



2022 Annual Report

Director's Note

I'm profoundly grateful to live in a city that, recognizing the intrinsic importance of treating animals humanely as well as the many connections between human and animal wellbeing, has a dedicated Mayor's Office of Animal Welfare (MOAW). In 2022 I had the honor of being appointed by Mayor Eric Adams to be director of the Office, which is well positioned to partner with government agencies and community members to advance animal welfare. Such progress is imperative for animals, the many New Yorkers who live with pets and service or emotional support animals, and our society as a whole.

New York City is fortunate to have a strong, compassionate community of animal advocates. Since coming on board in July, I've had the pleasure of meeting with many of the wonderful organizations and individuals committed to making this a better place for animals, and so, for all of us.

As we promote an equitable recovery from the longstanding inequities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, there is much to do in 2023. I look forward to working with agencies and others on several initiatives in the coming months – to Getting Stuff Done for animals and the people who care for them.

Alexandra Silver
Director, Mayor's Office of Animal Welfare

This report is issued to the Mayor and the Speaker of the City Council in accordance with Local Law 204 of 2019, which mandates annual reporting on the city's animal welfare service and program needs for all five boroughs.

Agency Collaboration

Day-to-day, the Mayor's Office of Animal Welfare (MOAW) partners with agencies including the NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), New York Police Department (NYPD), City of New York Parks & Recreation (NYC Parks), New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), NYC Department of Design and Construction (DDC), NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP), NYC Department of Social Services (DSS), and many more.

Supporting Tenants with Animals
in New York City



Housed within the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit (CAU), MOAW is in frequent communication across agencies as animal issues can be a part of many aspects of New Yorkers' lives and can often cut across agency portfolios, jurisdictions, and areas of expertise. MOAW is committed to promoting inter-agency collaboration and to breaking down agency silos to address animal issues more effectively and efficiently.

MOAW also facilitates community partnerships and trainings with city agencies. Since many animals are surrendered to shelters due to housing issues, in October MOAW and Animal Care Centers of NYC (ACC) provided a training for the Tenant Support team of the Mayor's Public Engagement Unit (PEU) reviewing protections and resources for clients with animals. We will continue to facilitate similar trainings and meetings to ensure city agencies and the many organizations serving people with pets are aligned.



2022 Annual Report

“This new Animal Care Center on Staten Island is not just a place for animals to be cared for, it’s a place for community and to teach our kids how to make a difference in the lives of animals. ACC’s work to ensure no animal is left behind is essential to protecting animals across New York City, and our administration stands proudly behind them. As we open this new facility today, let us live as Tommy Monahan did: With love and compassion in our hearts for our four-legged friends.” – New York City Mayor Eric Adams

ACC Capital Projects in Every Borough

Mayor Adams joined ACC, the Staten Island Borough President’s Office, DDC, DOHMH and other stakeholders to celebrate the grand opening of the new Staten Island Animal Care Center in October. The new 5,300-square-foot Center replaces an older facility to better serve the needs of sheltered animals with features including two large dog yards, medical rooms, and structural design to maximize the benefits of natural light for animals and people. The lobby was dedicated to the late Tommy Monahan, a young Staten Islander who had a deep appreciation of animals and was committed to helping them.



ACC—the nonprofit organization contracted by DOHMH to operate the City’s animal shelter system—serves all five boroughs, and additional capital projects are underway. A new adoption center is set to open at ACC’s Manhattan location in 2023, while renovations of the Brooklyn Animal Care Center will begin soon. Queens and the Bronx have long needed full-service shelters where residents could adopt a companion animal and look for lost pets as well as receive resources, and 2022 saw progress on both fronts. The Queens Animal Care Center is expected to open in 2023, and the Bronx Animal Care Center is anticipated to be completed by 2025.

Pet Adoption

At the time of writing this report, December 2022, the City’s animal shelters, like many across the country, are inundated, and the need for pet adopters and foster caregivers is great. The Adams administration has and will continue to promote pet adoption. In June, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) brought cats and kittens available for adoption to our “Kitty Hall” adoption event, and dogs from the ASPCA and ACC took part in “City Howl” in October.



