

# National Cat Behavior Helpline

A program of Safe Haven Farm Sanctuary

*Newsletter #1, May 2026*

"I'm not going to give her up. She has had a lot of trauma and I don't want to add to it. Thanks for your advice. It worked."

- A Helpline Client

Launched in early March 2026 the National Cat Behavior Helpline is already keeping cats in their homes and out of shelters. Thanks to 35 animal shelters and rescues currently referring clients in need, we have assisted over 85 cat owners.

In April we attended Humane World for Animals' Animal Care Expo in Pittsburgh where we led roundtables on cat behavior counseling and the Helpline.

Helpline founder, Matt Wildman, was also [interviewed](#) by Humane World for Animals about the National Cat Behavior Helpline.

Read below for success stories, inspirational words from our cat behavior counselors, and an **upcoming Zoom event** about becoming a volunteer cat behavior counselor.

**To refer clients to this free Helpline, simply e-mail [felinehelpline@gmail.com](mailto:felinehelpline@gmail.com) with the client's contact information and a brief description of the behavior issue.**

## Success!

**Behavior issue:** Concern that new foster cat would stress elderly resident cats

**Outcome:** *"Thank you again for chatting a week ago about my foster Ricky. He's been doing great integrating, as are my resident cats. I decided to make it official and proceed with adopting him tonight! Thank you again for your advice, it really helped!"*

**Thank you e-mail from a client to a cat behavior counselor:**

*"Hi Nina. I am so pleased to say that we did most all your suggestions like swapping the smells, doing the gate thing and time, patience, etc.... all three cats are now getting along and things are so much better here thanks to your expertise and I thank you for a great cat behavior education!! It is all working out and I can't thank you enough for your excellent help and because of your suggestions I now have a success story! Thank you again Nina.... You do great work!!"*

## Volunteers Sought!

The National Cat Behavior Helpline will ultimately keep thousands of cats in their homes. Every week, more shelters and rescues are referring clients and we are also beginning to get calls directly from cat owners via word of mouth.

To meet the needs of our growing program, we seek more volunteer Cat Behavior Counselors.

**Please join us for a 30 minute Zoom info session about volunteering on the Helpline.** This remote volunteer opportunity, for which you will be fully trained, is unique in terms of the skills and knowledge you will learn and the impact you will make. Attend one of the following two sessions:

**Wednesday, June 3rd: 8:00 pm – 8:30 pm EST**

**Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm -1:30 pm EST**

To reserve a spot in one of the Volunteer Info Sessions, e-mail us at [felinehelpline@gmail.com](mailto:felinehelpline@gmail.com).

### What our Helpline Cat Behavior Counselors are saying about their volunteer experience:

*"I have been volunteering with the Cat Behavior Helpline since its inception and seeing how much it's grown in such a short amount of time is incredible! There is such a need for this type of program and I am excited and honored to be part of it. So often, with advice and support, rehoming a cat can be avoided. This program keeps families together and saves lives. It is so gratifying to be part of the solution." – Nina, Helpline Cat Behavior Counselor*

*I'm very excited about volunteering for the National Cat Behavior Helpline—a free and much needed service. In the time that I've been involved I've seen how support, information and empathy can really help cat parents who are struggling with a cat behavior issue. Most importantly it can keep them from surrendering their beloved family member, a win for both the human and feline and the overcrowded shelter system. I'm excited to see us grow and honored to be part of a solution focused mission I am truly passionate about. – Lori, Helpline Cat Behavior Counselor*

The National Cat Behavior Helpline is a program of [Safe Haven Farm Sanctuary](#). Located in the mid-Hudson valley in New York, Safe Haven is home to more than 170 rescued farm animals.