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“High-Rise Syndrome” Threatens Cats

**Animal Care & Control of NYC urges New Yorkers to protect their pets from potentially fatal falls**

NEW YORK – As the weather warms up, more New Yorkers are likely to open their windows and unwittingly put their cats in danger. All too often, cats fall from open windows and suffer severe trauma. “High-rise syndrome,” as it has come to be known, can include a variety of injuries, including broken bones and bruised lungs. Cats do not have to fall from high distances to be seriously injured, and are also at-risk on balconies and fire escapes. While these falls can be fatal, the survival rate is high for cats that receive immediate and proper medical attention.

Animal Care & Control of NYC (AC&C) has already taken in several cats with suspected high-rise trauma in recent weeks, including Himehaku. This young feline arrived at the Manhattan Care Center with severe injuries, most likely sustained when he fell out a window. AC&C networks with more than 200 other organizations (AC&C’s New Hope partners) to save as many lives as possible, and when AC&C staff reached out to its New Hope partners about Himehaku, Anjellicle Cats Rescue was able to take him, and he was brought to Animal General. The force of the fall was so great that it had broken both of Himehaku’s front legs and split his hard palate. The extent of his injuries is not uncommon in cats who have sustained such a fall, but he ended up being a very lucky boy – his mouth will heal on its own and his legs should heal after several weeks in splints with cage rest and lots of TLC.

AC&C urges guardians to protect their pets by installing window guards or sturdy screens in all windows, and recommends that cats be kept indoors. Pet owners should keep their windows closed unless they have proper screens to keep their pets safe.

AC&C often transfers animals in need of specialized medical care to New Hope partners, but also strives to care for these animals with its own resources. Individuals interested in helping animals suffering from high-rise-related and other injuries can donate to AC&C’s Special Treatment and Recovery Fund (“STAR”). ([http://nycacc.org/STARfund.htm](http://nycacc.org/STARfund.htm)), which provides medical care to homeless and abandoned animals in need. Those interested in caring for these cats and dogs while they recover are encouraged to join AC&C’s foster team by signing up for an orientation at [http://nycacc.org/Foster.htm](http://nycacc.org/Foster.htm).

About Animal Care & Control of NYC
Animal Care & Control of New York City (AC&C) is one of the largest animal shelter-systems in the country, taking in more than 30,000 animals each year. As a non-profit organization since 1995, AC&C rescues, cares for and finds loving homes for homeless and abandoned animals in New York City. AC&C facilities operate in all five boroughs. Visit [www.nycacc.org](http://www.nycacc.org) for more information.

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