



# Tell Tails

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"Paws to Remember" pavers  
are still available. Go to our  
web site:

[www.theshelterconnection.org](http://www.theshelterconnection.org)  
And click on the paver on the  
home page.

This February the shelter's dog control officers were called to the home of a suspected animal hoarding situation to assist with removing the animals. The officers were told that there were six dogs and one cat that were living in squalid conditions that needed to be housed by us and five of them were chihuahuas. We had a feeling of what to expect—chihuahuas, generally a rather cranky breed to begin with, living in a hoarding type situation usually characterized by lack of socialization, you get the picture. What we were not expecting were five of the friendliest and goofiest chihuahuas we had ever met! The five of them, along with the sixth dog (a large pit bull mix named Niko) are all lovely, affectionate, and social which is not what you usually see from these types of living conditions.

The dogs were finally officially released to us to find new homes after five months in our care receiving all the TLC they needed. Despite all of these pups being on the older side, this luckily did not prove to be a difficult job! All five dogs quickly made their way into new, loving homes and are thriving!

The Shelter Connection's **Mend-A-Paw** fund and our **Continuing Care Program** stepped in to make sure they were all set up for success before going home. Let's meet them! (Continued on page 3)



### Shadow

7-9 year old Shadow is a tall and leggy fella that was perfectly healthy except for his mouth. Shadow had severe tooth decay that needed to be addressed. The Mend-A-Paw program funded the procedure and now his breath won't knock you over anymore! At the shelter, Shadow was affectionate but not what you would describe as a "lap-dog." Since he's been adopted, his new dad has told us that we were quite wrong – he LOVES cuddling on your lap!

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 the dogs at the shelter and increase 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."

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**The Shelter Connection is an all volunteer non-profit 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.**



# The Shelter Connection Board Statement:

Despite the COVID pandemic which has disrupted much of our lives The Shelter Connection Board has continued to serve the shelter dogs at the Town of North Hempstead Animal Shelter through our programs:

- Shelter improvements that improve the quality of life for the dogs while they are at the shelter i.e. the nature trail, the agility park, outdoor covers for the kennels, etc.
  - Supplying volunteer dog handlers to work with, socialize, and give dogs some basic training.
- Our Mend-A-Paw program that funds medical and surgical needs for the dogs that cannot be met within the shelter budget.
  - Our rescue program that allows us to rescue dogs from other overcrowded shelters whenever our shelter's census is low. To date 904 dogs have been rescued through this program.
- Food budget supplementation to give the dogs better quality food while they are at the shelter.
- A limited continued care program that enables dogs with ongoing medical problems to be adopted without a burden for their adopter. The Shelter Connection will fund ongoing medical care for their issues while they are in their homes.
- Donations to other rescue groups that accept dogs from our shelter that have issues that make them difficult, if not impossible, to be adopted.

The Shelter Connection has also been able to help those less fortunate by partnering with Long Island Cares to fund pet food delivery to local food pantries when Long Island delivers food to the pantries. This has enabled many pets to remain in their homes with their loved ones rather than being surrendered because their family could not afford to feed them. All of the above would not be possible without the ongoing generosity of our supporters- THANK YOU!

**TSC is happy to announce that we have welcomed back our very missed Adoption Advisors!**

Our adoption advisors are crucial to the process of connecting the visiting public looking to adopt with the available dogs at the shelter. Adoption Advisors also have the opportunity to represent TSC at local events and help the shelter staff with tasks when needed. If you are interested in volunteering as an adoption advisor with the shelter, please email

**tsc@theshelterconnection.com.**

Pictured Right: Adoption Advisor Lauren Amsel who has been volunteering with TSC since 2017!





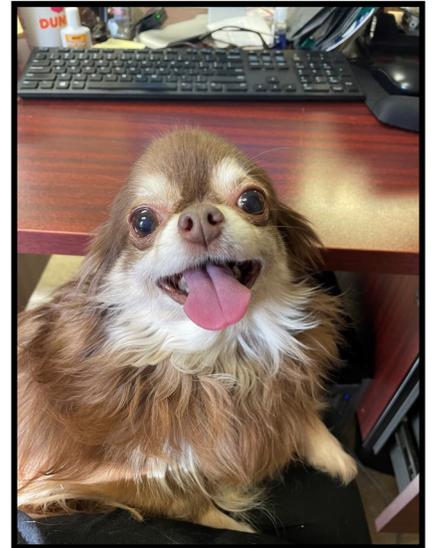
**Goose**

8 year old “Silly” Goose is healthy as a horse except for his teeth which were in desperate need for a good cleaning. The Shelter Connection’s Mend-A-Paw funded a full dentistry to get him in tip-top shape. Goose has been adopted and his new mom reports that he is doing wonderfully! He is a snuggle bug that is living life to the fullest.



