



Lucky Star Spay Neuter Program News

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Our Mission: To gather, recognize and celebrate the continuing annual commitment of each of our member veterinarians to provide some level of absolutely free spay neuter services to the needy animals of their choice, along with any other free or discounted services they choose to provide.

PROUD TO PRESENT OUR LUCKY STARS!

We are proud to present this 2026 roster of Lucky Star Veterinarians. Together these professionals have generously pledged 394 absolutely free spay neuter surgeries & other free or discounted services for needy animals of their choice in 2026, for which they have our utmost admiration and thanks:

Dr. Erno Hollo & Dr. Melissa Rotella, Basking Ridge Animal Hospital

Dr. Danci Mock, West Caldwell Animal Hospital

Dr. Maritza Perez, West Orange Animal Hospital

Dr. P. Picone, Audubon Veterinary Associates

Dr. Sandra Stalder-Frey, Alpha Veterinary Care

Dr. Carolyn Wooley, MCSNIP, Pennington

Dr. David Croman, Medical Director, People for Animals, Inc., (PFA) Hillside, Robbinsville & Millville

DR. MOCK RETIRES

We offer thanks and congratulations to Dr. Danci Mock, now exiting Lucky Star & enjoying her recent retirement after **42** years in practice. We are grateful for her **22** years of pledges since her 1st in **2004**! May they be her "Lucky Star!" Having her with us certainly has been ours!

HELP GROW OUR LUCKY STAR ROSTER

Have U told a veterinarian about Lucky Star? Know a veterinarian U would like us to contact on your behalf? R U w/a shelter already receiving help from a Vet? Or, R you a Vet who worries a pledge of any # of free S/N's will cause U 2 B swamped w/such requests? (FACT: We've NEVER had a Lucky Star Vet leave 4 that reason or even report being swamped w/such requests.) Not practicing in NJ? No problem! Lucky Star has no borders. Happy to address any ?s or concerns. Drop us an email & let us explain how Lucky Star works! We LOVE our Lucky Stars!! But needy animals need even more Lucky Star Vets!

<https://luckystarprogram.org/luckystarprogram.nsf/Index/Home>

LONG VIEW ON ANIMAL WELFARE CHANGE

Aug Retirement News got me thinking of the valuable perspective those long in this work can offer! Right on cue, The Animal Welfare Assoc. ran their interview w/Shelly Simmons, in this work for 30 yrs. Read **all** her thoughts @ <https://theaawa.org/member-spotlight-get-to-know-shelly-simmons-cawa/> Here R some:...(a)"One of the biggest shifts I've seen in this field is realizing that **shelters aren't the solution to pet over-population**. The real work happens in the community. For yrs, success was measured by how efficiently we processed animals once they arrived @ the shelter. Today, the focus is on keeping them from entering the shelter in the 1st place—through **spay/neuter access**, community cat programs, & pet support services that help people keep their pets. As a municipal shelter director, that shift has been incredibly meaningful."...(b)"... If anything, what I'm most proud of is simply **staying in this work** continuing to show up, adapt, & lead through constant change, high stakes, & hard decisions. Animal welfare isn't a career w/clear finish lines or easy wins, & longevity itself takes resilience, perspective, & commitment. Being able to look back & say I'm still here, still learning, & still pushing for better outcomes 4 animals & people alike feels like an accomplishment in its own right." (c)..."One thing I've been reminded of lately is **how powerful collaboration can B** when everyone is actually pulling in the same direction. We recently partnered w/ R local humane society, R clinic, & several regional groups for a 2-day TNR event w/ a goal of fixing 500 community cats for free. Veterinary faculty, non-profits, & a whole lot of volunteers showed up & got it done. It was a good reminder that the problems in this field get a lot more manageable when people stop working in silos & start working together."

WORLD SPOTLIGHT ON LARRY THE CAT

15 years & still on the job & in charge!

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/world/article/larry-the-cat-welcomes-andy-burnham-his-7th-british-prime-minister-to-downing-street-a-look-back-at-the-felines-15-years-of-service-in-photos-174304019.html>

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