
STEWIE TO THE RESCUE



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ABOUT...



OUR MISSION

Stewie to the Rescue was founded in 2010 by a group of animal lovers who recognized that the prohibitive cost of space, training, and health care is leading to the unnecessary abandonment and euthanization of scores of adoptable pets. Towards that end, Stewie to the Rescue is dedicated to helping the neediest cases by providing emergency funding and raising awareness.

WE SPECIALIZE IN THREE AREAS:

- Stewie assists low-income individuals with payment for medical expenses for their pets. This is primarily through our partnership with The Companion Animal Network, and their low cost vet mobile.

SEE PAGE 5, "MORE THAN A RESCUE".

- Stewie assists cash-strapped animal rescues with expenses whether it be for surgery for a cat they pulled from the ACC or training or boarding expenses for dogs that haven't found their forever homes.

SEE PAGE 6, "RESCUING THE RESCUERS".

- Stewie pledges money to help get animals out of the NYC Shelter system, Animal Care and Control (the "ACC") and into homes.

SEE PAGE 7, "PLEDGES".

WHO IS STEWIE?

STEWIE WAS MY FIRST DOG. WHEN I TOLD PEOPLE THAT, THEY PROBABLY THOUGHT I WAS 6 YEARS OLD, BUT I WAS 36.

So you can only imagine how excited I was when the day finally came and I brought Stewie home. He had me wrapped around his, um, paw from the start. Stewie soon became a Rock Star at the dog run. He would play fetch for hours at a time...and always managed to catch the ball, even in midair. Walking around the neighborhood, I would hear kids squeal, "Hey! There's Stewie!"

I loved the lil' guy so much that I started using vacation days and sick time from work to play with him. I also put the brakes on my (fledgling) comedy career to hang out with him more. Fact was, I preferred his company. Comedy club owners never licked my face when I entered their clubs.

Eventually, I met Josie, fell in love and we got married (and luckily for me, Stewie approved). The three of us moved to a new apartment, located near Riverside Park so taking Stewie out for exercise would be easy.

A month and a day after getting married, and one day after my birthday, Stewie and I were playing catch in the park during off-leash hours (7-9 AM). For some reason, Stewie got spooked and started running. I didn't catch up to him until he was out of the park, lying in the middle of Riverside Drive after being struck by a car. He was four years old.

I started **STEWIE TO THE RESCUE!** to honor Stewie's memory in the hope that we can help others save a member of their family.



HARRIS BLOOM

President, Founder



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OUR TEAM...



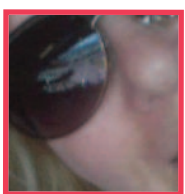
HARRIS BLOOM is the Founder and President of **STEWIE TO THE RESCUE!** He is also an animal advocate, stand-up comic, writer, accountant and zombie (he played one in a short film). He lives with his wife, their cockapoo, River (at least they think she's a cockapoo, as they found her in the park), and their human daughter, Zadie. He can be reached at harrisbloom@yahoo.com or stewietotherescue@gmail.com.



JOSIE BLOOM is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. She currently works with a social service agency which provides counseling and advocacy services to survivors of crime aged 12 and above, and has a small private practice as a therapist, specializing in working with trauma. An important component of her work includes a focus on mind-body healing for both clients and co-workers. She holds a degree in English Textual Studies from Syracuse University, a MSSW from Columbia University, and has completed post-graduate training in Advanced Trauma Treatment through the Institute for Contemporary Psychotherapy.



ED HEITIN is a partner in the Financial Instruments and Credit Group at PricewaterhouseCoopers. He has a degree in economics from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, an MBA from Northeastern University and is a licensed CPA in New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Washington DC. Ed and his wife live in Connecticut, with their multi-poo, Winston Churchill, who adamantly denies he's a dog!



