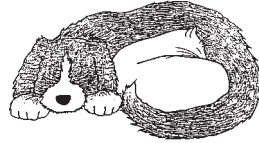




the  
League



Adopt Love!

## North Fork Animal Welfare League

501(c)3 not for profit · Incorporated 1963

P.O. Box 297, Southold, New York, 11971  
631.765.1811 · nfawl.org · director@nfawl.org

spring 2014

# What a Difference a Year Makes at Riverhead Shelter

by Gillian Pultz, Executive Director

It has been one full year since the North Fork Animal Welfare League took over operations at the Riverhead Animal Shelter and the changes made have been incredible. We started with a complete and thorough “clean and spruce”. Volunteer George DeLuca, a painter extraordinaire, painted the office and isolation space in warm and welcoming colors. A flower mural added a touch of whimsy. Many volunteers spent days scrubbing and sanitizing. It is amazing what a difference a positive appearance made toward changing the perception that the shelter was an inhospitable place for both people and animals.

During the winter “makeover” we began our most important work, improving the lives of the animals entrusted to our care. We provided high quality, individual nutrition and well care programs. We increased the number of outside exercise pens so each dog spends the majority of their days in the fresh air. We got permission from the Town of Riverhead to utilize the more than 70 acres of open space across the street for dog walking. We hired Gina Rizzo, an excellent dog trainer familiar with Riverhead dogs. Gina has enhanced their shelter environment while improving their behavior through love and consistent handling and training. Gina then trained many volunteers to provide the same loving attention. Happier dogs make better family members and this is why over 60 dogs have found their forever homes since we took over.

At the same time we were also concentrating on creating a better overall local environment for the animals in our expanded community. We started working very closely with local rescue groups including RSVP and SAVES to provide resources to needed pet guardians in our community. Thousands of pounds of dog and cat food have been distributed. We have provided dog houses, straw and coats and



Staff includes Tammy Henderson, Kate Paul, Eileen Kreiling and Munchkin.

most importantly we have provided more than 300 subsidized spay and neuter surgeries. We have met with the Town of Riverhead and local vets to develop a more humane wildlife management plan. And we have only just started!

This January we hired a full time shelter manager to run the day to day operations of the Riverhead facility. Eileen Kreiling had been working for the League as our Volunteer Coordinator, but wanted to work more hands on with the animals. She has proven to be a great asset as the leader of the Riverhead team. She has already made the shelter office more welcoming and we expect many more visitors. Under Eileen’s management we expect great things for 2014! ●

# Gina's Expert Training Changes Dogs Lives

Since Gina Rizzo joined our staff last year, her work has made an enormous difference in the lives of our



dogs. Working together with our staff and volunteers she has created a program to train our dogs to be more obedient and focused while making them happier and healthier.

Gina is a professional dog trainer and divides her time between Southold and Riverhead shelters. Her technique is simple; treat every dog as an individual, recognizing their strengths and differences. This has been the key to training and our success in finding the best home for each dog.



All of our shelter dogs are walked every day either by staff or volunteers. Gina recognizes that certain dogs can be walked with other dogs and still other high energy dogs need more exercise and go for a run with Gina and her

bike. Trained volunteers rotate walking different dogs. The more time the dogs have with different people the better behaved and the better prepared for their new families.

Another technique is mental stimulation which gives dogs opportunities to work for praise, affection, play-time, toys, rawhides, bones or Kongs stuffed with peanut butter and frozen.

Some dogs in a shelter environment need quiet time. This is provided by going on a car ride, time in the office or going for a home visit with a volunteer.

Each day Gina meets with staff and volunteers to compare experiences and make adjustments as needed for each dog.

Most importantly, Gina's efforts are translating into more adoptions.

Here is just one example of many such stories:

Buddy came into our Riverhead facility in March of 2013. His owner lost her job and became homeless and could no longer care for him. He only knew that he had been abandoned and quickly became depressed and began to fail at the shelter, both physically and mentally. Gina put together an enrichment program for Buddy that included one on one time for at least an hour each day. Gina was at the shelter every morning before dawn to personally implement this. Within weeks Buddy was a happier, healthier dog that was successfully transitioned into a loving permanent home. ●

## NFAWL Partners with Petco to open Cat House



On February 15th the League launched the opening of the Cat House, the cat adoption center at Petco in Riverhead. Petco is a leader in supporting animal welfare and promoting adoption of companion animals.

The Cat House features beautiful kittens and cats from our Southold Shelter looking for their forever homes. Petco offers a warm and safe setting for the House whose care will be managed by a team of dedicated League volunteers.

These volunteers come from the SAVES team that used to manage the adoption center.

The Petco location offers a great opportunity for our cats to find more potential adopters. Here we can conveniently serve residents in Riverhead and further west. At the same time it will enhance our presence in Riverhead Township where we currently operate the dog shelter.

