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Chocolate Angel

My name is Cindy Last , a former adoption advisor at the Town of North Hempstead Animal Shelter. I raised 6 lab guide dog puppies for the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind on Long Island New York.

I taught middle school for many years and my students wanted to help people and animals. Raising the 6 puppies was a perfect way for my students to learn valuable lessons.

Just before moving to Cheyenne Wyoming from Great Neck, New York (my students did not know where that was on the



Sally at the shelter and all grown up with Cindy Last in Wyoming

map) a man came into the shelter with a 3 month old chocolate lab named "Dakota". I always wanted a Chocolate Lab and I fell in love with her the minute I saw her. I had to change her name because I said how could I move to Cheyenne Wyoming with a dog named Dakota. When I looked into her big dark beautiful eyes all I could see was kindness and gentleness like my moms. My mother had recently passed away and so I changed Dakota to Sally my mom's name.

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The Shelter Connection is a volunteer organization at the Town of North Hempstead Animal Shelter. Our Mission, in partnership with the Town, is to improve the quality of life for dogs at the shelter and increase the adoptions through training and socialization. A secondary mission is public education to shift the public perception about shelters and dispel the myth that shelter dogs are "damaged goods."

The shelter is located at 75 Marino Avenue, Port Washington, NY 11050

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Florence Scarinci, and Marianne
Sikora

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The Shelter Connection is an all volunteer
nonprofit charitable organization. All
contributions are spent on programs and
services to improve the quality of life of dogs at
the Town of North Hempstead Animal Shelter.
All contributions are fully tax-deductible.

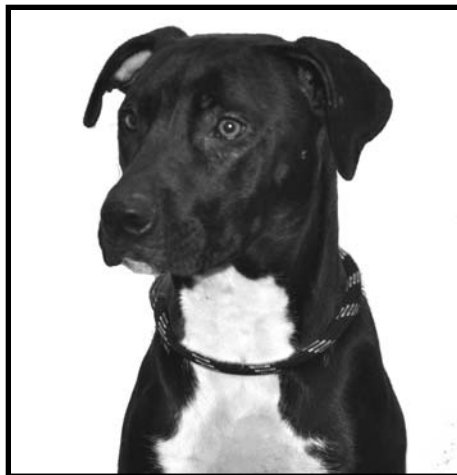
SHELTER CONNECTION CHARITY GARAGE SALE COMING SOON

On Saturday, November 7, 2009, from 9 AM-4 PM, The Shelter Connection will host its 3rd fund raising garage sale. It will be held indoors at the United Methodist Church, 35 Middle Neck Road in Port Washington. All proceeds go to the health and welfare of the dogs at North Hempstead Animal Shelter. No funds are used for salaries as we are an all volunteer organization.

This will be a huge, multi "family" sale. House wares, clothing, antiques and collectibles, men's stuff, holiday stuff, etc. to name a few categories of sale items.

Save the date and come shopping! Remember...you are helping the dogs!!

Directions to church and sale from Northern Blvd: Go North on Port Washington Blvd. Port Washington Blvd becomes Middle Neck Road. Go about 1 1/3 miles and the church is on your right.



"Dolly"
Lab Mix

Hello Dolly!
Young girl with lots of
energy and a love
of tennis balls. If you have
need a dose of puppy
love Dolly is your girl.



"Domino"
Young Adult Male

You might recognize
Domino from our Holiday
2008 newsletter. He is still
waiting patiently for some-
one to love him. Drop by
and meet this special guy.

