



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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When Will a True No-Kill Shelter TRULY Be Able to Return to Westchester?

Welcome 2016 ... Happy New Year! A year the Westchester Community anticipates the return of a true no-kill animal shelter. What could be a more perfect New Year resolution?

On December 17th, 2015, Pets Alive Inc. (an animal rescue located in Orange County- 363 Derby Road, Middletown NY) sent a press release announcing **their intent to transfer the Elmsford Animal Shelter (Pets Alive Westchester) back to the Town of Greenburgh**. Immediately following that announcement, Paul Feiner, the Town Supervisor of Greenburgh, and the Town Board expressed their intent to in turn transfer the property (located at 100 Warehouse Lane South, Elmsford NY) to Paws Crossed Animal Rescue.

One month after this announcement, Westchester is asking about the status of their beloved true no-kill animal shelter; one that was taken abruptly away from them in July 2015 when Pets Alive, Inc. made the decision to close the doors on the Westchester location and consolidate all assets (financial and animals) to their Middletown location. Westchester has patiently waited for news of the transfers that were anticipated to be completed by the **end of January 2016**; and still, there is no definitive answer, meaning rescue continues to remain at complete stand still for over six months and innocent lives are being lost each and every day.

“The closing in September of the Pets Alive shelter in Elmsford has meant fewer local spaces for stray pets.”, says journalist Jorge Fitz-Gibbon in an article entitled “Euthanasia Records Spotty at Animal Shelters”; a devastating piece on the practice and the unfortunately large numbers of animal euthanasia in the Hudson Valley. (Link: <http://www.lohud.com/story/news/investigations/2016/01/13/pet-euthanasia-lohud/78304792/>)

Paws Crossed and the community of Westchester have worked tirelessly with the Town of Greenburgh, which has played an integral part in saving this shelter from a fate of non-existence. The Town has received a proposed “Donation Agreement” from Pets Alive, Inc., but in order for that agreement to be accepted, the Town wants to be assured of an immediate transfer to Paws Crossed. AND, in order for Paws Crossed to agree to transfer

they need: (1) **A Walk-through of the property.** As stated in previous press releases, Paws Crossed understands that they are taking on a building with issues. To determine what portions of the building are deemed safe and operational, they have requested a walk-through of the property from Pets Alive, Inc. on multiple occasions. (2)

Agreement stipulations in the contract need to be discussed and clarified so that Paws Crossed is not taking on inappropriate liabilities. In the spirit of rescue, it is imperative that all parties work amicably together to assure a positive outcome. These transfers will be truly beneficial to the communities of Westchester County AND Orange County, and in turn, to the animal rescue world as a whole.

“Paws Crossed and our lawyers are working with the Town to do everything possible to make this transition as smooth as possible. We are hoping that Pets Alive Inc. will work with the Town in a similar manner so that we can all move forward and focus our efforts on our missions of saving lives” says President/CEO of Paws Crossed, Jennifer Angelucci.

While the original scheduled transfer dates (end of January 2016) will most likely not occur, Paws Crossed is hopeful all of these issues can be expedited and resolved. They are aiming to be on the Town Board’s agenda in early February 2016. Paws Crossed’s goal for Westchester County has not waived - to return the Elmsford property back to its original intended purpose, a true no-kill animal rescue. This means restoring rescue and rebuilding crucial programming that has been lost to the community and eventually bringing their Westchester legacy animals back to their home and to the people that love them.

For more on the history of Paws Crossed and this property, please visit their website at <http://www.pawscrossedny.org/#!/our-current-progress/xejif> and also their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pawscrossed.

Thank you!

Located in Westchester County, New York, Paws Crossed Animal Rescue Inc. is a 501(c) 3, not for profit, true no-kill animal rescue organization. Through rescue, adoption, advocacy, rehabilitation and education, our mission is to “RESCUE ONE BY ONE UNTIL THERE ARE NONE”.