perfect! Now part of our family, she is the happiest kitty ever. In fact, she makes us feel like kittens again! Rosie enjoys mothering Simon and won't let her out of her sight. We love teaching Simon how to play, jump, and do all the cat stuff that humans just don't understand. We think that it's good karma that we were able to save her. HUG went above and beyond the call of duty to save us and we are honored to paw it forward with Simon.



Ruthie & Rosie in 2018



Simon

Mini Millie & HER BIG SURPRISE

Millie showed up at a feeding station and was unbelievably friendly. The feeder picked Millie up and put her in a carrier without a problem, knowing that such a cat could be easily adopted. Millie was so grateful to be rescued! HUG brought her to The Cat Doctor and was surprised to learn that this petite kitty was very pregnant. Millie soon gave birth to two kittens, Faith and Hope. The whole furry family is doing well and will soon be ready for adoption.

Millie is just one of many friendly cats that may have been abandoned because there is no shelter for them in the Town of North Hempstead. We are the only town on Long Island that has a dog shelter but not one for



◀ **Millie is a wonderful mother to her kittens, Faith and Hope.**

cats. Because of this and the lack of an effective trap-neuter-return (TNR) program, we believe that the population of feral community cats in North Hempstead will continue

to increase. In order to shrink the population, the town needs a cat shelter and must increase its free spay/neuter TNR program from only one day a month to five days a week, like the Town of Hempstead's program. If you would like to express your displeasure with the existing program, please contact town supervisor Jennifer DeSena at (516) 869-6311 or email desenaj@northhempstead.gov.

Gray's Miraculous Recovery

A community cat, Gray was fed regularly by a HUG member for over five years. When he suffered a wound on his rear leg and began limping, he was trapped and brought to Catnip & Carrots where he was given antibiotics. He was expected to stay for a few days, but two days later Dr. Saver could not believe how bad the wound had become.

Gray had a condition called Necrotizing Cellulitis, an infection of the skin that is like a flesh eating bacteria, and the infection was spreading up his leg. Not only did it look horrid, he lost all skin and the tendon was exposed. He also had a slight fever. Gray was medicated and

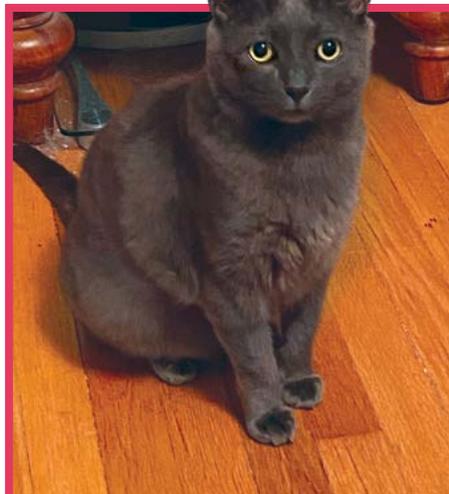
Gray's wound quickly spread up his leg. ▶



given a special dressing called Microlyte, which Dr. Campbell had read about. The dressing had to be changed every three days for months. We feared Gray's condition would be fatal as the infection continued to spread. It took several weeks before any improvement was

seen, but he eventually made a full recovery! Gray returned to his home after more than three months, but no longer lives outdoors. He now shares a house with two furry sisters and is thriving. Many thanks to Dr. Saver and Dr. Campbell from Catnip & Carrots for their dedication and devotion to Gray's care.

Healthy again, our furry friend now lives indoors. ▶





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MAKE A DONATION ONLINE AT
HUMANEURBANGROUP.ORG/DONATE



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If you would like to make a donation, please complete this form and mail it to HUG at the address above. You can also donate online at humaneurbangroup.org/donate. Annual membership is included with any donation of \$25 or more. As a member, you will receive information on economical and free spay/neuter as well as support and training in trapping feral cats. You can also make a one-time donation. We appreciate any amount no matter how modest. HUG is recognized by the IRS as a 501(C) (3), not-for-profit organization chartered in New York State. Contributions are fully deductible to the extent of the law. Every dollar goes directly towards helping the animals. No money is ever spent on salaries, rent, or professional fundraising.

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