



News Release: February 25, 2026

Contact Person: Nicki Armsby

Telephone: 518-822-8643

Email: nickiarmsby12@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Editor's Note: Photos attached.

AnimalKind Launches Major Initiative for New Home

***Building A Kinder Future* Capital Campaign already at 40% of the goal for Construction Project**

HUDSON, NY – After twenty-six years on Warren Street in Hudson, the board and executive officers of AnimalKind, the Hudson Valley's leader in feline-focused rescue and care, have announced plans to relocate to a new, purpose-built facility on Route 23. To fund the needed construction, they have launched the *Building A Kinder Future* capital campaign. More information can be found at www.akcapcamp.com

"AnimalKind, founded by Katrin Hecker who served as Executive Director for the first 25 years, has spent decades building trust, saving lives, and providing care with compassion," said Executive Director Nicki Armsby. "We're now at the point where we serve more than five thousand animals a year. We are deeply proud of what we've built in our current home, but it's time to take the next step. We are committed to ensuring that our new facility continues to reflect the values that have always guided us: service to neighbors, connection to community, and a deep respect for the human-animal bond."

Though they will miss their charming, four-story Victorian, the opportunity to construct a purpose-built facility allowed AnimalKind to really examine the needs of the community and the cats in their care. The new space will be one-story, with a third of the space dedicated for a medical clinic, and the rest for sheltering, a pet food pantry, adoption center, and office space.

AnimalKind provides an important lifeline for displaced cats from New York City – a service that has grown significantly since the pandemic. "Cat rescue organizations from New York City to Glens Falls turn to us when they have animals they need to re-home," Armsby said. "We plan to take approximately 200 cats from New York City this year. In addition to individuals, smaller rescues rely on AnimalKind to help with low-cost medical services. With our new space, we'll be able to provide spay and neuter service for less than a third of what private veterinary practices charge."

In 2025, AnimalKind purchased 4401 Route 23 in Hudson, NY. This 2-acre parcel, less than a 10-minute drive from their current home, has over 10,000 vehicles pass daily, and offers ample parking, room for growth, and a nature-infused setting. Thanks to generous donors and foundations, AnimalKind has raised 40% of their target goal for constructing and outfitting the new building.

“Everyone we speak with is excited in so many ways about the new shelter,” said Board Member Karen Aluise. “From simply having the ability to park their car in a lot for adoptions, to making clinic visits and donations drop-offs easier without having to look for quarters or figure out what zone they are in. The expanded suite of veterinary services means we won’t have to turn clients away, and an expanded community food pantry provides a healthier environment for animals and humans.”

Animal welfare donors from throughout the region and New York City have donated to make the new home a reality. AnimalKind continues to reach out to supporters and cat lovers who see the need and want to help create a lasting, safe and well-designed home for feline rescue.

Low-cost veterinary services are a key component to AnimalKind’s new home. The organization has already received donated x-ray and analytical equipment to outfit the surgery rooms, and they’re building the space with an eye towards affordable pet care. “People shouldn’t have to choose between caring for their pets and paying the electric bill, or paying for their food,” Armsby said. “We’re getting creative about getting more vets to do shift and per diem work, and reducing costs in our build. If we can bridge a gap there and support the community, everybody wins.” Nicki Armsby estimates the new space could allow AnimalKind to increase their low-cost veterinary services four-fold.

The future facility will lead to job creation, and will also allow AnimalKind to strengthen their ability to respond to emergencies. It will give consistent access to our emergency boarding service, which has been growing steadily over the years, and accommodates animals when their guardians are hospitalized, displaced, or face a family crisis.

Changes in New York State animal sheltering laws are also driving the move. With new requirements coming into effect, AnimalKind’s new space has been thoughtfully designed to provide a larger, modernized clinic that will accommodate current and future growth in service needs. “We started as a grassroots cat rescue organization, and we absolutely will keep that mentality,” Armsby explained. “But our current home was never designed to meet the scale and complexity of our work today. To continue delivering high-quality care and help more animals and people, we must invest in a purpose-built facility designed for today’s best practices in veterinary care, sheltering, and public health.”

With the new sheltering requirements, there is a concern that smaller organizations will be forced to close, putting even more importance on groups like AnimalKind. They are preparing with this move to the new space to take on additional cat rescues in response to a growing need in the Hudson Valley and a dwindling number of humane organizations that are equipped to handle the new requirements. Karen Aluise pointed out, “We have designed the project to reflect the needs of the communities that we

serve. AnimalKind has always stepped in to fill the existing gaps in animal care, and this new facility will enable us to expand those much-needed services significantly, efficiently and economically.”

Though the staff and volunteers will miss the Warren Street neighborhood, they are excited about the new move. “We treasure the neighbors who stop in, the curious sidewalk visitors who peer through our big windows at cats sunbathing in the afternoon light, and the volunteers who drop in to socialize with kittens,” Armsby said. “AnimalKind is such an important part of the Hudson community, and we’re absolutely going to continue that. We’re looking forward to better serving cats and their human companions in our new space, helping cats find their forever homes.”

About AnimalKind

AnimalKind is a nonprofit organization committed to ending feline overpopulation through rescue, care, and prevention. We believe every cat deserves safety, compassion, and a second chance. We are a vital and necessary organization that fills the service gap that traditional humane societies and shelters are unable to address. We rescue strays and provide needed medical intervention to abandoned animals, rehabilitating and socializing them with the goal of finding a forever home for every cat. Since our founding in 2000 we have helped over 50,000 cats and kittens. AnimalKind’s mission is to strengthen the natural bond between humans and animals through programs and services such as adoption, education programs, low-cost veterinary services, spay and neuter clinics, community cat programs, and a pet food pantry. Find out more at www.animalkindny.org or www.akcapcamp.com

###