Credit: New York City Hall

Given ACC’s high population of guinea pigs, in December MOAW testified in favor of a City Council bill banning the sale of guinea pigs in NYC pet stores (similar to NYC’s existing ban on selling rabbits in pet stores). The hearing took place a day before the governor signed a law taking effect in 2024 to ban the sale of dogs, cats and rabbits in pet stores across the Empire State.

NYC had already banned the sale of dogs from certain sources in pet stores. In line with that city law, the Health Department issued fines and denied a permit renewal application in January for an Upper East Side pet store after an investigation and complaint found puppies from prohibited sources in the store.



2022 Annual Report

Resources for Animal Guardians

While promoting pet adoption is essential, animal-sheltering across the country over the past several years has focused more and more on preventing animals from coming into shelters in the first place, and not just on rehoming efforts. We need to address root causes of animal homelessness, and help people keep their pets (see Agency Collaboration above). In November, MOAW and CAU joined with the ASPCA and others for a pet resource fair in the Bronx, and we look forward to holding more across the city.



New York City Emergency Management (NYCEM) hosted its annual Pets and Service Animals Preparedness Fair in Union Square in September, and city agencies as well as nonprofit organizations took part. NYCEM also facilitates the Animal Planning Task Force (APTF), a working group of government agencies and nonprofits involved in emergency animal response and recovery operations.

Humane Wildlife Management

NYC's diversity extends to the many species that inhabit the five boroughs, and NYC's innovation extends to humane wildlife management. The city's comprehensive and effective Deer Impact Management Plan, aimed at addressing the impacts of the large deer population on Staten Island, completed its 6th year and entered its 7th in 2022. The plan includes humane, non-lethal solutions and involves five parts: traffic safety measures, public engagement and education, a population control study using sterilization, natural resource protection, and impact monitoring.



The most recent deer population estimate is 1,452, a 29% decrease since Project Year 1, and there has been an 89% reduction in fawn births. The project year just completed saw the lowest number of deer-related collisions reported to NYPD out of every project year, and the lowest number of deer carcasses collected by DSNY. There was a 55% decrease in new Lyme disease cases on Staten Island since the beginning of the project. More information is available in NYC Parks' [Managing Deer Impacts on Staten Island Story Map](#).

White-tailed deer are among 14 animals highlighted on the city's [WildlifeNYC website](#), which offers tips for living with urban wildlife and invites New Yorkers to take the Coexistence Pledge.

Plant-Based Nutrition

Under the leadership of Mayor Adams, New York City has committed to building a more equitable, sustainable, and healthy food system. The City's plant-powered food initiatives are aimed at improving the health of New Yorkers and of our climate, but such efforts—including Plant-Powered Fridays at NYC public schools and centering plant-based meals in city hospitals—also hold great significance for animal welfare. Every plant-based meal we serve helps animals by moving our food system away from concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), also known as factory farms.



Credit: New York City Hall



2022 Annual Report

In February 2022, Mayor Adams signed Executive Order 8, committing the City to Good Food Purchasing (GFP), providing transparency about how mayoral agencies' procurements impact core values relating to local economies, environmental sustainability, valued workforce, animal welfare, and nutrition affecting the health of all New Yorkers. In alignment with GFP principles, the City is reducing its purchase of animal products.

At NYC Health + Hospitals, Lifestyle Medicine Programs focus on plant-based nutrition to improve high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, and other chronic medical conditions. Leveraging a team of physicians, nurse practitioners, dietitians, health coaches, community health workers, and others, these programs help patients transition to a healthful plant-based dietary pattern and make other positive lifestyle changes. The programs are currently being expanded from the original Plant-Based Lifestyle Medicine Program at NYC Health + Hospitals/Bellevue to 6 new sites across the system.

By being a national leader on nutrition and sustainability, New York City is making huge strides for animal welfare. Here, as is often the case, what benefits animals also benefits humans and our environment.