

The Pets Left Behind by Covid-19

The pandemic's human toll in New York has been well documented. But what about the dogs and cats of those who become seriously ill?

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Feraz Mohammed, right, looks after a dog whose owner was hospitalized with coronavirus symptoms. Desiree Rios for The New York Times

INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION FOR ANIMALS IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Presented by:

Christine Kim, My Dog Is My Home
Alexandra Silver, NYC Mayor's Office
Andrew Perlman, NYC Emergency Management

Presented to:

Maddie's Fund | Weekly Community Conversation
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About the Presenters



CHRISTINE KIM
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Partnerships
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Former Director of
the NYC Mayor's
Office of Animal
Welfare

Christine Kim is the founder of My Dog Is My Home. She is currently the Partnerships Consultant at New Women New Yorkers, a nonprofit that provides workforce development services to immigrant women in NYC. She also served as the first director of the NYC Mayor's Office of Animal Welfare under Mayor Bill de Blasio, the first office of its kind in the country. Christine is the recipient of the ASPCA's 2021 Public Service Humane Award for effectively uniting the animal welfare community and city government to tackle animal welfare issues in public policy, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Christine received her Master of Social Work from University of Pennsylvania and currently lives in New York City.

About My Dog Is My Home



My Dog Is My Home is a 501(c)(3) national nonprofit dedicated to **expanding access to shelter and housing for people experiencing homelessness and their companion animals.** By securing their ability to maintain their most important relationships and find adequate shelter, we ensure every family's right to build a home.

How We Work Towards Our Mission

We assist service providers like homeless shelters in expanding their programming to allow humans and their companion animals to remain together. My Dog Is My Home's programs currently fall into three categories: storytelling, community building, and technical assistance.

About the Presenters



ALEXANDRA SILVER
Director, NYC
Mayor's Office of
Animal Welfare

Alexandra Silver currently serves as the director of the Mayor's Office of Animal Welfare. Previously, Silver served as a community outreach & engagement manager at Animal Care Centers of NYC (ACC), the city's animal shelter provider. For 10 years, Silver connected with other organizations, stakeholders, and elected officials, working to raise awareness about how all New Yorkers can make a difference for animals. Her experience there afforded her perspective on the breadth of animal issues in NYC.

Passionate about animal welfare since childhood and a vegan since 2016, she shares her home with cats Lucas and Freddie Mercury, both adopted from ACC's Manhattan center, as well as the occasional foster animal.

Silver received her Bachelor of Arts degree in comparative literature from Princeton University.

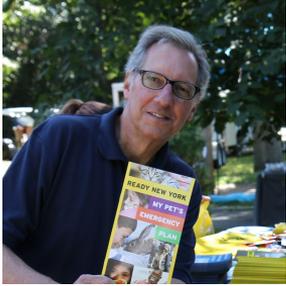
About NYC Mayor's Office of Animal Welfare



In 2015, a position was created within the Mayor's Office that would serve as a dedicated liaison between City Hall and the animal advocacy community. In November 2019, this position became permanent with the creation of an Office of Animal Welfare – the first office of its kind in the United States. This law went into effect on March 25, 2020. The Office has the power to advise and assist the Mayor in the coordination and cooperation among City agencies for animal welfare administration, regulation, management and programs.

The Office of Animal Welfare is a Mayoral office within the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit that promotes a vision for a fairer city to animal welfare. The Office recognizes the exchange between human social justice issues, environmental sustainability, and animal welfare, and therefore aims to facilitate solutions that address the integrated nature of these problems.

About the Presenters



ANDREW PERLMAN
Program Manager,
Human Services Unit,
NYC Emergency
Management

Andrew Perlman has worked at NYC Emergency Management (NYCEM) since 2016 and serves as Program Manager in the Human Services Unit. As an Operations Liaison, Andy responds to large-scale incidents, maintaining situational awareness between NYC's Emergency Operations Center and field response personnel. Andy also chairs NYCEM's Access & Functional Needs Working Group as well as the Animal Planning Task Force (APTF). Prior to joining NYCEM, Andy was a career firefighter in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Philadelphia.

About NYCEM and APTF



The Animal Planning Task Force (APTF) is a working group of governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations that balance the health and safety needs of people and their companion and service animals in emergencies, by providing rescue, shelter, veterinary care, adoption and fostering services. The APTF is chaired by New York City Emergency Management (NYCEM) and includes representatives from agencies and organizations in the New York City area that may be involved in emergency animal response and recovery operations. In collaboration with NYCEM, the APTF also educates the public regarding emergency preparedness for their companion and service animals.

Strengthening the Homeless Services System = Strengthening Emergency Management

- NYC's Homeless Services System
- How various types of crises end up being supported by homeless services.
 - Migrant crisis
 - Weather emergencies
 - Fire
 - COVID safety net (Mayor's Office to Protect Tenants)

NYC Mayor's Office of Animal Welfare - Liaison Between Community, City Hall, and Government Agencies

- Many New York City agencies/offices are involved in animal-related issues
 - Health Department, NYPD, Parks, Social Services, Emergency Management, Commission on Human Rights, Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence...
 - Animal shelter-system, licensing/permitting, animal cruelty, wildlife, housing, service and emotional support animals...
- External partnerships strengthen response/infrastructure
 - Hoarding cases
 - Cooling centers
- MOAW can look at the big picture, work towards addressing underlying issues
 - Co-sheltering
 - Pet-inclusive housing



- Planning
 - Fires, extreme weather, flooding, pandemics, utility disruptions
 - Disaster Animal Response Manual
- Responding
 - Vacates, evacuations
 - Cooling centers
 - COVID-19
 - Asylum Seekers
- Education
- Partners



Questions?

THANK YOU

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