

My name is Archie Crouse and I have been a part of the animal rescue world in the Greater New Haven area for over five years. I have always had cats in my house and as a teenager, I spent time volunteering at my local animal shelter. In 2018, I started working at Mew Haven Cat Cafe in Westville and in a short amount of time, I was manager there. At that time, I was also working with our partner rescue Animal Haven as well. We managed to become a huge community spot, not only for tourists but for helping animals get adopted too. After COVID, the new rescue that we were working with brought in all FIV+ cats so we could have an opportunity to educate the public about them and get them adopted, since they are often overlooked. They all went home incredibly fast once people were able to learn about the virus. After four years at the cafe, I decided I wanted to sink my teeth into something bigger and I am now the shelter manager at Branford Compassion Club in North Branford. We are an all cat shelter formed on the foundation of maintaining feral cat colonies and trapping, neutering, and releasing feral cats. We still keep up on these tenets 26 years later and we now have a brick and mortar shelter that we adopt friendly cats out of, as well as foster homes that we adopt kittens out of. My main goals as a shelter manager and a rescuer in the community are preventing surrenders, taking care of feral cats, and rescuing very sick and injured animals. With these goals, I know I would be a great addition to the humane committee.