**Jack**

7 year old Jack is as sweet as they come! Don’t you dare stop petting him– he’ll hook your hand with his paw and bring it right back to his belly to keep it going. The Mend-A-Paw fund paid for a full dentistry cleaning and he has never felt better! He is thriving in his new home– his new family loves him to pieces.



**Daisy**

10+ year old Daisy was the princess of the group and expected to be treated as such– the only spot worthy of her presence is your lap. This beauty also received a full dentistry workup courtesy of the Mend-A-Paw fund and was promptly adopted into a new home where she is treated like the royalty she is.



**Rudy**

10+ year old Rudy needed the most medical care out of the group, but we spared no expense for this sweet boy! Upon adoption, the Continuing Care Program is paying for the heart and liver medication that he requires for the remainder of his life. Rudy is now in a “paw-some” home with loving parents and new fur-siblings!



**Niko**

7 year old Niko also lived in the home with the chihuahuas and was a gentle giant with them. Niko is still patiently waiting for his second chance at life in a new home! He is a friendly guy that can be strong on a leash but tires quickly. The volunteers say he loves to doze in the sun during their sessions.

Call to learn more!

**We would like to extend a heartfelt “thank-you” to our supporters. It is from your donations that we are able to fund programs such as Mend-A-Paw and Continuing Care that give these dogs in need a much better chance of adoption.**

# Humane Education is Back!



Sadly, due to the COVID-19 pandemic we were forced to temporarily shut down our humane education program that we host in conjunction with shelter staff. We are thrilled to announce that we have resumed the program and we are itching to get back into the swing of it! If you are a teacher, parent of a child in a Scout group, community leader, etc. interested in having your group learn about animal care and sheltering, please take a look at our program offerings below:

**Responsible Dog Ownership (K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade):** In order for children to know how to treat dogs humanely, they must first understand the basic needs of their animal companions. This program helps children understand how the needs of pets are similar to their own needs and how they may differ as well. We also discuss the necessity of animal shelters while explaining that many pets end up in shelters because the family did not fully understand all of the responsibilities required of pet ownership. This program can either be accompanied by a “Jeopardy” style interactive game or a book reading on related material.

**Dog Bite Safety (K- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade):** Children are often curious about dogs, but do not always know how to interact with them in safe and appropriate ways. In addition to learning about the role of animal shelters, our dog bite safety program helps kids to understand how to identify and interpret canine body language and feelings. We also explore a variety of circumstances in which dogs may express their different emotions, what to do if a child encounters a stray dog, and how to safely approach a dog on a leash. This program is accompanied by a ~6 minute video that reinforces the program in a fun, age appropriate way.

**Sheltering: The Good, the Bad, and the Super Cute! (6<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grade):** This PowerPoint style presentation introduces students to the wide world of animal sheltering which includes the different types of shelters and animal welfare organizations, the limitations and struggles that shelters face, and the many benefits of pet adoption. This program also explores the harsh realities of animal hoarding, irresponsible breeding, and cruelty. Students will learn ways they can combat these issues and how they can help homeless pets in their own neighborhoods by becoming animal advocates. This program is highly adaptable for a wide range of ages.

**Pets and Overpopulation (9<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grade):** Overpopulation may be the biggest battle that the sheltering world is fighting. Sadly, many shelters simply do not have the space to accommodate the vast amount of animals entering the system. This PowerPoint style program introduces students to animal sheltering with special focus on the issue of overpopulation and causes that are contributing to this issue. Students will learn the importance of spaying and neutering as well as other ways they can help affected shelters. This program is a great supplement to any type of animal career curriculum as well as high school level animal welfare clubs.

**Adult Programs:** In addition to the programs for school-aged groups, we are able to host shelter education events and programs for adults alike. We have held programs in libraries, senior centers, for civic associations, etc. where we discuss in depth the shelter’s history, policies, and role within the community.

If you are interested in having the shelter present for your class or event, please contact Genna Tudda at 516-869-6311 or email [tuddag@northhempsteadny.gov](mailto:tuddag@northhempsteadny.gov).



## In Remembrance: A Life Fit For a King



If you are a longtime reader of our newsletter, our boy King should be a familiar face to you. For those that may be newer to The Shelter Connection family, King was a dog pulled as rescue through our rescue program from overcrowded Animal Care and Control in Brooklyn on June 11th, 2009 where he was at risk of euthanasia. King was Case# R364, meaning he was the 364th dog to be saved through this program; for reference, we are now at over 900!

