



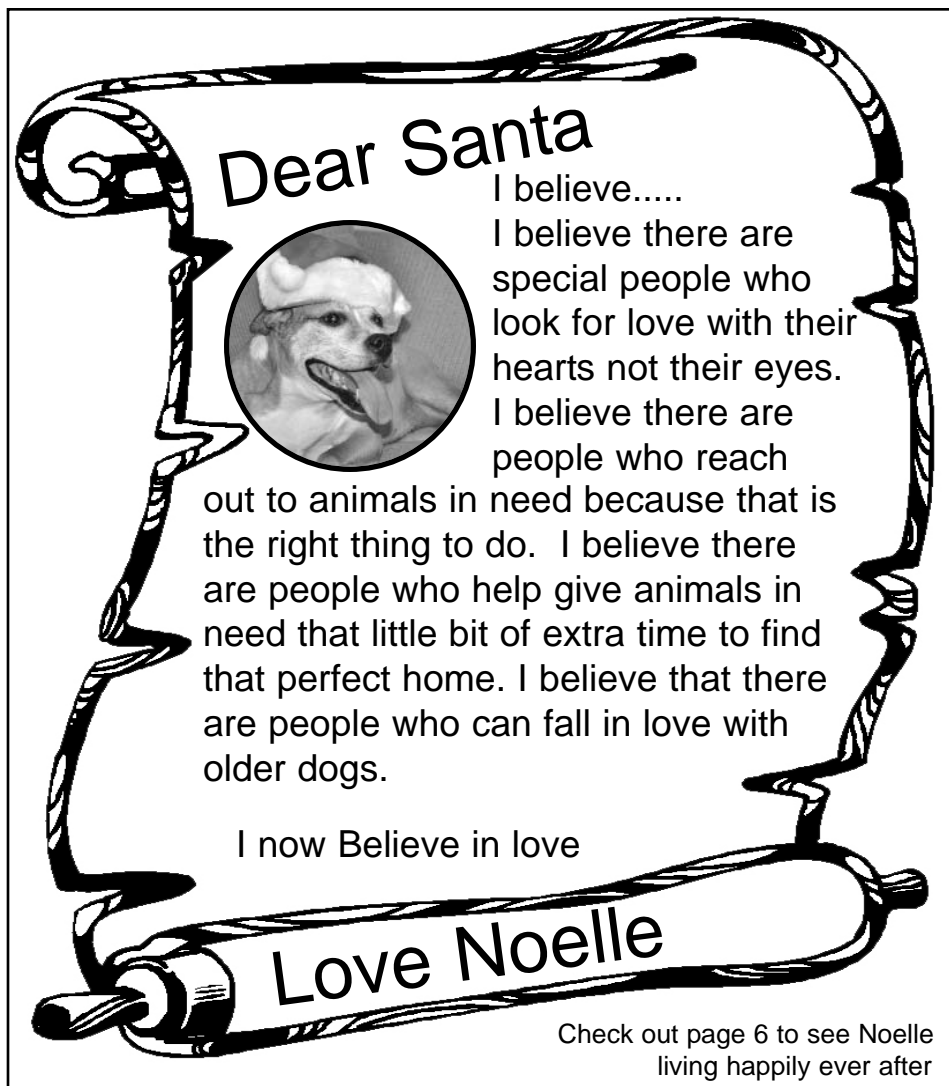
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Yes Noelle.... there is a Santa

Marianne Sikora

and his name is John. Noelle was our cover story last Christmas. She was a seven year old pit mix who had suffered a hard life and had the battle scars to prove it. She had been blinded in one eye and sported healed scars and missing fur in many places on her body. She had a bad knee which Mend-a-Paw paid to have repaired, but through it all she remained a happy friendly dog with a great big heart. Santa must have read her letter because on December 28th, 2009, after two



years at the shelter, Noelle went home with her new best friend John to start her new life as a couch potato. He saw beyond the scars and the glazed over eye and noticed the joyful dog with a heart of gold. She made all of us smile at the shelter and now she makes John smile.

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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.

Kathy Van Zeeland

Special thanks to Kathy Van Zeeland of
QVC for donating her marvelous bags for
one of our special events to help raise
money for the shelter dogs.



Kathy's dogs Oliver and Sam get a ride in the private jet



Jennifer - the winner of the Kathy Van
Zeeland bag - proudly sports her new bag!