JANE REYNOLDS owns See Jane Design in Cleveland, Ohio. She's a rabid dog lover, Browns fan (mascots that just happen to be DAWGS) and comedy lover. Jane's degree is from Kent State University, with a BFA in Graphic Design. Jane and furkids: Trooper, Katie, Bongo and cat, Pedro, sit at the ready to answer Stewie's bark to help pets! She's at www.facebook.com/SeeJaneDesign or seejanedesign1@yahoo.com

ERIN GARMONT - Director of Mixology

JULIE SCHNUR - Director of Confections

TARA DESANTIS - Director of Spontaneous Dancing/Singing



MORE THAN A RESCUE

THE COMPANION ANIMAL NETWORK AND THEIR VET MOBILE

We think **STEWIE!** is a special kind of rescue.

WHY? Because we not only help rescues with their dogs, by providing funding for medical care and training, but we also **HELP PET OWNERS KEEP THEIR PETS.**

HOW? We work with **THE COMPANION ANIMAL NETWORK'S** Low Cost Vet Mobile that is stationed outside the Manhattan A.C.C. twice a week and the Brooklyn A.C.C. once a week.



THE COMPANION ANIMAL NETWORK'S Low Cost Vet Mobile owner, Garo Alexanian, states that many times, the people who can't afford his already discounted medical treatment (which is 25 to 35% less than the cost of a regular vet) end up surrendering their pet to the ACC. Since these pets are sick, surrenders (so the shelter knows no one is going to come looking for them), and middle-aged (making them harder to place), they are often immediately euthanized. So, not only has the pet died, but the owner has lost their companion and family member.

While we take pride in helping rescues keep animals alive, we take special pride in keeping animals alive **AND** with their family. We are helping humans, too.

The following page highlights just a few of the dozens of animals that **STEWIE TO THE RESCUE!** has helped through the services of **THE COMPANION ANIMAL NETWORK.**



REWARDING WORK



COMPANION ANIMAL NETWORK HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD GOES TO ...

Even though **STEWIE TO THE RESCUE!** had only been in business for a year and a half at the time, **THE COMPANION ANIMAL NETWORK** chose **STEWIE** founder, Harris Bloom, as the recipient of their 2011 Humanitarian of the Year award.

When giving Harris the award **THE COMPANION ANIMAL NETWORK** founder, Garo Alexanian, noted that, in its infancy, the low-cost vet mobile was struggling to make ends meet. Harris's donations and assistance through **STEWIE TO THE RESCUE!** made it possible for them to continue their essential work, and to become the thriving practice they are today.

"**STEWIE TO THE RESCUE!** saved our program."

COMPANION ANIMAL NETWORK needed help... **THEN ... STEWIE CAME TO THE RESCUE ...**



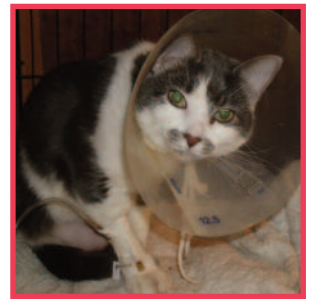
This kitten was hit by bus at Fordham Plaza, and was brought to the vet clinic. She had a broken jaw and internal hemorrhaging in the nasal and sinus areas and behind the eyes. Stewie helped pay for her surgery. She was on IV for 10 days, but eventually regained her mojo and made it!



Benji wasn't eating. His family couldn't afford a vet and certainly couldn't afford x-rays or surgery. Thanks to the low cost vet mobile and Stewie to the Rescue, exploratory surgery was done, Benji's inflamed bowel was fixed and another family got to stay together!



This sweet, 8 month old kitten was pulled by K9 Kastle even though she had a badly fractured leg. Thanks to Garo's team of doctors and Stewie to the Rescue, she's on her way to being adopted!



This kitty had ingested a string. Had to cut out a 1 ft length of the small intestine which had perforated and turned necrotic. Cats don't usually survive this type of surgery as it's just too much of a shock to the system and too invasive. Amazingly, this one made it! Thanks in part to Stewie's contribution!



Shelley was born with an imperforate anus. The vet wanted \$2500 just to operate. The owner called other vets, most of whom wouldn't do the surgery. CAN did it for \$1500, of which Stewie chipped in \$500.



Scruffy had ingested a ball, owner could not afford surgery, surrendered to the ACC. Thanks to Stewie to the Rescue, the vet mobile performed the surgery and hospitalized Scruffy for free and adopted him to a wonderful family in NJ!



