



Lucky Star Spay Neuter Program News

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On the Web at: www.luckystarprogram.org

Email: luckystarprogram@att.net

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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 & 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

"LOOK CLOSELY!"- ROSCOE'S RIDE



"Roscoe didn't arrive at SNAP East in a car. He arrived in a bike basket. Tucked safely beside his dad, wearing his little cone after surgery, Roscoe rode home after receiving the low-cost neuter care his family needed. No fancy transportation. No extra resources. Just a loving pet parent willing to do whatever it took to give his best friend a healthier future."

Roscoe, post surgery & Dad, Source: SNAP -San Diego, CA (Some photos just need to be shared ☺)

TWO "S/N" ITEMS FOR SUMMER READING?

1st: In this & past LS News Vols, we've learned that: Pet insurance doesn't cover S/N! (Vol.117) When "National Pet Month" is observed, the campaign doesn't even include S/N as one of many ways listed to help animals (Vol 133) & pgs of pet stats reported in Forbes don't even mention S/N nor tally its #s or %s! <https://www.forbes.com/advisor/pet-insurance/pet-ownership-statistics> Meanwhile, overwhelmed shelters beg for \$ to care for deluges of kittens but rarely if ever for \$ for S/N. Check out this author's take on needed change: **"Why targeted, high-volume S/N must become the first duty of humane sheltering, not an afterthought"** by Ed Boks, April 2, 2026 https://open.substack.com/pub/animalpolitics/p/the-tenth-tenet-why-no-kill-and-socially?utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=email

2nd: Having once lived & worked in NYC for 20 yrs, my eyes often turn to NYC news. I knew Rikers Island was & still is home to an "infamous" NYC jail, but not about these cats, this work, its long history, amazing progress & future needs. The inspiring story of today's all volunteer **Rikers Island Cat Rescue**, 501(c)(3) (See <https://www.ricr.org/about/>), those who care for the cats, generous help they receive & challenges yet to be met show the power of caring, determination, dedication, support & of course S/N ☺. But, here's an added **PROBLEM!**: The jail is set to close in 2027, w/an unknown future for the hundreds of cats on the large island. The Rescue knows how they'd like to see those lives protected, right there on Rikers post 2026. Can they make it happen? The gripping story @ link below: **"Meet the Cats who roam Rikers Island"** by Haidee Chu - Jan.10, 2025 <https://www.thecity.nyc/2025/01/10/rikers-island-cat-rescue-sanctuary/>. PS. With thanks to the Coalition for NYC Animals, Inc. for their 2026 post below & leading us to the links above. https://open.substack.com/pub/animalsmatter/p/rikers-island-cats-and-the-cry-for?r=k7wtb&utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=email

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