Something to think about.....

I get sad when I hear folks say that they could never go to a kill shelter to adopt a pet. That is exactly the shelter THEY SHOULD go to. As you read this newsletter I want you to keep something in mind. Here at the Town of North Hempstead animal shelter we have not euthanized a dog because we ran out of room in over 10 years! We give chances to the old and broken-see Minnie on page 7. We give them the time to find their forever home-Noelle was with us for 2 years before she found John. Look at Jessie on page 3. She was brought in by her owner to be killed and our shelter director got owner permission to get her healthy and rehomed. We are a kill shelter-that is a fact-but does it look like that is all we do? Pass the word on. Help the kill shelters of the world find ways to get as many dogs as possible.... to leave through the front door!

Jessie...

Worth her Weight in Gold

It is always sad when we hear that animals who have passed through our doors and touched our hearts, have crossed over the rainbow bridge. I think what keeps us sane through those losses is knowing that we made a difference in that dog's life. We all remember Jessie very well because it was the first time we saw how cruel people could be. Jessie was surrendered by her owner to be euthanized because... she was fat. Here was her story in our 2002 newsletter.

Jessie, a 6 year old female beagle/basset hound mix was surrendered to the shelter to be euthanized on February 22nd because her owner said she was "overweight". Sue Hassett, the shelter director, secured the owner's permission to try to help her instead. Jessie weighed 73 lbs. Her belly touched the floor when she walked and she became breathless with just a few steps. She was placed on a reducing diet and the volunteer handlers began to work with her regularly. Jessie was rewarded with praise, not treats. Right away we saw she was a friendly, gentle dog who liked to please and be petted. She needed a lot of motivation just to walk, which took so much effort. Rosanne Palumbo, the shelter training director, recommended massage to stimulate her muscles. Slowly Jessie's energy level increased and a month later Jessie was actually jogging. She had lost 10 pounds by the time she was adopted on April 1st.

When Jessie came back to the shelter for a visit in May she weighed 55.6 lbs and was able to jump onto a sofa at home. Jessie, a sweet and affectionate dog, had found the loving family she truly deserved

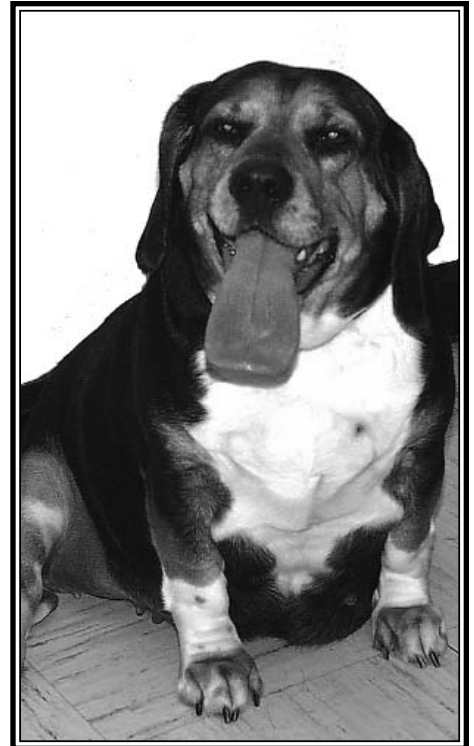
To all our friends at the Town of North Hempstead Animal Shelter;

I am deeply saddened to report the loss of our dearest friend, Jessie. She passed away recently after surviving breast cancer, liver cancer and finally succumbing to an autoimmune disease. Jessie had a happy wonderful life with us up until the end. She slept in my arms each night. Her best friend Baxter coincidentally followed her over the Rainbow Bridge shortly after she passed succumbing to a massive stroke. I don't know if you remember the "wedding pictures" of the two of them! This was needless to say, devastating to our family.

Jessie was the best dog one could ever wish for. She was my special girl. Baxter was 16 and Jessie was 13. They are both irreplaceable. I want to thank you for saving her life and giving me the honor of sharing my life with her.

Ruth

Our hearts go out to Ruth and her family. Thank you for giving Jessie a chance to live a happy long life. The life she was meant to have!



Jessie at 73lbs



Jessie at 55.6 lbs

Got Friends?