Coaching Coach

Florence Scarinci

I admit it. I had fallen in love with the breed. I liked the fact that they were big dogs in a little space; that you could and should do anything with them: herd sheep, run agility, play flyball, compete in obedience trials, do therapy. And so when my ancient, big, black Labrador, Rocky, went to Rainbow Bridge, I resolved to purchase a Pembroke Welsh Corgi from a top breeder. I had saved the money. I was accepted as a potential owner by several breeders and I was waiting for the next litter to be born. Then it happened. A friend mentioned getting a dog from Corgi Rescue, giving a deserving dog, a second chance. I felt guilty but not totally committed to the idea. So I filled out the application being so specific, I was sure that no dog in rescue could ever fill my requirements: a young, sound male, for companionship and competition, whose temperament might make him able to be registered as a therapy dog; good with other dogs, cats and children. Twenty-four hours later Coach's picture appeared in my email with this message: "I think you should consider this dog." Thirteen months old, he had been surrendered to Rescue at eight months of age. The original owners had not done their homework to see if a Corgi would fit their lifestyle, nor had they taught him anything, nor exercised his body, nor challenged his brain. He was a wild child. He had no house manners; did not respond to even the



simplest command, "sit." He had chewed furniture, pooped in their children's room and peed on the couple's bed. He also had demodic mange. Yet the Rescue chairperson saw his great potential. He was very cute and very willing.

Despite all the negatives, I fell in love with him immediately and took him home. There I discovered not only his lack of training but also his "issues". Coach was afraid of newspapers, garbage cans, preferred to hide under the bedspread, would not come running to meet me at the door. I began his rehabilitation by first addressing his mange. After his mange was resolved, and he seemed more relaxed in his new surroundings, I started obedience lessons at a local adult education. When he was reliable on the recall, I began to help him expend his energy doing agility.

Several years passed. I logged hundreds of miles on walks, threw countless tennis balls, made him jump hurdles and run through tunnels until the equipment wore out. Through all that time it was evident that Coach was not just "good

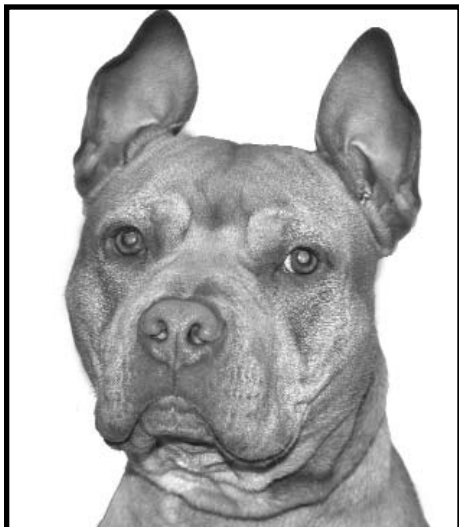
with children", he adored them. He would waggle his tail-less behind whenever he saw a child on the street. I began to think that perhaps he might be a "Reading to Dogs" partner, a therapy dog after all. I took him to the Delta Society for evaluation and he passed his therapy dog test with flying colors. Now on Monday mornings and Wednesday afternoons during the school year, you will find him at a local elementary school, stretched out on a rug, listening to reluctant readers or children who are very shy, read the latest adventures of Amelia Bedelia or Biscuit or Knuffle the bunny, encouraging them with a lick on the hand when they try to sound out a word. Several local public libraries have also instituted "Reading to Dogs" programs and when called upon to serve, Coach enjoys the assignment.

Coach is now Florence's Field of Dreams RN MX MXJ NAC NJC PHC CGC and a registered Delta Society Pet Partner, a valued contributor to promoting literacy. He is the poster child for what time and patience can accomplish with a rescue dog.

