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PILOTS TO THE RESCUE NEWS

Between our planes' maintenance issues and inclement weather occurring left and right, 2024 was off to a rocky start for [Pilots To The Rescue](#). Thankfully, we were prepared to use all the resources at our disposal to continue saving innocent lives across the United States. In the month of January, we rescued 7 dogs and 47 cats, one of whom was found abandoned outside of her former home, hopelessly waiting for her owner to return.

In this month's newsletter, you can meet a few of these beautiful cats and learn the hardships some of them had to endure before PTTR swooped in. You can also read a helpful tip for training your adopted dog to be less aggressive when greeting strangers!

Thank you for your support in making these missions possible! ☐

Story Survives Days of Freezing Rain to Find a New Home

Pictured here is the stunning Story, one of the 31 cats we rescued on January 14, 2024 in a collaborative effort with the [Wise County Humane Society](#). ☐

Story is an indoor cat who was suddenly left alone when her owners moved



away, leaving the poor cat on the front doorstep.

Believing her former owners would eventually return, **Story stayed in this same spot and endured several days of rain and frigid temperatures.**

She was eventually discovered by a Wise County Humane Society volunteer who had passed by the house before and noticed Story waiting at the doorstep.

Sensing the cat's fear and physical suffering, this brave volunteer took it upon herself to ask about Story around her neighborhood, which is how she found out Story had been abandoned. She eventually brought Story to safety at the Wise County Humane Society, which coordinated with PTTR to transport Story and 30 other cats to the Wise County Humane Society's rescue partner in New England.

The cats are now awaiting their forever homes thanks to our amazing drivers, [Albert](#) and Adrian, who picked up the cats in Virginia and dropped them off to a team of volunteers in Connecticut. □ Below are two of the other paw-ssengers who kept Albert and Adrian company during their trip up the East Coast: Marcie (left) and Mindie (right)!



Pixie the Shih Tzu Gets a New Start in Maine

On January 20th, PTTR got word about a young Shih Tzu named Pixie who had just suffered an unfathomable loss. Pixie was pregnant with a litter of puppies but had experienced complications towards the end of her pregnancy. ☹️

After performing an emergency C-section, veterinarians revealed that not even one of Pixie's pups had survived. In addition to medical care, Pixie was in dire need of love and support, which her former shelter didn't have the resources to provide.

PTTR sprang into action and harnessed our aviation network to get in touch with a volunteer pilot named Jenna Rouillard. **Jenna flew to Nassau County, Long Island to retrieve Pixie at the [Town of Hempstead Animal Shelter](#).** She then flew Pixie back up to Bowdoin, Maine, where [The Minnis Sanctuary](#) agreed to adopt Pixie and give her a fur-ever home!



Volunteer Spotlight: Kyle Morrison



This month, we'd like to shine some light on [Kyle Morrison](#), who has served as a volunteer pilot with PTTR since 2022. Kyle was first introduced to PTTR through his former flight instructor at ATP Flight School in Morristown, New Jersey, where he eventually earned his pilot's license. ✈️ He and his wife had previously adopted their dog, Oliver, from [SXM Paws Animal Rescue](#) during their vacation on the island of St. Maarten. While coordinating the adoption, Kyle consequently became an expert in overseas animal transport just to make sure Oliver made it to his new home safely.

Like a lot of proud pet parents, Kyle has turned [Oliver](#) into a celebrated Instagram star with more than 1,400 followers. ☐

Prior to his career as a pilot, Kyle thrived as a police officer for 8 years and even played 4 seasons as a pitcher with the Washington Nationals baseball team.

He currently works as a flight instructor with TriState Aviation. Kyle has since participated in multiple PTTR missions, all of which are very close to his heart. In the coming years, Kyle aims to continue playing a central role in the growth of PTTR, as he knows the life-changing impact a rescue animal can have on a household.



Adoption Tip of the Month ☐



As pet parents, we know dogs love to smell everything, including people they've never met. There's nothing unusual about that: Sniffing is how dogs learn about their environment. ☐ ☐ But humans don't follow the same rules as the dog-verse. **Aggressive sniffing from a dog they've never met can make human guests and strangers uncomfortable.** Don't worry, there's a proven trick for curbing this common habit, sometimes known as "The Palm Method." The idea is to give your dog something else - something more socially acceptable - to sniff.

Here's what to do:

1. Rub a treat your dog likes on your hand, so your palm smells extra good.
2. Hold your hand out to your dog. As soon as your dog's nose touches your palm, it's time for that good old positive reinforcement. Say "yes!" or "good dog!" and reward your dog with plenty of praise and a treat.
3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 until your dog seems to understand that touching their nose to your palm results in a treat.
4. Then, do the same thing but without rubbing the treat on your palm. Instead, just say "touch" or "greet" before offering your outstretched palm. Keep repeating this exercise until your dog automatically puts their nose to your palm whenever you say your desired command.

YOUR GIFT MAKES THESE MISSIONS POSSIBLE

Help Us Fly to New Heights in 2024 ☐ ☐

Thanks to your continuous love and support, PTTR is gearing up for a game-changing 2024. With a new, larger plane in our fleet, we're preparing to complete more missions, travel further distances, and rescue more animals. **In 2023, we rescued 1,003 homeless pets.** ☐ ☐ Guess what: We plan to triple this number over the next 12 months (at the very least).

We're also honored to announce that our commitment to honesty and accountability has recently been recognized by Candid's prestigious [Platinum Seal of Transparency](#), which denotes the highest possible level of transparency within a nonprofit organization.

Since our reputation is so important to us, we're currently working on earning our Top-Rated badge from [Great Nonprofits](#) for 2024. Would you help us out by writing a quick review using the link below?

<https://greatnonprofits.org/.../pilots-to-the-rescue-inc>

You can also contribute to our missions by purchasing PTTR's NEW [2024 calendar](#)! Each month features background info about a recent PTTR rescue and heart-warming photos of the animals we saved throughout the year. Remember: When you purchase any piece of [PTTR merchandise](#), you help us keep our planes in the sky by covering essential costs like fuel and equipment. It's because of you - our community - that we're able to continue our life-saving work month after month.



Keep PTTR rated as a five-star non-profit! Take a few minutes and visit [Great Nonprofits](#) to share why you support our mission.



Pilots To The Rescue Inc

Average Rating

★★★★★ 14 reviews

2023 Mission Stats



75
Missions



92,529
Miles



1,003
Souls



369
Cats



633
Dogs



1
Wolf



Pilots To The Rescue (PTTR) is a non-profit, volunteer-driven, 501c3 public benefit aviation organization. PTTR's mission is to transport domestic and endangered animals as well as people at risk. PTTR supports its network of trained volunteer pilots so they can focus on their missions and do the greater good.

EIN: 47-3415146

I would love to hear from you! □

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