Continuing with our GOT___? series, the shelter is looking for friends to tell friends that shelter dogs make excellent pets and they are on sale! You can bring a new family member home for \$29.50.

This holiday season tell your friends and family **ADOPT don't SHOP!** and when you are at it - tell them to save the date and come **GOLF FOR PAWS** in June!

Mend-A-Paw Dog Mends a Broken Heart

I never thought it would happen so fast or so soon. I was still grieving the recent loss of my beloved dog, when I laid eyes on a little beagle at your shelter. He was recovering from a fractured hip after being hit by a car. Well, it was love at first sight!

Thanks to Mend A Paw & the devoted staff & volunteers who provided lots of TLC and attention, this sweet guy has a new lease on life. I took Patrick home a few weeks ago, and he's settling in beautifully. He loves playing with his toys, belly rubs and lying in the sunny spots in the house. He has to take it slow for a while- no chasing birds & squirrels just yet- but he enjoys greeting all the kids & neighbors on my block who can't resist coming over to pet him. I think he would make a great therapy dog.

Despite all he's been through, he's a happy, playful pup, and we both thank everyone at the shelter for making it possible. To anyone contemplating adopting a homeless pet, I would just say-don't postpone joy!

"GOLF FOR PAWS"

Reserve your place now for a fabulous opportunity to have fun with family and friends while supporting your local animal shelter.



9 holes of Twilight Golf or Miniature Golf
at Harbor Links Executive Course
FRIDAY JUNE 10, 2011

TWILIGHT GOLF

6:30 pm Wine and Cheese Reception

7:00 pm BBQ Dinner

Shot Gun starts promptly at 8:00 pm

MINIATURE GOLF

6:30 Family Friendly meal (optional)



Sad Partings

The Shelter Connection would like to offer our friends and family at the shelter, our deepest sympathy and condolences for the dogs that have left us in 2010. Beginnings are exciting - endings are sad - but it is all the wonderful memories in between that hopefully will help keep us sane.

Soda Pop - Sue and Louise

Lilly - The Kellner Family

Katie - Marianne and Maureen

Fergus - Dolores

Isolated but never alone!



We are proud to announce that our two year dream of having an isolation ward is finally a reality! The Shelter Connection donated \$6884.00 to equip the Town of North Hempstead Animal Shelter's newly constructed Isolation Ward. The new room is furnished with all stainless steel cages and equipment that can be easily disinfected. Finally, sick dogs can be quarantined, treated and cleared before they are introduced into the healthy population. It has been a dream of shelter staff and volunteers and has finally become a reality due to your generous donations. The Shelter Connection also donated \$12,000 for the new epoxy floors in the real life room, exam room and the bathing/grooming area. These floors will be easier to keep clean and disinfected. These new

improvements will be a boon to the health of our sheltered dogs. This is only one of the ways your generous donations have changed the lives of our dogs. Please see below for other ways your donations have made a difference. Thank you all for your generosity!



**Mend-a-Paw Fund
(Medical Treatment): \$16,816.00**

**Dog Food Supplement and Treats
\$4045.00**

**Additional Shelter Improvements:
\$2000.00**

Donations made to The Shelter Connection, Inc. are tax deductible. An acknowledgement letter will be mailed to the donor. Please be sure to include your full name and address.

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



Noelle has one wish this holiday season. She hopes that people will come to the shelters and shop with their hearts not their eyes so all dogs regardless of age or beauty will find someone to love them like John found her!