RESCUING THE RESCUERS!

These are a few of the animal rescues that have requested and received assistance from **STEWIE TO THE RESCUE!** for boarding, training, or medical expenses for animals in their care.



501C3



Eleventh Hour Rescue
Their Only Crime Is They Are Out of Time



Frankie's Fund
For Feline Care and Rescue



emptycages
COLLECTIVE   



PLEDGES...



Most rescues barely have enough funds to care for the animals already in their care, which makes it difficult for them to pull and more out of the shelters. Pledges help rescues cover costs associated with pulling an animal, like vetting, grooming, training and transportation. In some cases, when an animal needs urgent medical care, pledges make it possible to pull animals that may otherwise get left behind, and subsequently euthanized.

KAY SMITH

Owner - Urgent Death Row Dogs

STEWIE TO THE RESCUE! accomplishes our mission by pledging to help animals that are about to be euthanized.

THE WAY IT WORKS: every day, the New York Animal Care and Control (NYC ACC) prints a list of animals that are going to be killed the next day, along with their pictures, behavior and medical evaluations. Though it is meant to be an internal list, intended only for a few eyes, employees sneak it to "Kay Smith" (not her real name), whose team posts it on Facebook under her **URGENT PART 2 - URGENT DEATH ROW DOGS** and **PETS ON DEATH ROW** pages. As of April 2012, these pages had over 58,000 fans!

Fans share their favorite animals and some pledge money to any rescue that pulls them. Most of the pledges are \$10 to \$25 each, but not everyone follows through with their promises, which does not save the animals.

Not only does **STEWIE TO THE RESCUE!** pledge up to \$700 for various dogs and/or cats who are about to be killed, but due to our good name, and the fact that we have always followed through on our pledges, rescues have more confidence in the money that we promise.

STARTING ON PAGE 8, are the stories of the animals who were on "death row" but saved, in part due to **STEWIE TO THE RESCUE** pledges!

THEIR need was URGENT! **THEN . . . STEWIE CAME TO THE RESCUE . . .**



BLOOM

**WHEN BLOOM WAS AT THE SHELTER,
A VOLUNTEER WROTE:**



"Bloom, which means flower in Dutch, was found abandoned in a park's bathroom.

What a sad way to dispose of an elderly companion. Bloom is marked by her disgraceful disposal. She lays at the back of her kennel, in the dark, hoping clearly to appear so small that nobody will notice her.

BUT I SAW YOU, LITTLE FLOWER.

It is important to get out of your shell, walk, eat, make some friends and hope. Bloom reluctantly came out, on her own, with my encouragement. She walks well on the leash and seems house-trained.

She does not want to eat, even of the best treats but looking at her progress, I think that she will, at some point. Bloom sits next to me at my request and lets herself being petted. At times, she looks at me and sticks her little tongue. We made contact. This is the first step. Later on, I came back for Bloom. She was in the middle of her den and came up-front as I called her. Dogs are so "natural" and know instinctively what is right for them. I promised Bloom I would be back for her. I hope you can consider Bloom, the lost flower in your search for a faithful companion."

STEWIE CAME TO THE RESCUE AND BLOOM WAS . . .



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STEWIE



"**MY NAME IS STEWIE** and I'm not a stray.
I was abandoned, like many other kitties!
I'm young, handsome, neutered and so
FRIENDLY and **AFFECTIONATE** that ACC
gave me the highest behavior rating!
I also love rolling over and showing off my
tummy!
PLEASE HELP ME TONIGHT!!!"

THEN . . . STEWIE CAME TO THE RESCUE AND **STEWIE** WAS . . .



CAMHI

**WHEN CAMHI WAS AT THE SHELTER,
A VOLUNTEER WROTE:**



"Camhi is so much fun! Though fully grown, she's as playful as a puppy and one of only a few dogs I've met in the shelter who knows how to play fetch, happily bringing the ball back every time.

GOOD CAMHI! Camhi walks well on leash and seems housetrained, she does her business as soon as we step outside. When ball time was over she was happy to chill out and cuddle with me while I rubbed her side."

