



Pilots To The Rescue News

We LOVE the holidays at [PTTR](#), because they're all about giving .

With the help of several major players in the pet care community - including the iconic BISSELL Pet Foundation - we rescued an incredible **86 dogs and 84 cats in the month of December!** And just as we hoped: the adoptions are rolling in, with more than a dozen animals in loving homes!

*We're especially proud of these rescues because they demonstrated the value of our new plane, **Big Paw**. Without Big Paw, we wouldn't have been able to fit so many animals on our plane at once, forcing us to leave some poor souls behind.*

But now, we can rescue FIFTY dogs and cats in a single mission, putting us in position to make 2025 our highest-performing year to date.

In this month's newsletter, you can meet some of our cutest pawssengers from this month's rescues, along with their new families! You can also learn a new tip for preventing separation anxiety in your newly adopted dog when you're working from home.

Thank you for your support in making these missions possible!



PTTR Teams Up with BISSELL to Fly 38 Souls to NY

On December 6th, PTTR Pilot in Command [Viking Thorsteinsson](#) and Co-Pawlet/PTTR Top Dog [Michael Schneider](#) took to the skies to rescue 27 dogs and 11 cats in a mission sponsored by the [BISSELL Pet Foundation](#). Accompanying Michael and Viking in the cockpit was social media influencer and pilot Mack Rutherford - a.k.a. [Mack Solo](#) - who currently holds the Guinness World Record for the youngest person in history to complete a SOLO flight around the world!

Here's Mack with two very lucky paw-ssengers from this mission.



Departing from our home base of Essex County Airport in New Jersey, Michael, Viking, and Mack first flew to Tri-Cities Airport in Sullivan County, Tennessee. With their furry cargo in tow, the trio flew more than 500 miles up North to Buffalo Niagara International Airport, where the dogs and cats were received by the [SPCA Serving Erie County](#), New York.

When you're flying so far up North during the winter, you're bound to run into inclement weather. Though this wasn't part of the plan, our pilots ended up touching down in Buffalo during a full-on ice storm, forcing them to stay the night and leave the following morning.

Happy they were able to find a nice comfy hotel room, here's Michael and Viking sharing a grateful laugh before turning in for the night!



Ready for a cuteness overload this holiday season? Our cargo also included five Labrador Retriever puppies, eleven German Shepherd puppies and four Coon Hound puppies, weighing just 5-6 pounds each:



Given their next-level cuteness factor, it's no surprise that some of these animals are currently settling into their fur-ever homes! That includes the adorable Hopper, pictured here with his new Mom and Dad:



PTTR Completes HUGE 50-Animal Rescue with CUDDLY

Just six days later, PTTR's Top Dog got behind the controls of Big Paw once again, this time with Co-Pawlet [Jason Oliver](#) and animal-loving TikTok personality [Kyle Thomas](#).

The crew first made their way to Asheville, North Carolina, where they picked up 25 dogs and 23 cats from the [Asheville Humane Society](#), [Mitchell County Animal Rescue](#), [Madison County Animal Services](#), and the [Henderson County Animal Shelter](#).



As you can see here, Kyle found a new friend in Peter the puppy.

These two were practically inseparable throughout the entire trip!

After picking up the pets in NC, the crew flew to Manassas, Virginia, to relinquish the 48 animals to [The Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation](#).

This mission is proudly sponsored by our amazing partners at [CUDDLY](#) and [The Swilled Dog](#), with a BIG thank you to the BISSELL Pet Foundation for coordinating this critical rescue.

Many of these paw-ssengers were rendered homeless due to Hurricane Helene's devastating effect on North Carolina. As if this sudden influx of pets wasn't stressful enough for local shelters, the hurricane has also triggered a significant reduction in adoption applications. That's why shelters in NC are relying on organizations like PTTR more than ever to find available space for these displaced pets.

But this tragic story has a happy ending:

Thanks to the extraordinary promotional efforts of the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation, at least 15 paw-ssengers have since been adopted by loving families, including Peter!





Pictured directly up above with her new Mom is Sadie, a sweet blind dog who will now enjoy a much higher quality of life in beautiful Northern Virginia.

You may have also noticed some of these new pet parents rocking their official PTTR tote bags. These bags are just one part of the fantastic adoption kits we provide to the new parents of the animals we transport. Distributed through our receiving shelters, the kits also include a re-useable water bowl for dogs or cats, a leash, a dry erase board with the PTTR logo, AND a dog or cat toy!

For more official PTTR gear, visit the [PTTR shop](#). Here, you'll find plenty of branded apparel featuring the "Adopt. Don't Shop" slogan, allowing you to display your commitment to animal welfare everywhere you go!



YOUR GIFT SAVES LIVES

Make a one-time or recurring
donation today!

Donate

Adoption Tip of the Month



Working from home can be a blessing and a curse for pet parents. On the one hand, you're home to walk your dog and give them all the care they need during the day. However, being home with your dog all the time can make it harder for your dog to relax when you're not around. Instead of learning how to keep themselves entertained, your dog relies on you to provide all of their entertainment. This level of dependence is what causes separation anxiety.

So, if you work from home, it's important to leave your house for at least a couple of hours per day. Two or three hours isn't very long, but it's enough for your dog to get used to being alone.

If you've never been apart from your dog for an extended period, start off in short increments: 15 minutes to a half-hour at a time. You can even leave out a few of your dog's favorite toys when you leave, since this tells your dog that you leaving = fun!

Additionally, try to encourage your dog to spend time in another room when you're working from home. This is one of those occasions where an interactive puzzle toy could come in handy: it will keep your dog entertained and tire them out while you work at the same time.

2024 was a monumental year in the PTTR journey. **We finally purchased a larger plane, saved nearly 1,000 lives, and forged partnerships with some of the most renowned pet care organizations in the country!**

Do you know why these companies want to work with us?

Because of you. That's right, YOU. 😊

When our community grows, so does our reputation. Companies like BISSELL, CUDDLY, and The Swilled Dog know they can trust PTTR because we have such a loyal community behind us.

That's why your support means so much right now. We need to stay active to continue our upward momentum into 2025. Get ready to see more PTTR rescues in the media, and more pets in loving homes.

You've helped us get this far, and we have nowhere to go but up.

So, please consider donating to PTTR, where your contributions will go straight towards our life-saving missions. If you don't have the means to donate, that's perfectly fine. You can find 15 ways to give at pilotstotherescue.org/support.



On behalf of the entire team here at PTTR, we want to thank you - from the bottom of our hearts - for being a part of our community in 2024.

We truly mean it when we say that every single contribution helps us save more lives, so we want you to know how much we appreciate your support as an individual.

As a valued member of our community, we thought we'd send you off into 2025 by formally introducing you to the executive team here at PTTR.

Wishing you a happy new year are the faces behind our life-saving work

Michael Schneider:
Founder/Executive Director/Chief
Pilot and Top Dog



Cheryl Martinez: CMO



Amy Shaw: Transport Coordinator



Albert Picewicz: Ground Operations
Manager



Patricia Jones: PR/Communications

Ashleigh Gaylor: Executive

Manager



Administrator



2024 Mission Stats

2025 Goal: 2500 Souls!



51
Mission



68,357
Miles



923
Souls



463
Dogs



425
Cats



33
Turtles



2
Other



From our Team at
Pilots To The Rescue

**WE THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!**

[Donate Today!](#)



Follow our rescue stories on social!



[View Email in Browser](#)

Pilots To The Rescue | 931 Manhattan Avenue Suite 3 | Brooklyn, NY 11222 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Our Privacy Policy](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!