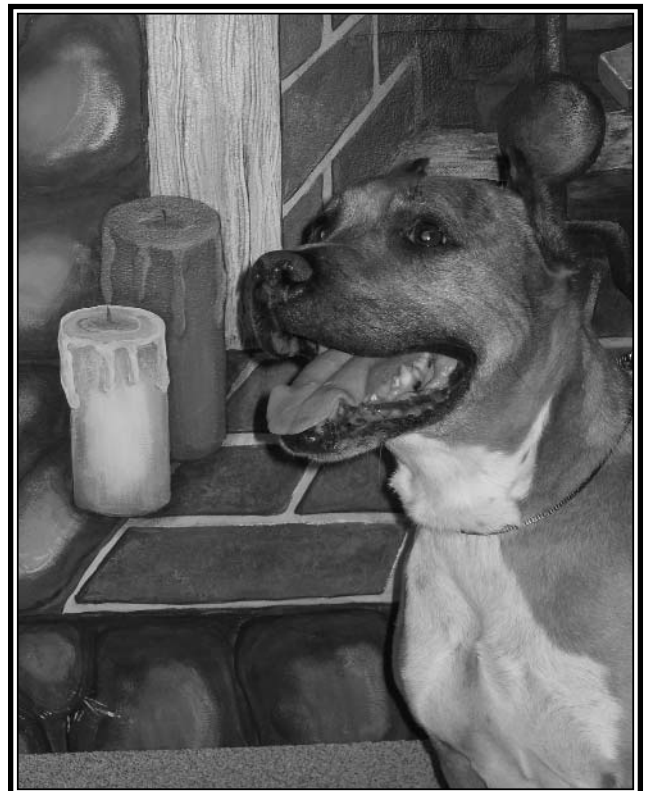


STARLET

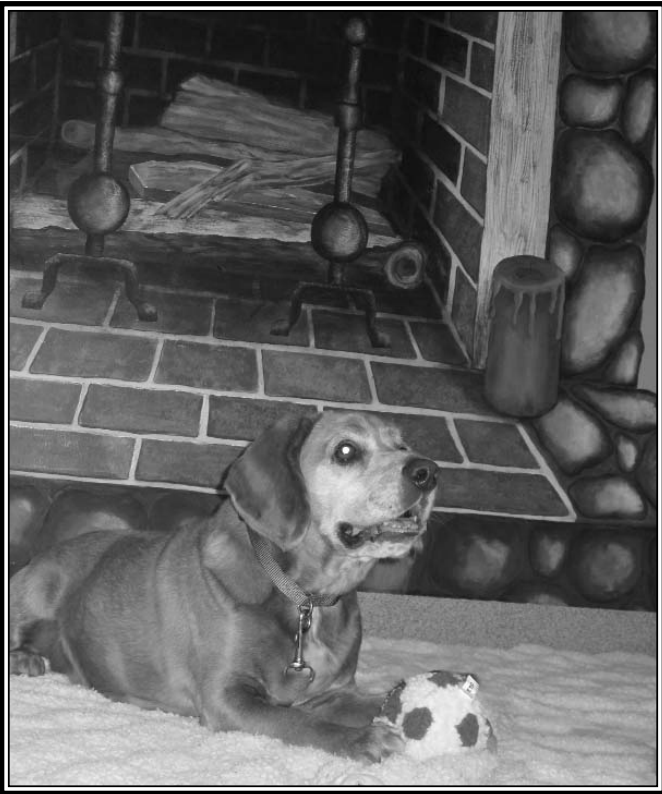


TRUFFLE

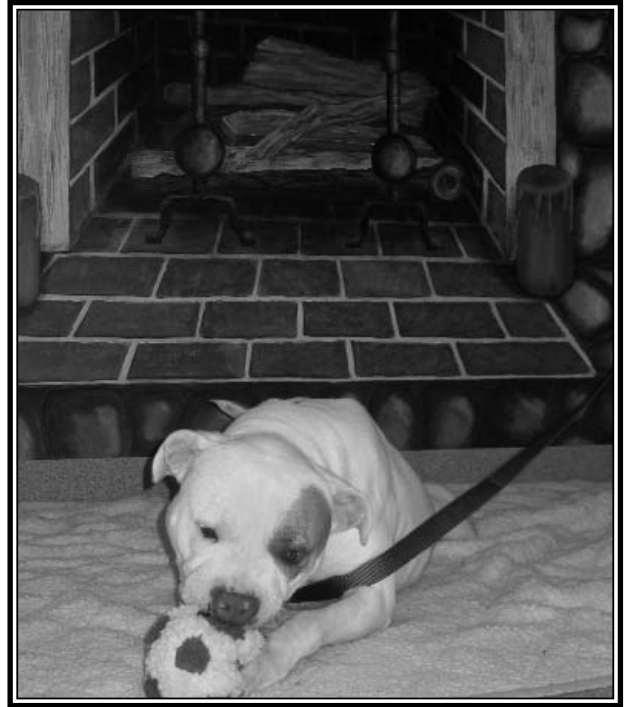
Truffle has been with us since May of 2009. She is so smart she was the only dog who knew which way to watch for Santa! She is a wonderful dog with a great big heart!



