



# ANIMAL ALLIANCE OF GREATER SYRACUSE

Making CNY a safer and more humane home for animals and the people who care about them

PO Box 94 Liverpool, NY 13088  
aags@twcny.rr.com www.animalallianceofgreatersyracuse.org

JOIN US FOR THE FIRST EVER **JORDAN'S WAY BOWL**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH, 2025**  
**6-10 pm EST**

**Laf!**

**Represent AAGS  
in silly games!**

**Fun!**



[More info on Page 3](#)

## Read all about it!

It is with great excitement that we let you all in on this bit of news!

## WE ARE HIRING!

Vets, Techs, and administrative help! Yes finally—2026 will be the year of the AAGS HQHVLC\* spay/neuter clinic!

The lease is signed. Next steps will include bringing the location to life with electrical, plumbing, and carpentry work. If you have experience in any of those areas, we would appreciate the help!

Our intention is to be ready for a soft opening in early 2026!

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\*HQHVLC stands for High-Quality, High-Volume, Low-Cost. So what does THAT mean?

High-Quality – means the process adheres to high veterinary standards through adherence to established veterinary guidelines.

High-Volume– means that the clinic performs a high number of surgeries



each day through repetition of specialized techniques, efficient procedures, and standardized protocols.

Low-Cost– volume and efficiency allow for low costs, removing a financial barrier that prevent many low-income families from altering their pets.

Due to these specialized approaches, HQHVLC Spay/Neuter programs allow communities to make progress against pet overpopulation.

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## **So what is Jordan's Way Bowl?**

Get ready for an entertaining experience at a fundraiser destined to ignite excitement all the way from Wichita Falls, TX to Syracuse, NY and beyond! This is not just a fundraiser, it's a day of fun, laughter, and friendly competition that you won't want to miss.

Imagine this: the Animal Alliance and Rescue Love will join a gathering of one hundred remarkable non-profit animal organizations, each rallying its passionate members for a day packed with exhilarating challenges that promise laughter, camaraderie, and friendly rivalry. This event is set to be an unforgettable fusion of the playful, pie-in-the-face spirit of Nickelodeon and the heartwarming entertainment of the Jerry Lewis Telethon.

**Your contribution, no matter how big or small, will make a significant difference for the animals these charities care for. Don't let this opportunity slip away!**

As participants unite, you'll witness an explosion of energy and excitement, with games that inspire side-splitting belly laughs. The atmosphere will be electric as everyone joins together to raise funds that will be equally allocated to all the outstanding organizations involved.

Let's unite to celebrate, support one another, and revel in a fantastic day filled with fun and togetherness for the animals!


FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

REPRESENT AAGS



DONATE \_\_\_\_\_

## MERCEDES' STORY

On a frigid November night, a tiny calico kitten named Mercedes and her three siblings were separated from their mother—a frail black-and-white cat haunted by the pungent odors of marijuana and sewage. The young mother, on her third litter of the year, swatted at her kittens as they sought her comfort, their desperate mews echoing through the filthy, cluttered home where the owner's toddlers wandered barefoot. Their former owner, facing jail time for assault had already lost three kittens and likely planned to abandon the rest to the dangerous streets as well.

But fate had a different plan. Two brave women ventured into that bleak house of neglect. They rescued Mercedes, her trembling siblings, and another mother cat with her own litter, just in time to save them from a life of despair.



Among the nine kittens saved, little Mercedes was malnourished and covered in fleas yet brimming with spirit. A dedicated foster network sprang into action, showering her and her siblings with the love and care they so desperately needed. But heartache lingered in the shadows; Tiny, one of her brothers, slipped away shortly after their rescue. With tender care, Mercedes and her remaining siblings began to thrive, only to face another tragic blow: Jeep, another brother, was lost unexpectedly. The two sisters were taken to a veterinary assistant, where initial examinations revealed nothing alarming.

But just days later, dark clouds gathered once more as Mercedes became critically constipated. A rushed trip to the vet unveiled the startling truth: she was seriously blocked. X-rays painted a troubling picture, revealing malformations in her hip joints—likely a painful legacy of inbreeding. Although her dysplasia could wait, the priority was clear: Mercedes was in grave danger. Only nine weeks old and weighing a mere two pounds, she was whisked into emergency surgery, at a cost of over \$1,600.

In an unexpected twist, Mercedes emerged victorious from the shadows of the operating table that gloomy Saturday night, cradled gently in the arms of a devoted veterinary assistant for her recovery.

