



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public Statement from Kristen Arsenault, Trustee of The Christopher Arsenault Irrevocable Trust

In the wake of my father Christopher Arsenault's tragic passing on March 31, 2025, I am releasing this statement to provide the public with clarity regarding the status of Happy Cat, Inc.—the nonprofit organization he founded—and the future of the animals under its care.

Before his death, my father took proactive legal measures to safeguard his life's work. In May 2023, he established *The Christopher Arsenault Irrevocable Trust* to protect his assets, including the sanctuary property at 12 Dourland Road, and to ensure the long-term care and ethical treatment of the animals he devoted his life to saving. I was named the sole Trustee of that Trust, and with that appointment comes the full legal and fiduciary responsibility to carry out his intentions.

Since his passing, a number of individuals have surfaced claiming control over Happy Cat, Inc.—many of whom had no visible involvement with the sanctuary during his lifetime. These individuals have attempted to assume authority over finances, animal placement, and public communications without legal validation or organizational history. These actions are not only unauthorized—they are deeply harmful and misleading.

It is important for the public to understand:

- I do not hold or control the assets of Happy Cat, Inc., nor are any funds or properties frozen due to my actions.
- If these individuals claiming legal authority are legitimate, they should be able to access the organization's resources without demanding sensitive documents—such as a death certificate—from a grieving daughter.
- The establishment of the Trust was my father's deliberate decision to protect his mission and ensure that his sanctuary would not fall into the wrong hands.

Despite the chaos and misinformation, I have made every effort to communicate in good faith. I reached out directly to those claiming to be board members and formally requested:

- Copies of meeting minutes or internal votes documenting their authority
- Legal records or filings verifying their current positions
- A full accounting of any animals transferred, placed, or euthanized
- A list of all fundraising or donor campaigns conducted under Happy Cat, Inc.'s name



To date, these requests have been met with silence, evasion, or outright hostility.

In addition to these alarming developments, I've been made aware of attempts to discredit and slander volunteers who have spoken up or questioned the actions of those now claiming authority. These individuals—many of whom worked closely with my father for years—are being targeted simply because their knowledge and honesty threaten the pursuit of power, property, and control. Let me be clear: I stand with these volunteers, and I will continue to support those who act with transparency and integrity. No one should be silenced or intimidated for telling the truth.

Furthermore, the days following his passing have brought to light several unethical and potentially unlawful behaviors, including:

- Unauthorized use of my father's personal digital accounts
- The circulation of falsified documents to gain control and access funds
- Harassment and intimidation of myself and others advocating for transparency and animal welfare
- Active refusal to participate in a lawful transition of operations
- Reports of cats being euthanized without medical justification or proper records

I have received deeply disturbing reports—and possess direct messages—indicating that the cats currently being housed at an upstate location are being denied necessary medical care, with several animals reportedly falling ill. The communications reflect a lack of concern for the animals' well-being, seemingly due to the absence of fundraising potential or public attention. Additionally, there have been direct statements that the upstate sanctuary site will be abandoned, and that operations will be moved back to Long Island—in direct opposition to my father's documented intent to expand and transition the sanctuary's future to that upstate property. These actions are not only irresponsible—they are a betrayal of the vision he worked so hard to preserve.

As Trustee, my only obligation is to the Trust and the mission it was created to uphold. I am not aligned with any individual or organization outside of Happy Cat, Inc., the named beneficiary of the Trust. My role exists solely to protect my father's legacy and carry it out exactly as he intended.

Out of respect for due process and to ensure accountability, I have:

- Submitted a formal complaint to the New York State Attorney General that is currently under review
- Requested that GoFundMe place a hold on all fund withdrawals until rightful authority is established
- Initiated legal proceedings to protect the property and animals under the Trust's care

I have been tirelessly working to regain rightful authority—not for recognition, but to protect the lives of these cats, many of whom are reportedly “disappearing” from the warehouse facility without oversight or accountability. This is a violation of basic ethics and compassion, and I will not allow these animals to quietly vanish in the absence of justice.



To all who have donated: Every dollar raised through my father's memorial campaigns remains intact. None of these funds have been released to unauthorized parties. They are being preserved for their intended purpose: the rehabilitation of burned and displaced cats, and the reestablishment of Happy Cat, Inc. with integrity.

Until the assets are formally released and legal clarity is restored, I will continue to cover as many expenses as I am able—out of pocket—because their lives and safety cannot wait. No funds will be misused or redirected under my watch.

If you believe you may have unknowingly donated to a fraudulent fundraiser claiming to represent Happy Cat, Inc., please don't hesitate to contact me directly. I am committed to transparency and will do my best to work with the appropriate platforms and authorities to help recover misdirected donations wherever possible.

Let me be clear: This is not about personal control or ego. It is about ensuring the sanctuary my father built—and ultimately gave his life for—is not dismantled by opportunism or mismanagement.

I remained silent out of legal necessity, not indifference. But as misinformation spreads and animals reportedly go missing without oversight, that silence ends now.

It breaks my heart that instead of coming together to honor my father's memory and protect the animals he loved, this tragedy has been met with division, secrecy, and resistance. My father deserved better. These animals deserve better. And I will not stop until both receive the justice and dignity they are owed.


I also want to take a moment to recognize the incredible volunteers, trappers, and animal advocates who have shown unwavering dedication through all of this. Your compassion, resilience, and hands-on efforts have been nothing short of extraordinary. This would not be possible without you—and your work does not go unnoticed. You are the heartbeat of this mission, and I am endlessly grateful for the strength and care you continue to show in my father's name.

To those who truly support my father's mission: thank you. Your support has been overwhelming. In the coming weeks, I would like to share a roadmap to rebuild and restore Happy Cat, Inc. with leadership and structure that reflect the values my father upheld—compassion, transparency, and commitment to every animal's life.

With love and respect,

Kristen Arsenault

Trustee – The Christopher Arsenault Irrevocable Trust

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Disclosures & Notes:

1. **Legal Status:** Kristen Arsenault is the duly appointed Trustee of the *Christopher Arsenault Irrevocable Trust*, established May 2023. This Trust is a distinct legal entity and is not affiliated with Happy Cat, Inc., except where specified as a beneficiary.
2. **No Representations on Behalf of Happy Cat, Inc.:** At this time, the Trustee makes no representations on behalf of Happy Cat, Inc., its board, or any of its claimed officers. All statements reflect actions taken solely in her fiduciary capacity to protect the Trust's property and fulfill the intentions of Christopher Arsenault.
3. **Use of Funds:** All funds raised in memory of Christopher Arsenault remain under review and are currently held until legal oversight is confirmed. These funds will be released only in accordance with the wishes outlined by Mr. Arsenault and applicable state and federal nonprofit laws.
4. **Legal Action in Progress:** Formal legal steps are actively underway to address the governance and oversight of Happy Cat, Inc. These actions are being taken to ensure accountability, protect the organization's assets, and uphold its founding mission.