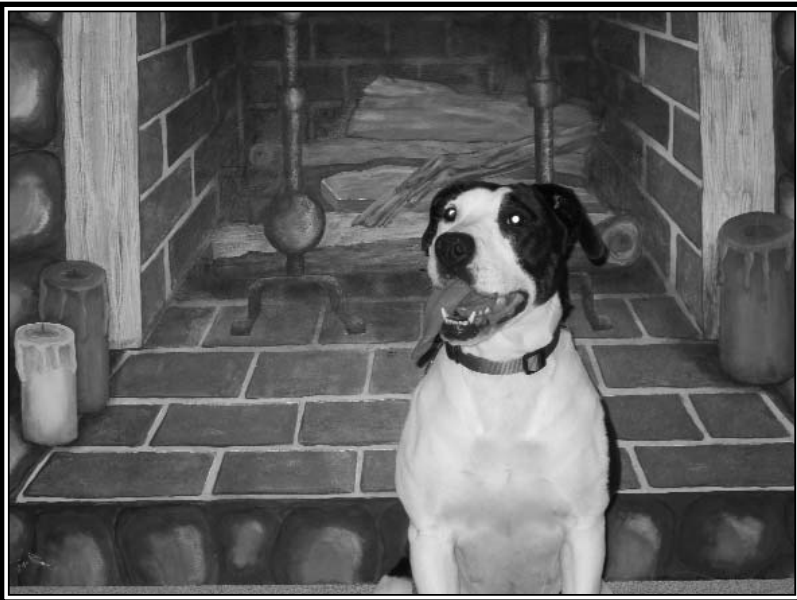
PEACHES



ARTHUR

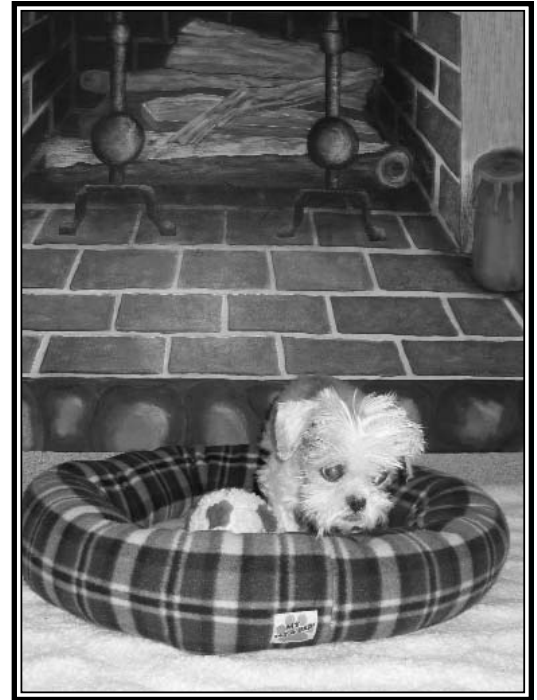


MERLIN



MAGGIE

Maggie has been a guest at the shelter since September. She is a smart and obedient girl who has a smile that lights up her beautiful face. Yes! she did SIT/STAY for this picture!



MINNIE

Our Little Minnie is blind but she promises us she can see you with her heart!

Linus

Alyne Diamond Keneally

I have always loved animals and the good karma they bring to me, so as a step toward one day living my retirement years in their midst, last May I became a member of The Shelter Connection, a volunteer organization at the Town of North Hempstead Animal Shelter. I could speak volumes of the wonderful work of this organization, as I could of the Town Shelter's devoted assistant director, Sue, and all of the workers, but that is for another story.

From my first visit to the kennel, I was stunned and heartbroken at the large number of magnificent pit bull terriers standing behind the bars - so many of whom had been residents for a year or more. I learned that because this breed as a whole had such a bad reputation for fighting and aggression, these animals were scorned by potential adopters. Sadly, the majority of them, Linus, Truffle, Sophie, Hoagie, Merlin, and King to name a few, were fine dogs, would make great pets and just needed the opportunity to prove it.

In September, the health of my own 12 year old Shepherd mix, Ruby, started to fail, and I began to consider adopting one of the pit bulls. This posed two dilemmas - the first, which Shelter dog to take home, and the second, how to disabuse my husband, Jim, of the breed's bad rep! After almost two weeks of visiting with several of the dogs, and finally convincing Jim he would not be eaten by one of them, we adopted Linus, who had lived at the shelter for a year.