However, just when hope flickered brightly, it dimmed again. Mercedes developed a perilous infection: her incision site leaked a foul liquid, and fever raged within her fragile body as sepsis began to tighten its grip. Friends offered prayers and support.

Despite the unwavering love and relentless hope, tragedy struck early Tuesday morning as Mercedes slipped away, joining her siblings in that eternal slumber.

A week later, the rescuer returned to honor Mercedes at a heartfelt memorial. Though her spirit had soared away, it was comforting to know that her sister, Lexi, had flourished, doubling in size and brimming with life. Lexi would soon find her forever home, a testament to the love and commitment of the foster network.

Mercedes was a brave soul, her essence a reminder of the countless innocent lives that hang in the balance. Her story shines a light on the painful intersection of human neglect and animal suffering. The very individual who allowed her cats to breed unchecked was also creating a chaotic environment for her children, a reminder of the urgent need for change.

This community must evolve—both for the sake of the animals and for the people who care for them. We owe it to every innocent creature like Mercedes to weave a stronger safety net across Central New York, ensuring their protection. This effort requires time, resources, and an unwavering commitment.

**High-quality, High-volume, Low-cost (HQHVLC) spay/neuter programs are vital** in tackling the overwhelming population crisis we face. While many pet owners might not utilize these services, rescuers and foster caregivers understand that we cannot simply adopt our way out of this crisis. By embracing and championing these essential initiatives, we can shield the countless vulnerable kittens and puppies entering our community without love or safety.

Mercedes mattered, and so do all the others like her out there suffering on our streets. Isn't it time we took action?

## Are we ready to rise to this challenge?

The collage features several logos and graphics:

- Guidestar** logo with a gold-bordered box containing the text: "Gold Transparency 2023" and "Candid."
- ACLS DIRECT, LLC** logo, a red oval with white text.
- The Noise Source** logo, a yellow triangle with a black lightning bolt on a black background.
- ROOFTOP REALTY GROUP, LLC** logo, a red rectangle with a white house icon and white text.
- NEW YORK STATE ANIMAL PROTECTION FEDERATION ACTION CENTER** logo, a green banner with white text and silhouettes of a dog and a cat.
- What is The LINK?** diagram, a Venn diagram with four overlapping circles labeled "Child Maltreatment" (green), "Animal Abuse" (blue), "Elder Abuse" (yellow), and "Domestic Violence" (pink). To the right of the diagram is the text: "Legislation... Intervention... Networking... Knowledge... ...to protect ALL vulnerable members of the family".

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Animals in Central New York are suffering. Their human families are suffering as well because veterinary prices are high, and nobody wants to discard a beloved family member. During the pandemic, many veterinarians and their staff left the field to care for families at home. Some practices died, while others were acquired by large corporations. The availability of appointments decreased. Prices increased. Many families could no longer care for their pets, leading to a rise in the number of pets being surrendered. As a result, animal shelters became overcrowded and had no capacity for additional animals. Many pets were simply abandoned and left to fend for themselves on the streets.

For years, the burden of rescuing and caring for stray animals in this area has fallen entirely on local shelters and all-volunteer rescues—without any meaningful support from the city or the county. The Animal Alliance of Greater Syracuse (AAGS) believes it's time for community leaders to step up, take ownership of this issue, and act.

Some government officials claim that caring for cats and dogs is not their responsibility. If this duty doesn't fall on the city or county, then to whom does it fall?

While the city's proposal for a larger animal shelter is a positive step, it only offers a temporary solution. The real issue remains: there is an urgent need for affordable spay and neuter services that are accessible to everyone. AAGS, a small all-volunteer organization, has been working hard to establish such a clinic. Despite multiple requests for assistance from both the city and the county, no support has been provided. If help had been offered earlier, many of the heartbreaking situations we are currently witnessing might have been prevented—or at least significantly mitigated.

So what do you think? Should the humane care of our cats and dogs belong to our regional municipalities, or should the local rescues and shelters continue to shoulder that burden? Send us the completed form below.

*Best,  
Jacqui Foss*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Does CNY need a new shelter? Y N City? County? Municipal? (Combines city & county)

Who should be responsible for the humane care of stray animals? City? County? Rescue Orgs?

Should a new shelter take in: Dogs? Cats? Rabbits? Chickens? Ferrets? Horses? Pigs? Other?





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