



Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Joanne Gerow

Joanne Gerow has devoted her life to protecting the most vulnerable members of our community — animals in need. A lifelong resident of Sullivan County, she has spent decades serving as a tireless advocate for animal welfare and humane treatment. Her work reflects not only a deep compassion for animals, but also an unwavering commitment to improving the safety and well-being of the community as a whole.

As a Dog Control Officer for multiple towns and jurisdictions throughout Sullivan County, Ms. Gerow has played a critical role in safeguarding animals and supporting local residents. She has worked closely with law enforcement agencies to investigate cases of animal cruelty, respond to reports of neglect, and ensure that animals are treated with care and respect. Her role often places her in challenging and emotionally difficult situations, yet she consistently approaches her work with professionalism, determination, and empathy. Time and again, her efforts have led to meaningful interventions that protect animals and hold individuals accountable.

In addition to her public service, Ms. Gerow is the Founder and Director of Catskill Animal Rescue, a nonprofit organization dedicated to rescuing, rehabilitating, and rehoming animals across the region. Through this organization, she has helped save hundreds of animals, giving them a second chance at life in safe and loving homes. She has also built a strong network of volunteers, fosters, and supporters who share her passion and help extend the reach of her mission.

Over the course of her career, Ms. Gerow has demonstrated that one person's dedication can truly transform a community. Her advocacy has raised awareness, strengthened protections for animals, and inspired others to act. Her impact extends far beyond the animals she has saved, touching the lives of countless families and community members.

***Joanne Gerow was selected as a
2026 Women of Distinction honoree by Senator Peter Oberacker***