Linus is an absolutely amazing dog and my husband adores him. To our happy surprise, he was housebroken and very well behaved, thanks to the obedience training he received from The Shelter Connection handlers, and the love he received from the Shelter's staff. He is just a big cuddly baby and loves to curl up on my lap and go to sleep - all 68 pounds of him! Among his favorite activities are playing ball, chewing on roasted marrow bones and watching football on TV and rooting against Michael Vick. Sure, there are still issues to be worked out as one would expect with a dog who had endured hard times prior to his life at the shelter, but we are confident that a solution is at hand.

I cannot sufficiently express the gratitude Jim and I feel that Linus is in our lives, as well as the enormous sense of satisfaction of having provided him with a loving home. My only regret is that I could take home only one of the beautiful dogs at the Shelter - and each day, I think about the others, hoping they too will find someone to go home with.



Volunteer Corner

My Life at the North Hempstead Animal Shelter

John Luca

It all started about 2 years ago. My wife found out about TSC and decided to sign up my older son as an adoption advisor. Well, being that he was under 16 he needed an adult to be with him, so I decided to tag along. I have ALWAYS been an animal person, so I soon fell in love with the people and dogs that were there. After some time my son found it difficult to be up early on Saturday mornings for our time slot, so I just kept on going by myself.

I truly look forward to seeing my friends (both 2 and 4 legged) on Saturday mornings and while I am saddened that I might never again see a favorite 4 legged friend, it brings me great happiness to know that he/she was adopted in my absence.

I have assisted in several successful adoptions and I find it extremely rewarding!!! Ever since I got involved with TSC I have had a strong desire to actually be able to handle the dogs. Well about 4 weeks ago I started taking the handling class. While I have to leave work early to be there for the class I am thrilled that I have this opportunity.

During my time at TSC there have been many happy times, but true to life there have been sad times as well. The saddest time for me was when I showed up one Saturday morning and was greeted by Sue "Glad

Continued on page 11

The Shelter Dogs wanted to thank the following folks for helping make their lives just a bit better while they wait for their forever homes ...

To all the Merchants who have helped keep the funds coming for the animals at the Town of North Hempstead Animal Shelter. They're eating better, playing better and healing better thanks to the generosity of local businesses.

Please help us by patronizing the following "Pet friendly" merchants.

Merchants who helped The Shelter Connection with a special price for:

Printing the newsletter

CastleRock Printing & Graphics 516-883-9280

Donating items for fundraising events

Kathy Van Zeeland

Please shop at and look for The Shelter Connection collection boxes at the following merchants:

Black Tie Wine & Spirits ,Port Washington

Diane's Place Hair Salon, Port Washington

Frank's Pizzeria, Port Washington

Grace Wine & Spirits, New York City

Joanne's Gourmet Pizza, Roslyn

Main Street Wine & Spirits, Port Washington

Mazur's Marketplace, Little Neck

North Shore Farms, Port Washington

Petland Discounts, Port Washington

Port Washington Animal Hospital, Port Washington

Raindeew Manhasset, Manhasset

Shields Hardware, Port Washington

Unleashed Pet Boutique & Spa, Port Washington

Villa Milano, Manhasset

Yogurt & Such, Greenvale



Cosmo

My eldest son Robert began asking for a dog when he was 5 years old. Over the years we had graduated from fish, to frogs and lizards, but the doggie wants never went away. We thought that the addition of 2 cats to our household 4 years ago would fill the dog void, but Robert still longed for a dog. My husband and I were hesitant to take the plunge - as the parents of three young boys, the youngest two of which are children with autism, we were concerned that a dog might be too much to handle. Robert would frequently plead his case and promise that he would be the one to care for a dog, but we knew that the decision to bring a dog home required the commitment of the whole family to be involved in its care.