THEN . . . STEWIE CAME TO THE RESCUE AND **CAMHI** WAS . . .



WESLEY

WHEN WESLEY WAS AT THE SHELTER, A VOLUNTEER WROTE:



"Wesley is such an attractive dog! He is young at one and a half years of age and was relinquished because of housing issues. His coat is silky, slightly wavy and shiny black. His eyes are copper. Wesley is a bit timid which is very understandable. He is quite friendly, though, and likes to be caressed. He is excellent on the leash and seems very much housetrained. His kennel is orderly and clean. Meeting other dogs is fine with him. Wesley can sit and stay on command – he even gives paw!

In the backyard, as I sit on the bench, Wesley comes when I call him. He sits by my side and accepts the petting, glancing at me from time to time, in agreement it seems. Wesley is a beautiful and gentle dog. He is at the Manhattan Care Center. Do not make him wait too long. He is a wonderful dog.

Another volunteer wrote: I had the pleasure of meeting Wesley today and being able to run my hands through his lush, well cared for coat. He is such a handsome boy, welcoming my caresses, happy to make a new friend. We took a nice walk through the park where he showed me how much he loves other dogs, going into the play position in invitation. Wesley acts like a young pup, eager to explore his surroundings, playful and sweet. Wesley will do well in an active home where he will get lots of exercise and stimulation, and most importantly, lots of love. He is waiting for his new family where he will thrive."

STEWIE CAME TO THE RESCUE AND WESLEY WAS . . .



WHITNEY

WHEN WHITNEY WAS AT THE SHELTER, A VOLUNTEER WROTE:



"It is almost impossible not to fall in love with sweet Whitney. She is a youngster, only ten months of age and life has not been good to her. Indeed, Whitney has been robbed of her puppyhood.

HER OWNERS HAVE LEFT HER TO STARVE,

without care and ultimately abandoned her in the street. Whitney belongs to a soft pillow and the lap of a loving master.

She needs to run after a ball and leap though the Central Park great lawn.

Whitney is with us right now. She is liked by many and her behavior as been rated as excellent.

Despite her extreme emaciation, she is pretty in her gray coat and matching gentle eyes. Her nails are extremely long and yellow. She was probably kept indoor or in a crate although, Whitney is quite good on the leash. She is a good listener. Whitney is the ultimate lap dog. She is very affectionate and showers her caretaker with kisses. Whitney won my heart."

THEN . . . STEWIE CAME TO THE RESCUE AND **WHITNEY** WAS . . .



ELI**WHEN ELI WAS AT THE SHELTER,
A VOLUNTEER WROTE:**

"Eli was scheduled to be put to sleep in 10 hours: I spent time with Eli earlier and gave him extra time outside and extra TLC, and a complete sausage treat.

If he ends up being killed tomorrow I wanted Eli to know and feel that someone loved him and made him feel special.

He's a little sweetheart and I was torn inside when I had to return him to his kennel. Should tonight be his last, I made sure that his kennel was clean and gave him

an extra blanket and a rawhide bone with which to play.

I've taken many dogs out when I knew they were on the list to be killed in the morning, but something about him really made my heart weep.

Little man, should you be killed tomorrow, I want you to think about the time we spent together tonight, and go to sleep knowing that there are (were) people to whom you meant something.

I pray to God that I can hold you in my arms again and take for another walk."

THEN . . . STEWIE CAME TO THE RESCUE AND ELI WAS . . .



MILO

WHEN MILO WAS AT THE SHELTER, A VOLUNTEER WROTE:



"Milo is a little speck, hugging the back of the kennel, a scared puppy (at first). It took a little coaxing for Milo to agree to join me for a walk, but tentatively he stepped out and off we went. Milo is only 6 months old, surrendered to the shelter by his owner who said he had no time for him. It is not surprising that he is scared in a place with lots of barking dogs, new smells and loud noises.

Milo is all puppy sweetness with a healthy shiny coat. He warmed up after a short while and his tail began to wag gently, although he was still a bit wary

of this new situation. We spent some time together and when I put him back in his kennel I made him a little nest for security. I passed his kennel all day with other dogs, and I saw that he was becoming more confident, coming to the front of his kennel to watch the activities. What a major step for this scared little boy!! I took him out again before I left and he has come along way in just a day. His tail wagged right away, he was happy to see me and he was clearly becoming more confident.