King, at least at the shelter, was one of those dogs that was “great once he knew you.” He was a fiercely loyal dog and once you were in his “pack” you were in it for life, but he could be wary at first meeting new people. King lived at the shelter for a shocking 6 years and we each came to love him as our own dog. He was our resident “tester” dog since he did so well with other animals and was a favorite among the staff and volunteers.



Just as we were beginning to accept that King was most likely going to be a permanent resident at the shelter, a lovely young couple arrived in response to a rather sad post regarding King that had been circulating social media in March of 2015. At first we were upset that such a depressing depiction of King’s life was being put out there when he actually was quite content with us, but in the end, it was because of the post that this couple came in. Brian and Samantha both said that they could immediately see just walking into the shelter and meeting the friendly staff and volunteers that King was not living in sad conditions, but they wanted to meet him anyway. King, smarter than all of us, knew immediately that these were his people and took to them like glue. The rest is history!



King went on to live the life of Riley with his new parents and a feathered sibling! Over the years two new doggy children joined the pack—one of them adopted from us again— and it’s clear that King lived a full life. We are heartbroken to report that King crossed the rainbow bridge this past February after close to 7 years at home.

Samantha wrote to us: *[King] gave us just 7 years shy of love, laughs, and amazing memories. Thank you for raising him for 6 years and allowing us to adopt him out. King was such an amazing and loyal dog and we would do anything to have more time with him.*

Although a “king sized” hole is left in

all of our hearts with the news of his passing, we can rest easy because we know that the second half of his life is what a dog’s dreams are made of. Thank you to Samantha and Brian for giving him all those treasured years.



**Photos: Top & Middle Left:** King enjoying his golden years at home. **Bottom Left:** King’s “freedom ride.” **Right:** The adoption party a few months later for King that became known as “King Day!”



## Special Needs Dogs Need Homes

**DJ Wonder:** He may not be able to see you with his eyes, but he can see you with his heart. This handsome, sweet boy came in originally as a stray and it was immediately apparent with his large cataracts that he is blind. We named him Wonder but subsequently found out that his name is actually DJ but the owner could not care for him anymore. Hence— DJ Wonder! He loves to be near you and will follow your voice wherever you go. DJ Wonder is a gentle, smart boy that knows all of his commands and is completely house-trained. He also is dog friendly and could even possibly benefit from a fur-sibling that already knows the ropes of the house. DJ Wonder would love to live in a house where he would be limited to one floor (he can do stairs but would need to be carefully guided up and down on a leash or harness) and have parents that don't like to redecorate too often so he can learn the layout of the house.



**Vader:** Vader was recently surrendered to us because his owners did not have the time to care for him properly. Either they weren't aware of his disability, or they chose not to tell us, but shortly after his arrival we figured out that he is either completely or mostly deaf. The staff and volunteers have been working with this playful guy on silently teaching commands using hand signals and he is proving to be an "A+" student! He is very treat motivated which helps when it comes to deaf dog training. He's a happy-go-lucky, playful guy that would love to be your hiking or jogging partner. Vader is friendly with everyone and would do best in an active family that is dedicated to training and learning about how to help a deaf dog adapt to life at home.



## The holidays are just around the corner!

If you have adopted a pup from us in the past and have a photo of him decked out in holiday gear, please send it to us to be featured in a "Home for the Holidays" collage in our next Holiday newsletter! Please send all photos and a short blurb about your pooch to

[tsc@theshelterconnection.com](mailto:tsc@theshelterconnection.com) or  
[tuddag@northhempsteadny.gov](mailto:tuddag@northhempsteadny.gov)



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## Got Rawhide Chips?

See Page 7 for Details!

## 🐾 Happy Tail: Mya 🐾



As numbers in shelters up north started to decrease during the pandemic (everyone suddenly had time to adopt a dog!) things were just getting worse in rural shelters in the South; TSC and shelter staff made the decision to expand the rescue program to pulling dogs from the south. Pit Bull type dogs rarely get pulled from these shelters as they tend to be harder to adopt out, but something about Mya's sweet face was speaking to us. She was the Georgia shelter's longest resident and there were several videos of her showing off her loving, goofy personality. Mya arrived in October 2021 and she is just as loveable as her videos! She was adopted this past February to a wonderful couple who keeps her happy and healthy. She even lives with a feline fur-sibling! Her new dad, Shak, wrote to us:

*"She's great in the car on road trips to Delaware and PA. She's gentle with children and gets along with other dogs too. We couldn't have wished for a more well behaved dog."*

**Pictured Left:** Mya relaxing among the flowers home looking like a model!