All adoptions will be accompanied by educational materials on caring for your cat. In addition Petco will provide coupon packages offering 50% off selected brands of cat food.

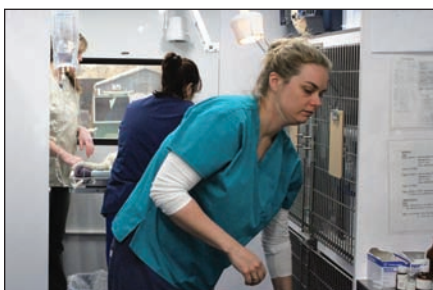
All of our cats are spayed or neutered, micro-chipped, vaccinated and tested for FIV and FELV. Come in and visit the Cat House soon and bring your friends.





## Free Clinic for Cats Celebrates World Spay Day

On Sunday March 2nd, NFAWL in collaboration with the Southhampton Animal Shelter Foundation hosted a mobile spay/neuter clinic at the Southold Shelter.



The event was coordinated by Dr. Teri Meekins and our Executive Director Gillian Pultz, both quite experienced in handling clinics like this. The mobile clinic arrived at 8am and when they were done 29 cats of which 22 were feral were altered. Every cat was vaccinated and all feral cats were ear-tipped. All other cats were micro-chipped.

World Spay Day is an annual campaign that shines a spotlight on spay/neuter to save the lives of companion animals, feral cats and street dogs that might otherwise be put down at a shelter or killed on the street.

The League reached out and the community responded. Reservations were taken via phone to be sure we could accommodate everyone who wanted to insure the safety and well-being of their cats.

“This is a very important way to protect our animals and serve our community”, said Gillian. “The need is there and the League is committed to staying on top of this issue.” The League will sponsor clinics monthly, if the demand is there. Please call 631-765-1811 for more information. ●

## Shelter Animal Recreational Garden in Southold

The Shelter Animal Recreational Garden (SARG) project was conceived as a way to improve the lives of our shelter pets until they find their forever homes, create a place where we can honor our donors and their pets and create an environment that will be more welcoming, educational and fun for our community. The project has been organized and will be implemented by a dedicated group of volunteers. Glynis Berry from studio a/b has created a design that is both functional and aesthetic. It consists of four phases, fragrance garden for cats, agility exercise area for dogs, meet and greet and walkway circuit and water garden area for dogs.

SARG will utilize the areas surrounding the Southold shelter including the front of the building and the grassy areas around the pens. Green screens between pens would also be desirable to decrease noise and stress.

We are counting on community support to provide the resources necessary to construct this Garden including garden nurseries, pool equipment providers, outdoor furniture dealers and dog exercise equipment. Our volunteers will design the landscape and hard-scape and do the preparation and planting.

We have already begun the fragrance garden for cats. It is adjacent to the open cattery areas. We already have some early fragrant bulbs blooming with scents we know our cats will love. We will begin other plantings this spring, once the ground can be worked.

We may need to raise additional money for some materials and of course we are always looking for more volunteers. If this project inspires your participation, please call Marlene @ 631-477-0052. ●



# Eastport Elementary School Visits Southold with Donations and Love

This winter we were proud to have a visit from Mrs. Wallace's and Ms. Cowden's 5th and 6th grade



class from Eastport Elementary School. The visit was part of their Service Learning Project to help others in need and they chose to educate themselves about the humane treatment of animals.

As part of the project the students placed collection boxes around the school for donated items such as food and toys for the shelter. However, the

students wanted to deliver the donated items themselves, so they raised enough money to rent a bus by selling pens, notebooks, folders and bandanas during lunchtime.

The classes studied the NFAWL website to become familiar with the staff and pets before their visit. Then an excited group of kids arrived in Southold, to meet our team and our dogs and cats.

Their bus was stuffed with items donated by the generous students from Eastport Elementary and the kids formed a human assembly line to unload over 300 items for the shelter.



Gillian talked to the class about what we do at the shelter as well as the importance of spaying and neutering your pets. Gillian also discussed the issue of stereotyping pit bulls. Gabby, shelter manger and her staff took the class on a tour of the shelter. Here the students entered the cat rooms and played and petted a few furry friends and then to the joy of all, held a few puppies. They walked around the dog pens to see

all of the dogs at play. The students were delighted to see Cinnie playing with a rubber chicken toy they had donated.

School visits are very important in our desire to provide humane education to our young people. We welcome all classes with a desire to learn about the important work we do and the care and love we provide our animals.

Thanks so much to Mrs. Wallace's and Ms. Cowden's classes for their hard work on this project and thanks to all the students of Eastport Elementary for their generosity. ●



Artwork by Alivia D'Agostino, age 14

## Big Laughs at "Winter is for the Dogs Comedy Night"

A fun time was had by all at the "Winter is for the Dogs Comedy Night" on February 1st. The freezing temperatures could not stop our east end friends from coming out to support the League. The sold out evening was sponsored by Osprey Dominion Vineyards and with a portion of the proceeds donated to the League.