Milo needs a home with a person willing to put in the time to train him, and most important to love him and provide the security that he or any puppy needs. If you are the person ready to make that commitment to him, ask to meet him today."

THEN . . . STEWIE CAME TO THE RESCUE AND MILO WAS . . .



DESIRE

WHEN DESIRE WAS AT THE SHELTER, A VOLUNTEER WROTE:



"When I saw Desire sitting in her kennel I thought she must be a puppy as her feet seem so much larger than her smallish size.

She is not a puppy, she is a 3 year old mommy to be! Desire is a stunning gray girl with friendly eyes, big feet and a sweet demeanor. She appears to be house-trained, maybe even curb trained, 'going' as soon as we were outside. She walks nicely on

the leash, her tail wags, she is friendly to all and enjoys being pet and loved.

Desire is a quiet girl, easy to be with. She looks like she has been well taken care of by her previous owner as her coat is healthy and clean. She is on the smallish size and will fit well into any size living situation. This pretty girl is waiting for her babies to be born and needs a home where she will be well taken care of."

STEWIE CAME TO THE RESCUE AND DESIRE & BABIES WERE . . .



SOX



"MY NAME IS SOX.

I am a female gray tiger and white domestic short hair mix. The shelter thinks I am about 8 years old.

I came in the shelter as a OWNER SURRENDER on 04/09/2012 from NY 10035, owner surrender reason stated was OWNER HOSPITALIZED."

THEN . . . STEWIE CAME TO THE RESCUE AND **SOX** WAS . . .



SOFIE

WHEN SOFIE WAS AT THE SHELTER,
A VOLUNTEER WROTE:



"Sofie is an intact female, age one and a half. When you go to her cage to see her, she is so excited that you came up to her cage, if I didn't know better I would say she puts on a dance show.

HAPPY GIRL! Hopeful that would win her a ticket to your heart she has been looking for since 10-27-2011. Between that smile and that dance I am not sure why she is still here."

THEN . . . STEWIE CAME TO THE RESCUE AND **SOFIE** WAS . .



PETE

WHEN PETE WAS AT THE SHELTER, A VOLUNTEER WROTE:



"As I review my pictures of Pete, a couple of things are very noticeable: his tail is a blur in all photos as it is wagging nonstop. And, he has a little worry frown on his face; he surroundings are new and he is processing it all. Pete was delighted to be out for a walk, he is likely housetrained "going" as soon as we were out the door.

He pulls on his leash in his excitement to see and sniff everything so will need some leash training. He has a lot of energy so wasn't thrilled being tethered for his photo shoot as he would

have much rather been playing with the dogs that passed us. He does like to cuddle, so some down time was welcomed as he came into my lap for some hugs and petting. Pete, I think, will do well in an active home who can provide the exercise and stimulation he needs, followed by some quality snuggle time. He is a handsome boy waiting to meet his new family."

THEN . . . STEWIE CAME TO THE RESCUE AND **PETE** WAS . .



TESTIMONIALS...



"Simply put, without Stewie to the Rescue, the Low Cost Vet Mobile veterinary phenomenon we founded could not have survived long enough to become the enormous success that it did. Now in our third year, the only full service low cost mobile veterinary practice in the country, could not have developed into the busiest veterinary practice in NY State, treating 6,000 new patients a year, and over 10,000 including returning patients. Words cannot possibly express what Stewie to the Rescue has meant to the low income pet parents of NYC. Regardless, thank you Stewie. Your spirit is with us every single day, and with every single animal we help.



Stewie paid to treat this homeless man's dog, who was bitten.

Thanks to you Harris, I get the personal satisfaction of knowing what the power of life and death is. Never had that power before quite the same immediate way. Still adjusting to it. But you (and Stewie) took it to a new level for me.

Can't thank you enough for that, as it is a personal gift you gave me, by way of the animals."

GARO ALEXANIAN

CEO - Companion Animal Network

**STEWIE
TO THE
RESCUE**



Here to save the day.