Our middle son, Joseph is an animal lover; our two cats, Lucy & Ethel are his constant companions. Joseph has always loved visiting friends and families with dogs, and my husband and I began to realize that his interaction with these animals often helped bridge the social gap created by his autism. We began to think that perhaps bringing a dog into our home

would help both Joseph and our younger son, James, interact socially. At first we thought about applying for a service animal specially trained for individuals with autism, but we realized that it was our eldest son who had longed for a dog, and we felt that he should be involved in finding our family's new special friend. We decided to tell Robert that the time was finally right to bring a dog into our home. Robert (now almost 13) found Cosmo within minutes of being at your shelter. It was love at first sight for both, and Cosmo joined our family in early August of 09. He came to us already housebroken, trained and able to follow basic commands. My boys delight in running him through his repertoire - he now will sit, stay, shake hands, lie down, come, fetch and "kennel up" on command. He loves long walks and playing fetch in our yard. My Joseph laughs hysterically when Cosmo runs lightning fast circles around him in our yard, and our youngest, James, loves to blow bubbles for Cosmo to pop. Our Robert has never been happier - we have noticed that he is doing better at school and enjoys taking care of his new buddy. Robert is always willing to walk Cosmo and

takes wonderful care of him. We are so proud of how much responsibility he has shown in the past few months. Cosmo is full of energy and loves to play, and fits right in to our sometimes crazy family. Everyone who meets him comments on how handsome he is, and even Lucy & Ethel are getting used to his playful antics. With three boys, 2 cats, 2 frogs, a tank full of fish and Cosmo life is never boring - but we wouldn't change it for the world!!! Thank you for helping us make Cosmo part of our family!!!



Thank you
for giving
Cosmo so
a wonderful
home filled
with love
laughter &
life!

The Shelter Connection Lends-A-Paw

Sue Hassett



The Town of North Hempstead recently sponsored a low cost spay/neuter clinic in conjunction with the Helping-Paw at the Animal Shelter. The Helping-Paw is a not-for-profit organization offering high quality, low cost veterinary care including vaccinations, micro chipping and spay/neuter surgery.

The Shelter Connection continued its mission of community support and outreach by providing numerous volunteers for this special event. Financial support was also provided by The Shelter Connection subsidizing each spay/ neuter procedure for a total of \$1,500.

By continuing to educate the public on the importance of spaying and neutering their pets, we hope to reduce the amount of homeless animals in the future.

For more information on the Helping-Paw go to their website www.helping-paw.org or call 888-PET-FIXR (888-738-3497)

Continued from page 9 My Life at the shelter

you're here!!" (I always try to help wherever I can, the week before I helped Roc repair a fence that was damaged by a fallen tree). Anyway, I replied "what another tree fall on the fence?" Sue replied "You don't know?? Sundown died and we need a hand burying her. (You can read about Sundown in an earlier issue) Well my heart just sank. But I dug that hole for Sundown and we all laid her to rest and well that's life here at the shelter. We were all here for each other and I wouldn't have it any other way.

One of my happiest times was to meet and approve of a person for our beloved Noel. (You can read about her on the cover of this issue.) I was fortunate to be present when Noel's adopter came to meet her, and again I was present when he came in to take her home. WOW, that was super cool!!!

I love this place. The people are great (of course they are, they're animal people). I love the dogs. I love being able to "work" for absolutely no pay and feel more rewarded than my paying job. That's my story and I'm sticking to it!!!

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

Can't get enough
 shelter news??
 Come visit our
 website & sign up
 for our e-updates



PECO - A recent adoption from
 The Town of North Hempstead Shelter
 Says: "RELAX - KICK BACK
 and enjoy the holidays!"

TJ Shields: The Do-Good Dog



If his name sounds familiar, it should. TJ was featured in Tell Tails Fall 2009 issue. At that time, the folks at Shield's Hardware and Plumbing in Port Washington were sponsoring a sale of handmade doggie bandannas with proceeds

going to help our shelter dogs. TJ sported a bandanna in a photo. We sure noticed how photogenic he was back then, but now he's gone big time. TJ is October's "Mutt of the Month" in the 365 Dogs Page-a-Day Calendar for 2011!

His owner, Patty Shields, and the rest of the folks at the store are so proud of the good looking' guy that they decided to stock up on the calendars and sell them to their customers. But wait, TJ is very aware of what a lucky dog he is to be so loved, since he was homeless once himself, so the Shields family is donating all profits from the sale of the calendars to brighten the lives of our shelter dogs. It goes to show that TJ is not just another pretty face, he's got a big heart to match his good looks...It runs in the family.