Top comics from Laugh NYC including John LaRocchia the NYFD comic and Paul Corrigan from Sirius radio kept the audience in stitches for hours. Raffle winners took home great prizes and the crowd enjoyed fabulous Osprey Dominion wines.

NFAWL thanks Osprey Dominion Vineyards for their generosity in sponsoring this event and their continued commitment to the welfare of companion animals on the north fork.

## Seniors for Seniors Spring Drive



Dave & Scruffy

This Spring we will launch our Seniors for Seniors campaign. It will be our most ambitious campaign yet to match seniors from our community with senior dogs and cats from our shelters. You will learn why a senior dog or cat is a good pet for senior citizens and why our senior citizens' home can be the best place for a senior dog. Also learn how the League is willing to support these adoptions to keep you and your pet happy and healthy.

Here's a story written by Nancy Rickles, who adopted a senior dog from our shelter.

*"My husband and I wanted a dog for a long time, but wanted one that fit our criteria. We knew a puppy wouldn't be a fit since neither of us are home full time and can't do all the necessary training, most especially house-breaking. The answer? An older dog, house-trained, one that really didn't need behavioral training from scratch and wouldn't mind being home alone for periods of time.*

*At Southold shelter Gabby the kennel manager, said I have someone real special and brought out a senior dog called Mugsy. He immediately went to Steve and me, looked at us with his big eyes and we were goners.*

*Mugsy, now known and will forever be, Petey, has the most beautiful soul in a dog I've ever met. He has the sweetest disposition and is friendly to every person he meets. Because he is a senior he is calm, never destructive and affectionate. Yes, an older dog doesn't play like a young one but Petey is just our speed and is just what we were looking for.*

*Thank you NFAWL."* ●

## Big Thank You to Our New Sponsors

**Kharma** – 123 Main Street Greenport

**JP Hunter** – 1171E. Main Street Riverhead

**Mattituck Lions Club** – P.O. Box 595 Mattituck

Our annual sponsorship program is new this year and we are very grateful for their support.

Becoming an annual sponsor for the League creates a heightened corporate image and brand awareness while demonstrating social responsibility and community involvement. Yours is a business that cares about animal welfare and making a difference in the lives of our companion animals.

You can support our general operations, or a dog kennel for one year.

For more information on how you can become a sponsor of the League please call Dawn @ 631- 523-5059.

## Meet Our New Business Partners

NFAWL is grateful and honored to have been selected by these business partners as the beneficiary of their fundraising events. It is through the good deeds of a caring business community that we can continue to do our work.

**JABS** – Sponsored a holiday clothing swap with proceeds from the admission fee going to the League.

**Sea Tow** – Sponsored a holiday gift drive and donated a boat load of dog and cat food, treats, toys, bedding and lots of love

**Legends** – As part of their 20th anniversary celebration made a donation to the League for each of their Facebook fans that shared a story about Legends.

**Osprey Dominion Winery** – Hosted "Winter is for the Dogs Comedy Night" which brought a sold out crowd. A portion of the proceeds were donated to the League.

If you know of any business who would like to sponsor an event on behalf of the League please contact Dawn @ 631-523-5059.

## Upcoming Events



### APRIL

All Month – Free Spay and Neuter vouchers for Pit Bulls – League shelters  
April 26th - Earth Day Celebration at Downs Farm Preserve, Cutchogue

### MAY

All Month – Seniors for Seniors – Focus on senior adoptions - Seniors make the best homes for senior dogs

### JUNE

June 12-14 – Strawberry Festival - Mattituck

### JULY

July 12 – Love Lane Street Fair - Mattituck

### AUGUST

August 2 – Summer Gala on the Lawn at Corso Estate - Cutchogue

### SEPTEMBER

September 19-21 - Maritime Festival - Greenport

## League Holiday Calendar Attention all Beautiful Rescue Dogs and Cats

The NFAWL will be creating a 2015 Holiday Calendar featuring 12 of the most beautiful, adorable and remarkable rescue dogs and cats.

If you know a rescue who loves to pose and strut their stuff please submit their photo along with no more than 200 words about their rescue story to [Manager@NFAWL.org](mailto:Manager@NFAWL.org).

All entries are due by August 1st. ●

For even more timely news about the League visit our website and go to “stay in touch”



### OUR LOCATIONS

Southold Animal Shelter  
165 Peconic Lane  
Peconic, NY 11958  
Phone: 631.765.1811  
Fax: 631.765.2203

Riverhead Animal Shelter  
532A Youngs Avenue  
Calverton, NY 11933  
Phone: 631-369-6189

Email: [director@nfawl.org](mailto:director@nfawl.org)

**Did you see our request on Facebook? Wanted EZ up 10 Foot Express II Canopy and Sidewall set for upcoming events. Available at <http://www.hayneedle.com/>. Thanks for your generosity.**