"Thank you so much to you and your group for helping with Buddy's rehab! I hope we can find him the right owner who will love him as he should be. Groups like yours are SO needed by the smaller rescues. If I can ever be of help to you please let me know. Thank you, thank you again!"

SUE

TESTIMONIALS...



"I want to thank you so much for helping me with Chance. I noticed blood in Chance's stool one day and I began to freak out because I: 1. knew that something very serious could be wrong with him. 2. recently became unemployed and knew that the \$100 I had on hand would barely cover an office visit fee, testing and meds. 3. was turned down (after reaching out to several other organizations) due to low funds; so getting help for him seemed out of reach.

I was just about to lose all hope when I found your rescue. I emailed and was so relieved when I received a prompt reply. Chance was at the vet and received testing, treatment and meds shortly after speaking with Harris Bloom. I truly cannot say enough good things about Stewie to the Rescue and the timely manner and professionalism in which pets and their pet parents are respected and treated by Stewie to the Rescue.

Chance and I are forever grateful!"

GAIL NEUENDORF



"Stewie to the Rescue made it possible that six abandoned house cats, victimized by the sudden death of their beloved caretaker, find places in good foster homes, which in turn created the possibility of finding permanent homes for them. Lacking foster homes, they would have needed to go to the CACC, where they would have been euthanized after a day or so.

The grant made it possible that the cats receive spay/ neuter (it turned out that NONE had been spayed or neutered), vaccinations, and very im-

portantly, leukemia and aids testing. It would be an understatement to say that the basic medical for the six kitties was a very essential part of the entire process. All are currently in safe foster or adoptive homes, and this would never have been possible without Stewie to the Rescue."

DIANA BUSH



TESTIMONIALS...

"On September 13th my lovely friend, who also happens to be a black and white cat Timius was diagnosed with having a Pyometra or infection occurring along the lining of her uterus due to not being spayed. I ran around trying to sell what items I had and contact family members who may have been receptive to helping raise the \$1080 needed to help my feline friend heal. Your organization's generosity and charitable gesture, to pay for the remainder of the funds I was incapable of raising, has lengthened the time I have to learn from, celebrate and share my love with this being that's forever left an indelible, enlivening imprint in my spirit. I thank you from the depths of my being for making this possible.

Words can't describe my thanks and gratitude to the angelic nature and presence of your organization in my life. I'm a self-taught artist and would be honored to be a part of any fundraiser you may have in the future."

MISHA SHIPMAN



"On behalf of myself and my dog (Oscar), thank you very, for your recent contribution toward Oscar's recent emergency vet bill. I do not know what we would have done without your help and that of your wonderful organization (Stewie to the Rescue). We are extremely grateful for your generosity. In a world with so much indifference, your caring organization is a powerful force in our community.

When we reached out to Stewie to the Rescue for help your reply and aid was almost instantaneous. The compassion showed by Harris Bloom reflect credit upon himself and his organization Stewie to the Rescue. I will do anything I possibly can to help support such a wonderful organization.

Supporting Stewie to the Rescue and it's founder Harris Bloom is one of finest and most direct ways to improve the lives of our pets. Stewie to the Rescue not only helps the animals but it helps the people who love their pets. The benefits to everyone of such a wonderful organization are too numerous to count.

Thank you for all you do on behalf of everyone who has a pet in this community. Harris your dedication, fortitude and generosity are attributes that deserve the highest praise."

Sincerely,

MARGOT CASALENA & OSCAR (WOOF WOOF)

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**STEWIE
TO THE
RESCUE**



TESTIMONIALS...

"Stewie to the Rescue is run by the loveliest, most rescue minded man: Harris Bloom! All his group wants to do is help the rescues save the animals, period. Harris works extremely hard hosting and organizing the funniest comedy shows, all to donate to NY rescues. I have been to numerous shows and have also had one for a rescue I was with last year. All went smooth and the vibe is always upbeat even though the cause is so serious. Everyone leaves the show feeling great and the donation to the animals of course is the best gift. Thank you to Harris and Stewie to the Rescue for all they do every day for the homeless animals!!

