



Pilots To The Rescue News

Happy Halloween! October is national "Adopt a Dog" month, when we celebrate the unconditional love that shelter dogs bring into our lives. We've felt this love firsthand at Pilots To The Rescue. But when we think of the furry and non-furry lives we changed forever this past month, it's our community that deserves celebrating.

Thanks to your support, we rescued 107 dogs and 77 cats from euthanasia in October. Loving homes across the country are spoiling their new furry family members at this very moment, and these pets were given a second chance because of YOU!

In this edition, meet Poopie Louie, Julie and Della. One was abandoned in the South Carolina wilderness. One will give you a good chuckle, and another watched her pups find their fur-ever homes, but never lost hope that her own freedom flight would arrive one day.

Thank you for your support in making these missions possible!



Out Of The Woods Because Of You



Though she's just seven months old, you can tell by Julie's soft, sad eyes that she's been through a lot.

Shockingly, she was abandoned in the middle of the woods in South Carolina, locked in a crate, weakly panting, with no food or water!

She wouldn't have survived if she wasn't discovered by a shelter volunteer who just happened to be at the right place at the right time.

Pilots To The Rescue volunteer pilots MacKenzie Brendlen and Michael Nuzback took to the skies to fly Julie to safety along with 16 other dogs and 22 homeless cats.

It's moments like these when we really count on our donor community, and time and time again, we are blown away by your response. Because of your support, we were able to quickly gather the resources for a Mike-sized rescue mission.

On September 13th, Pilots To The Rescue founder Michael Schneider and volunteer pilot Stephen Nur flew to Greenville, South Carolina, to pick up the 15 dogs along with 50 homeless cats.

Since Mike was too big to fit in a crate, Michael and Stephen needed all the help they could get keeping him comfortable onboard.

Good thing they were joined by Michael's cousin, who made sure Mike was able to look out the window and enjoy every second of his freedom flight.!

Mike is currently safe in the care of a kind foster family in his new home state of New Hampshire. Can you believe such a goofy, loving dog was almost euthanized, solely due to a lack of a space?

Mike's story is a testament to the amazing power of collective compassion. He is alive today because of YOU!



Our 5,000th Save is Now a Fur-ever Pilots to the Rescue Family Member!

Get your Kleenex out, because something truly beautiful happened at our team retreat last month.

We had just saved our 4,999th animal. Then, our founder, Michael Schneider, had a special idea for our 5,000th.

He discovered a playful pup who was scheduled to be euthanized in a matter of days. By sponsoring his rescue, Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter was able to take him in, making him our 5,000th life saved.

But the magic didn't end there.



As we were introducing him to the Pilots To The Rescue team at our team retreat, he caught the eye of one of our volunteer pilots, Vikingur and his partner, Sarah.

It was love at first sight!

Tears were flowing all around the room as we added handsome Archer to our Pilots To The Rescue fur-ever family.

What makes this story even more special: Vikingur was the first to step forward as a volunteer pilot for Pilots To The Rescue years ago. After volunteering to fly 50 rescue missions, he's now welcomed our 5,000th rescue into his own home.

It's moments like these that show the incredible ripple effect of one "yes!"

Thank you for your support in making these missions possible!



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Abused and Imprisoned, Junior Gets a New Life

Looking into his eyes, you can tell Junior's life hasn't been easy.

Towards the end of August, South Carolina authorities responded to reports of a hoarding situation.

They found 39 dogs imprisoned in a decrepit property.

Some of the dogs were tied to trees and on the verge of starvation in the South Carolina heat. Others were in filthy kennels covered in urine and feces.

The owner of the property has since been arrested.

Finding space for so many homeless dogs isn't easy. Authorities had no choice but to turn the animals over to Horry County Animal Care Center, which is already well over capacity.



Because of your continued support, Big Paw was all fueled up and ready for another emergency mission.

Given Junior's past, he was understandably nervous about getting on a plane. You can't blame the little guy for being cautious around humans, but our shelter partners and their staff showered him with love and helped him stay calm.

Many staff members stayed well past their shifts to give medical exams to Junior and the other dogs, ensuring they were ready to fly.

Here he is, right before his freedom flight!

After braving the journey, Junior is now safe in the care of Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter in New Jersey.

With his gentle spirit and resilient heart, he's ready for a fresh start and the chance to feel the warmth of a forever home.

Every day, dogs like Junior are waiting for a second chance.



Honoring Our Founder: Michael Schneider Receives the 2025 Daher Excellence Trophy



We are proud to share that our Founder and Chief Pilot, Michael Schneider, has been awarded the 2025 Daher Excellence Trophy. This prestigious recognition, presented by Daher, the aerospace company behind our Kodiak 100 rescue plane, Big Paw, celebrates individuals who exemplify extraordinary commitment and impact in aviation.

This award not only shines a light on Michael's vision and tireless efforts over the past decade to lift thousands of at-risk animals to safety, but also underscores the incredible potential of aviation in advancing rescue and humanitarian missions.

From our very first mission to today's 5,000th rescue, our journey has been defined by a simple belief: every life matters.

And while the trophy carries Michael's name, it truly belongs to our entire community — the volunteers, partners, and supporters who make each flight possible. Every takeoff, every landing, every life saved has been fueled by your compassion.

Thank you for flying with us.

2025 Mission Stats

2025 Goal: 1500 Souls



From our team at Pilots To The Rescue

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

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