

2026 Mission Stats



54

Missions



77,092

Miles



1,443

Souls

Pilots To The Rescue (PTTR) is a non-profit, volunteer- driven, 501c3 public benefit aviation organization.

The mission of Pilots To The Rescue is to prevent at-risk animals from being euthanized by transporting them via air and ground transportation to give them the best chance at adoption. Volunteer pilots fly animals from critical situations to safety, ultimately saving lives.



I would love to hear from you!
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From a single flight in 2015 to saving thousands of animals from euthanasia, Pilots To The Rescue Founder & Chief Pilot, Michael Schneider, recently sat down with Dogster Magazine.

Listen to him share the story behind our origin, our growth, and how we rescue at-risk pets from overcrowded shelters to give them a second chance.



WE FLY TO SAVE LIVES



Pilots To The Rescue News

This year, Pilots To The Rescue has our sights set on a sky-high goal: saving 2,800 at-risk animals from euthanasia in 2026.

We know it's an ambitious flight plan, but because of our incredible volunteer pilots, dedicated rescue van drivers, and —most importantly—YOU as our co-pilot, we know we can reach our North Star. Which is why we are thrilled to report that our mid-year progress is absolutely soaring!



Thanks to your incredible generosity, we are already 52% of the way to our goal of animals rescued!

That means, so far this year, YOU helped us save 1,443 furry souls on 54 lifesaving rescue missions—including a second round of Ridgland beagles (pictured above). Special thanks to our board member Victor who volunteered his own plane while our Kodiak 100 rescue plane is in annual maintenance. We're just getting started, and with you on board, there's no limit to how many lives we can change. Thank you for making these miracles fly!

Dedicate A Crate Tag To A Loved One



Looking for a meaningful way to honor a loved one or celebrate a special occasion? With Pilots To The Rescue's new Crate Dedication Program, a contribution of \$1,000 or more sponsors a custom engraved crate tag that will travel on real rescue missions.

This is more than a sponsorship. It is a front-row seat to impact. We will "bring you along" on our missions and send you photos of your custom engraved crate tag with the dog, cats, and endangered animals you helped rescue!

For our latest beagle mission, we created 15 custom crate tags like this one for a supporter's granddaughters, Hannah and Macee who "squealed" when they saw the mission photos and read about the beagles' inspiring journey to freedom. Other tags celebrated birthdays, an anniversary, and others honored the memory of a beloved pet.

Each crate tag tells a story. Each carries a name, a memory, or a message filled with love. Each \$1,000 crate tag saves more than 5 furry lives.

A Family Flight To Their Happy Ending



If this story doesn't get your tail wagging, we don't know what will!

A young family of dogs found themselves in a heartbreaking circumstance: abandoned them alongside a busy road. For over a week, mama dog Lana did everything she could to shield her two 15-pound puppies, Leah and Leila, from the scorching Florida sun. Their home was gone; and their only refuge was the cramped space beneath parked cars in a busy shopping center.

In a bustling parking lot like this, danger lurked around every corner. The dogs were constantly dodging tires while seeking scraps of food. They were scared, starving, and desperately waiting for a miracle.

Yes, store workers and patrons noticed them, but they were so understandable fearful of strangers that they would run away at any human interaction. A local animal organization set up humane traps and, fortunately, after seven days on the run, Lana and her puppies were rescued.

Once secured, they were moved into a quiet foster home for some much-needed TLC. There, for the very first time in weeks, they enjoyed the comfort a soft bed. Slowly, the protective tension Lana had been carrying dissolved, as she realized her puppies were finally out of harm's way.

And where their heartbreaking abandonment ended, a breathtaking new chapter began. Mama dog Lana settled into her forever home the second her paws crossed the threshold. Her new owners say that she is "absolutely perfect" and they have become practically inseparable. Lana loves her new canine sibling, frolicking around their grassy yard, and living a luxurious life dining on delicious, homemade meals.

Additionally, in a beautiful twist of fate, bonded sister-puppies Leah and Leila were adopted together! They will never have to know the fear of separation, and will spend the rest of their days playing, growing, and sleeping side-by-side.



"Nobody Gets Left Behind—Or Forgotten"



If you remember just one quote from the Disney movie Lilo & Stich, it's the beautiful reminder that "Ohana means family, and family means nobody gets left behind—or forgotten." And these two puppy pals, named after that same dynamic duo, couldn't agree more! Just like the characters in the movie, this Lilo and Stich started out feeling a little lost and misunderstood.

Lilo, a 15-pound Catahoula and Stich, a 16-pound mixed-breed, bravely embarked on a freedom ride with 13 other dogs from South Carolina to New York.

Although their road to safety may have been a bit bumpy at first, these adorable pups are ready for their new lives in the fast lane! Like so many of the animals we save, we don't know the exact circumstances of how the real-life Lilo and Stich ended up in an overcrowded facility. Animals arrive at our partner shelters under a variety of different circumstances—some are found wandering as strays, some are abandoned, and others are surrendered by heartbroken owners who can no longer care for them. But, no matter how their story began, both puppies ended up in the same amazing destination: a loving home!

The Purr-fect Freedom Flight



June is National Adopt-a-Cat Month, and Pilots To The Rescue celebrated in the most rewarding way possible: by giving vulnerable felines the ultimate lift.

If you've ever moved to a new city, you know how jarring a change in scenery can be. Now imagine experiencing that from a cat's perspective! Cats are notoriously sensitive creatures of habit; they rely on familiar scents and predictable routines to navigate the world around them.

So when 40 feline paw-sengers boarded a recent freedom flight, they weren't just changing zip codes—they were changing entirely different climates. Our 1,803-mile flight took them from the heavy, humid heat of Florida, through South Carolina, and straight into the crisp, cooler air of New England. Some were understandably nervous, calling out for reassurance. Some stayed tucked quietly in their crates while every mile brought them closer to safety.

But the moment the cabin door opened in New England, something magical happened.

Fresh air poured in. Warm northern sunlight reached their crates. Rescuers were waiting with gentle hands, soft voices, and the promise of a new beginning.

Instantly, you could see the tension melt away. Their tails started to uncurl, anxious meows turned to curious chirps, and they relaxed, knowing they were safe—all thanks to you! Every rescue flight begins with animals who have run out of options and ends with lives forever changed. Thank you for giving these 40 beautiful cats, 40 second chances.

Your gift today can help the next cat board a rescue flight, where every purr has a home, every paw has a place to land, and every furry life has the chance to be loved.



From April 1 through June 30, 2026, Tito's Handmade Vodka pledged to match every gift you make up to \$50,000 to save twice as many furry lives. We're excited to share that YOU helped us reach our goal, which means we now have \$100,000 to fuel 10 critical rescue missions, saving up to 500 furry lives!

Thank you to our corporate sponsor Tito's for this generous match... and to YOU, for keeping our lifesaving missions in the air.

JUNE 26TH: HAPPY BRING YOUR PET TO WORK DAY
FROM OUR PAWSITIVITY OFFICERS!





MAIL-IN DONATION FORM

Online: www.pilotstotherescue.org/ways-to-donate/

Pilots To The Rescue is a registered 501c3 non-profit organization.
All donations are tax-deductible (EIN #47-3415146).

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Please list your employer (or former employer) here and we will be happy to check:

(or check yourself by going to: <https://www.pilotstotherescue.org/matching-gifts/>)

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