Thanks!"

SANDY UNGER

Founder, Tuff Tails

"One of my friends needed expensive vet care for one of her cats. The cat desperately needed a dental and a biopsy on a growth in her mouth. My friend had exhausted all leads she had for financial help when she was told about Stewie to the Rescue. Stewie paid for almost all of the cat's bills. A little while later another of my friends told me about some guy named Harris Bloom who spoke before the board of directors of the CACC at their annual meeting. She was impressed with what he had to say and friended him on facebook. She then found out he organized fund raisers for other rescue groups at the Gotham Comedy Club and thought I would be interested. I got in touch with Harris and had my first official fundraiser last October. Not only did we have a great time, what a lineup, but raised some nice money for my rescue, Frankie's Fund for Feline Care and Rescue.

Since then I have called about Harris to help not only with some of my rescues, but with others I have found out about. 6 cats were being tossed out a window on 128th and Convent. Wonderful neighbors took them in, but all had to be spayed and neutered. They got them to the Toby Project and Stewie's foot the bill for all 6 kitties. I'm currently helping a woman rehome her 7 yr old cat that needs to be spayed. Stewie to the Rescue again. I can't speak enough about the help

I've gotten from Harris and would not hesitate to recommend him to anyone."

**STEWIE
TO THE
RESCUE**



BUNNY HOFBERG

Frankie's Feline Fund

THEIR need was URGENT! **THEN . . . STEWIE CAME TO THE RESCUE . . .**



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MEDIA TURNING A PERSONAL TRAGEDY INTO A CAMPAIGN FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

This article was written By Michael Mullins
about our Founder/President Harris Bloom
Published May 10, 2012

THE NEW YORK COMPANION

In July of 2010, Queens native Harris Bloom, 44, launched Stewie to the Rescue, a nonprofit dedicated to helping local animals in need while honoring the memory of his beloved dog Stewie, who was tragically killed by a car in November of 2008.

According to Bloom, two of the nonprofit's primary goals are to make sure that no pet is ever relinquished to a NYC kill shelter due to the expense of their medical care, and that no rescue group is ever prevented from saving an animal's life because of a lack of funds when a foster family or adoptive family is available.

Bloom's commitment to animal welfare is best illustrated in his willingness to not only fundraise for his own charity, but other charities as well, particularly area rescue groups. In the past two years, Bloom, an accountant by day who is also a writer and stand-up comic, has held approximately 50 comedy benefits for local animal welfare organizations, convincing fellow comedians to join him on stage and donate their time and talent to help animals in need.

HARRIS BLOOM THE ADVOCATE

For many in NYC's animal community, Bloom is best known, however, for his witty, no-nonsense approach when addressing Animal Care and Control's Board of Directors at its annual meeting.

In the world of animal welfare and animal rights, few would argue that women are the dominant force behind most initiatives and most progress. The gender gap is perhaps nowhere more apparent in NYC than at ACC's Board of Director (BOD) meetings, where every year, animal loving residents, overwhelmingly women, gather to have their questions unanswered and concerns seemingly ignored by an all male board which oversees the Northeast's largest animal shelter system.

Despite this, Bloom, meeting after meeting, tends to arguably draw the loudest applause and most supportive cheers from the predominantly female public when speaking to the BOD. Video excerpts from Bloom's address have gone viral on YouTube, courtesy of The Shelter Reform Action Committee. (Click here for video clip).

In an interview with The Companion, Bloom explained his opposition to ACC and why he's fighting for reform.

(continues)



CAMPAIGN FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

“The main problem [with ACC] is the structure. [It] is “managed” by the Department of Health (DOH). Under this system, the budget will never be sufficient as there’s no way that Bloomberg, or any non-animal friendly mayor, will allocate any more than the bare minimum that he can get away with toward animals instead of humans. Because of this conflict of interest, the BOD will only appoint executive directors who will not “rock the boat” as they don’t want the mayor (or themselves) embarrassed by how this city treats its homeless animals.”

Bloom continued, “Other problems include the lack of shelters in Queens and The Bronx, two boroughs who both have populations higher than all but about twenty cities in the U.S., and the need for marketing – most New Yorkers don’t even know that the ACC exists, or that you can foster an animal to make sure it’s a good match...”