Meet Our All Star Pit-Bully Lineup

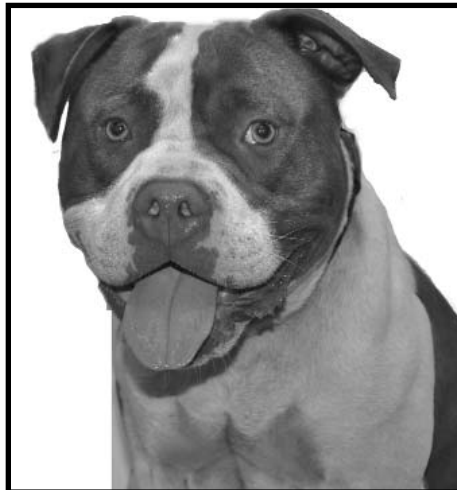
Julie Nixon

Leo, one of the 48 Pit-Bulls rescued from the cruel hands of Michael Vick, has become a therapy dog for Cancer patients, exemplifying the huge heart and indomitable spirit of these dogs. At the shelter we have an All-Star lineup of Pit-Bulls and other "Bully Breeds" who are just waiting for the opportunity to show you their best game. Meet our special team of "bully" dogs whose happy personalities are the best therapy you could ever get.



88 - Rugby (Pit-Bull mix)

A shoo in for the European game where players are a little rough and ready. He may only be 53 pounds but Rugby is no light-weight and his energy and power will challenge any player to keep up with him.



46 - Bronco (Pit-Bull)

Leading the lineup, this young Denver namesake, is a most eligible and handsome bachelor. Calm and willing to pass the ball to team mates Bronco is an MVP in anyone's book.



27 - Bugsy (Pit-Bull)

Don't let those cropped ears and rippling muscles fool you, this young gun is friendly and full of fun but he does need to hone his technical skills such as sit and walking on leash.



Fan - Truffle (Pit-Bull)

Once scared of her own shadow, Truffle has found her niche as a fan following the team wherever they go and being as close to her heroes as possible.



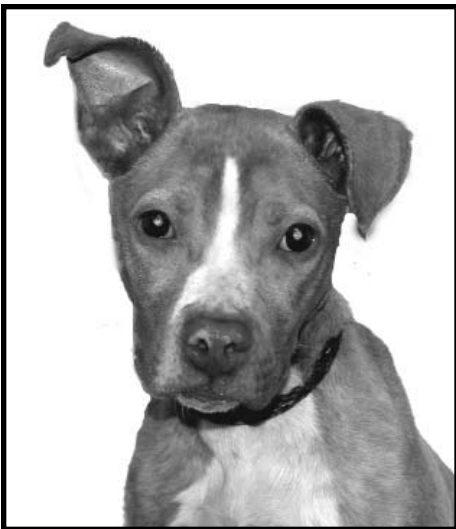
Dodger (Rottweiler-mix) Team Captain

Weighing in at 85lbs, Dodger is a dominant player who needs an experienced manager to handle his strong personality. Dodger's game-philosophy includes loyalty and fair-play.



32 - Dooley (Dobie Mix)

A real team player Dooley knows that it's not the winning but having fun that count and he makes sure he and everyone around him are wagging their tails all day.



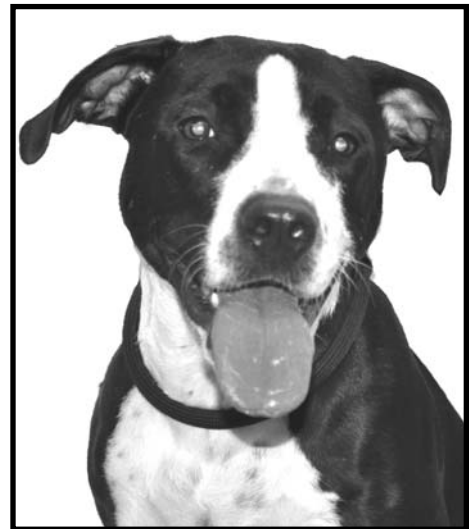
13 - Mona (Pit-Bull)

On the bench for two years Mona is looking for an experienced coach who can harness her intense and energetic nature. A pretty Prima-Donna Mona needs to be the one and only star in her game-zone in order to shine.

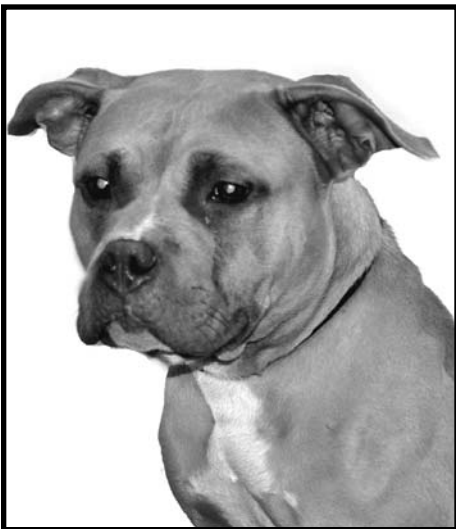


Retired-Goliath (American Bull Dog/Lab)

Retired early, this seven-year-young, 78 pound jock is looking for a friendly team to call his own. Goliath still has the energy to chase a few balls before relaxing in the club-house.



Abby - Pit Terrier Mix



Jelli (Am-Staffs)



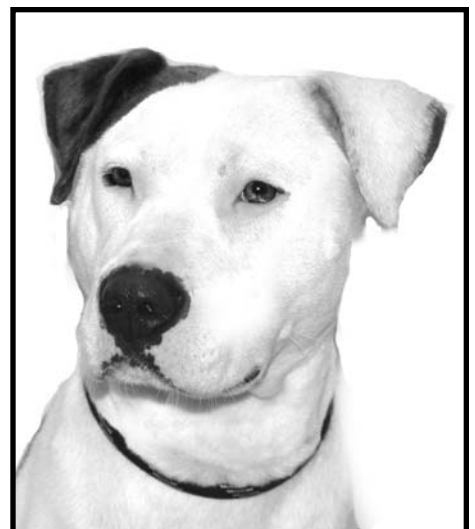
Cheeks (Am-Staffs)

Cheerleaders - Jelli and Cheeks (Am-Staffs)

As they cheer on the Bully Team, their wiggling and jiggling will have you giggling fit to bust. There is no better therapy than the joy these adorable girls find in everything.



Dixie - Bull Terrier Mix



Sandy - Pit Bull Mix

No you are not seeing double - these two peppy pups are related and you can definitely see the resemblance

GO TEAM

“Happy Tails”



Maggie and Jake take a well deserved nap together

Maggie is the best Therapy in Town

From Maggie's Family:

"Maggie joined our family 3 years ago at a VERY difficult time in our lives. My son Jake has Autism. At the time he was three, completely non-verbal, acting out physically, and filled to capacity with frustration. Needless to say, so were we. Truthfully, a dog was the last thing I needed on my plate..... until Maggie. Maggie was like the canine Autism whisperer.

Maggie, a Town of North Hempstead rescue, stepped in when everyone else stepped out. She was his "unspoken" companion. She was never put off that he was not "typical" and she knew just how to "handle" him. She was always the first one on the scene and the last one by his side, no matter the extremity of his tantrum. She just spent TIME with him (on his terms) and together they forged a bond sealed by no words.

At around 3 and a half Jake spoke. He did not say, "mama or daddy" he said "sit, paw, and good girl." Three years have passed and Jake is 6. Thankfully, he is doing really well and talks up a storm. Maggie enjoys playing a relentless amount of fetch with Jake, lays on his bed EVERY night for bedtime stories and puts him on and takes him off the bus daily. An Autistic world is one of extreme difficulty in communication, difficult, but NOT impossible. If only humans had the amount of patience, perseverance, tolerance, and time as Maggie, families dealing with Autism would not feel so alone. Maggie has brought love with no judgement into our home and a voice to our son. Thanks, Mags!!"