“NYC should end its ownership of the ACC. They should give whatever budget they do now to an outside party to run it, with inflationary increases. I guarantee they can find someone willing to take on this task, as I would bet an outside non-profit would also do a much better job at fundraising. They certainly couldn’t do a worse job when it comes to alienating the rescue community... An ideal system would be somewhat akin to the success we’ve seen with the Central Park Conservancy and their upkeep, maintenance, and beautifying of one of the city’s most famous landmarks.”

Contracted out by the DOH to manage NYC’s animal control services, ACC is technically an independent non-profit; however, in the eyes of many in NYC’s animal welfare community, the two organizations are viewed as one, and for good reason.

ACC’s entire seven-member BOD is appointed by the city and headed-up by DOH Commissioner Thomas Farley. Also, ACC receives the lion’s share of its funding directly from the DOH. In 2011, ACC’s total operating budget was approximately \$9.2 million, of which \$7.1 million, or 77 percent, was provided by the DOH. As a result of ACC’s symbiotic relationship with the DOH, few in NYC’s animal community can determine where one organization begins and the other ends.

THE ORIGINS OF STEWIE TO THE RESCUE

On November 26, 2008, while playing a game of catch in Riverside Park during the park’s off-leash hours, something apparently “spooked” Stewie, causing the pup to run away from Bloom and out of the park. Bloom raced after his best friend, but was unable to catch him. Stewie was just over four-years-old at the time of his death.

The following June, Bloom, via a Craigslist ad, fostered and eventually adopted a Pit Bull named Kilo, a former ACC shelter dog who had been pulled by DakotaLove Rescue. Following a visit to ACC’s Manhattan Shelter, Bloom decided to take an active role in helping NYC animals in need. Initially, Bloom raised funds for DakotaLove

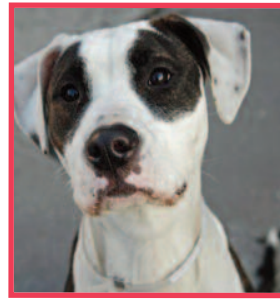
through his comedy acts, which led to his joining the rescue group’s board and eventually helping it become a corporation. In time, however, Bloom wanted to go in a different direction and following his wife Josie’s suggestion, began his own nonprofit. The rest is history.

Since adopting Kilo and launching Stewie to the Rescue, the Bloom family has grown to include a baby girl named Zadie, the couple’s first child, and a Cockapoo (Cocker Spaniel – Poodle) named River. Bloom found River in September of 2010 abandoned in a carrier on 101st Street and Riverside Drive, just two blocks from where Stewie was hit by the car.

To learn more about Stewie to the Rescue and purchase tickets for Bloom’s upcoming animal welfare comedy benefits visit WWW.STEWIETOTHERESCUE.ORG



HELP US!



THIS IS HOW YOU CAN HELP!

We can't do it without you and appreciate your support. There are many ways you can help **STEWIE TO THE RESCUE!** with our mission.

COME TO A FUNDRAISER! We sponsor trivia nights, wine tastings, bar socials, and monthly comedy shows, where the proceeds go to funding our mission.

- Donate an item for one of our event raffles. It's even tax-deductible!
- Create/run a fundraiser: Artist or photographer who creates pet portraits? Manage an event space? Own/run a winery?



BUY A T-SHIRT! T-shirts are only \$20 each (2 for \$30) and all the proceeds go to funding our mission.

Pay online with PayPal (on our homepage or paying to stewietotherescue@gmail.com) or mail a check made out to "Stewie to the Rescue!" and mail to: Stewie to the Rescue, c/o Harris Bloom, 280 Riverside Dr., Apt 4G, New York, NY, 10025

GIVE US YOUR CHANGE! We SINCERELY appreciate ALL donations!

CONTACT: STEWIETOTHERESCUE@GMAIL.COM

with your ideas or feedback.



JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

AT WWW.STEWIETOTHERESCUE.ORG TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS!



WWW.STEWIETOTHERESCUE.ORG