Sweet Sally



We adopted Sally from the Town of North Hempstead Shelter in July 2008 - it's been almost a year and we would like to share an update with all of you. Our friends at the shelter helped us find Sally - we are so grateful for their advice and for the joy she brings to all of us. Sally is doing great! We don't know her background, but she came home with lots of good manners. We are happy to say, she is still a big, sweet mush. She loves going for LONG walks at Alley Pond Park with her good dog buddies, Daisy and Heffner. Nick gives her lots of play time in the yard with her favorite toys - tennis balls! When we first brought Sally home, she was greeted by Roxy - who had gotten loose from our neighbors. Roxy jumped all over Sally, but Sally just sat and waited for the craziness to subside. We were relieved and amazed at her gentleness. Sally loves to learn new tricks she's recently gotten "paw" down pat! She is great when meeting new people too, everyone compliments her sweet demeanor and calm disposition. We couldn't be happier that Sally is in our home! We are the lucky ones. Thanks again!"

Chocolate Angel Continued from Page 1

Sally is the best thing that ever happened to me. She is the love of my life. She has even replaced my daughter Lisa another former volunteer for the Town of North Hempstead Shelter as my new "helper". Lisa will be graduating from the University of Georgia Vet School this May 2010. Yeah we will have a vet in the family.

Sally is a registered therapy dog, we go all around Cheyenne helping people of all ages. Sally brings joy and love to everyone she comes in contact with. We go to nursing homes, hospitals, schools, camps, animal shelters, libraries, juvenile detention centers, children's gardens and store like Barnes and Noble. Sally is one of their favorite dogs. Sally is also a certified service animal, she can alert people with illnesses when they need to take their medications. Sally is a lifesaver for emergencies as well as a kissing machine just to make people feel better. She goes every where with us and I love her so much. Sally has passed the AKC Canine Good Citizen test certification. Sally entertains the neighbors as well as strangers.

We live on 10 acres but Sally thinks she owns 1,000 acres, she loves all the other animals like our cat Simon, to the neighbors horses, alpacas or pronghorn antelope. Even though I love all dogs especially Labs, Sally is a one in a million puppy even though she is now 4 years old.

I am so thankful to the Town of North Hempstead Animal Shelter for matching me with my soul mate. Sally is the most wonderful gift of joy and happiness that anyone could desire.

GOT DOG CRATES?

Our "GOT BALLS?" shout out was a huge success. The shelter was bouncing with tennis balls for months afterwards. In continuation of our "GOT____?" series, The North Hempstead Animal Shelter is looking for crates. Search your attics and basements, clean out those garages...and donate your old dog crates for a worthy cause. As always, the excess will be donated by us to rescues and shelters also in need. Thank you for your support.

Please help us help the dogs
at our local shelter

Yes, I want to help improve the quality of life for the dogs at the Town of North Hempstead Animal Shelter. Enclosed is my gift to support The Shelter Connection:

\$100 \$50 \$25 \$15 \$10 Other \$_____

Please make checks payable to : The Shelter Connection and mail to: **The Shelter Connection**
P.O.BOX 226
Greenvale, NY 11548

If you wish to be notified about events please send your email address.
Your donation is fully tax-deductible and will be acknowledged with a receipt.
100% of your donation will be applied directly to program services



Patti and TJ

Fido Fashions

Benefit our shelter dogs

Paula Kellner

When shopping for nuts and bolts and all things like it at family owned Shields Plumbing and Hardware Store in Pt. Washington, you'll meet handsome retriever mix, TJ Shields. His special person, Patti Shields, brings him to the store every day, where he's well known as a natty dresser for his doggie bandanna wardrobe. His bandannas are lovingly hand made by Peggy's mom, Ann Shields.

As long time supporters of our shelter dogs through their generously filled Shelter Connection donation box, Ann and Patti came

up with a special promotional idea to help our dogs even more. Now, you can get one of Ann's hand sewn stars and stripes dog bandannas for your canine companion for a ten dollar donation that goes in the TSC box at their Main Street store. Thank you Ann, Patti, TJ and Shields' patrons for your ongoing support! You really make a difference for shelter dogs that hope to find a home as loving as TJ's.



The Shelter Connection
P.O. BOX 226
Greenvale, NY 11548

Got Crates?

