

THE SHELTER CONNECTION

Bringing Pets & People Together



TELL TAILS

Spring 2011

On June 10, 2011 Harbor Links Golf Course is *going to the dogs* and you can help make it happen!



Golf for Paws Fundraiser

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The Shelter Connection is launching its first Charity Golf Fundraiser, **Golf for Paws**, at the Harbor Links Golf Course in Port Washington, to benefit the dogs at *The Town of North Hempstead Animal Shelter*.

Golf for Paws is a family fun event offering putting and closest to the pin contests and most excitedly, a chance to win the **Hole-in-One prize-- a lease on a 2011 BMW**, compliments Rallye BMW.

Don't miss this opportunity to **play golf with glow in the dark golf balls**, truly a unique experience. An exciting evening is planned including:

- A Wine and Cheese reception
- Grand Raffle Prizes
- BBQ Dinner
- Miniature Golf
- *Twilight Golf*, a challenging round on the 9 Hole Executive Course

Don't play golf? That's ok, come for a BBQ dinner and the thrill of winning some great raffle prizes: exquisite pearl necklace compliments of London Jewelers, luxurious items for the canine in the family, gift certificates and gift baskets from your favorite shops and restaurants, and much, much more.

This event is made possible by our lead sponsor, Kathy Van Zeeland of Kathy Van Zeeland Accessories, many generous businesses and concerned people like yourself.

Raffle tickets can be purchased in advance by contacting Valida Scott- yscott8911@aol.com

Reserve your place now and join us on June 10, 2011 in Port Washington and bring the whole family. Reservation form on page 5.

For more information please contact co-chairs:

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The Shelter Connection is the 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". The shelter is located at 75 Marine Avenue, Port Washington NY 11050.

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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 for dogs at the Town of North Hempstead Animal Shelter. All contributions are fully tax-deductible.

President's Letter

When a group of animal lovers met late in 1999 to form The Shelter Connection we anticipated helping the shelter by giving the dogs some basic obedience, exercise and socialization, all activities the shelter staff had little time to do. We thought that, if we could raise funds, we could also, in a minor way, pay for medical and surgical needs that could not be met by the shelter budget. We did not anticipate that, from our inception through the end of 2010, our community would support us by donating more than \$320,000, allowing us to spend more than \$275,000 in the same time period! These funds were spent to give medical and surgical help to 136 dogs, make major physical improvements to the shelter that increased the quality of the dogs' lives, supplement the shelter food budget, and fund teaching and reading programs in schools to foster humane education and responsible pet care. Amazingly, except for three garage sales, the donations were made without a major fund raising event. For this, I would again thank our generous community for their fantastic support. In 2011, we plan to have our first major fundraiser, "Golf for Paws", at the Harbor Links Golf Course on June 10th. Many of our dedicated volunteers, under the leadership of the Golf Event Coordinator Nancy Verdi, have made a great effort to make this a wonderful family event. Please come, have fun, and help us do more at the shelter.

Bob Slifkin

WELCOME !

The Shelter would like to welcome our newest volunteer adoption advisors: Caitlin Forsyth, Kathleen Glozneck, Candice Loshen, Janice Mancuso, Deborah Marchini, Barbara Morrison, Kathleen Oldak, Megan Oldak, Nancy Robison, Tara Rose, Harriet Schulman, David Singler, Pamela Singler, David Stagg

Congratulations!



Sugar

Sugar is a beautiful young black Chow mix, but her personality is all Chow. She was very frightened and stand offish when she first came to the shelter, barking and "huffing" (Chow people know this sound) and backing away from everyone she met. She now snuggles in with all her new friends at the shelter. She enjoys playing with the volunteers and loves having her thick black coat brushed and getting butt rubs. Being a Chow, Sugar will likely need an adopter who will give her a little space to become comfortable, and will teach her that everyone she meets is a potential new friend! From what we see it won't take long!

A Little Dog's Tale

Chapter One: A dog with no name ...



Flower at the shelter

We'll never know what name or names she had before, but in September of 2009 a little lost cocker spaniel was given the shelter name "Flower". She was one of two sweet older dogs (the other was named "Blossom") who were abandoned on the streets of Port Washington. Finding safe haven at our shelter, both needed to be shaved down since their long soft coats hadn't been cared for at all. Flower and Blossom were adopted to separate homes in short order. Small dogs are easier to adopt out even if they are senior citizens. We crossed our fingers and hoped the gentle ladies would be loved and cared for as they both deserved.

Chapter Two: Flower returns..

Fast forward to January 2011. Shelter staff got a phone call from a Good Samaritan in Queens saying that she found a stray dog wearing a collar with a North Hempstead license tag. It was Flower. That's what we always hope for; a license is a lost dog's ticket back home. A call to the registered owner was a surprise, though. The person who had adopted her denied that she was their dog and wanted nothing to do with her! When Flower arrived back at our shelter we were sickened by her condition, and actually relieved that she wouldn't be returned to her adopter. She was grossly neglected, and once again had to be shaved

down. In addition her teeth were now in desperate need of dental cleaning and extractions and she had developed a large mammary tumor. Our Mend-A-Paw fund was tapped to take care of her surgeries, so little old Flower again went up for adoption.

Chapter Three: Flower grows in my heart ...

Flower and I met on a Saturday when I was dog handling at the shelter, and it was her turn to get some exercise and TLC. I was struck by how completely she trusted everyone, even those, like my partner and I, who she'd never met before. It was remarkable for a dog that had been twice abandoned and so badly neglected. The next thing that I noticed was her dog breath! This was before her surgery, and her teeth must have been very painful. Still she showed nothing but her desire to be close to us and get lots of belly rubs. We took videos of her for our web site's Meet-a-Mutt feature, and when I edited the video it was like spending the day with the affectionate little girl all over again. The following Saturday I worked with Flower once more. Her surgery had been done and it showed in the way that her personality and spirit had brightened from our last session. We romped a bit and cuddled. She was very well behaved; no jumping on people and always sitting on command for a treat, which she took



Shake- we have a deal

softly. On Monday a group of school children visited the shelter to learn about responsible pet ownership. Naturally, we chose Flower to be the dog to meet and greet them. She was one of the best behaved dogs I ever had the experience of working with in our kids' presentations.



Life is good

Chapter Four: What's in a name? That which we call a "Rose", by any other name would smell as sweet...

A few weeks after old age claimed my Stormy, my beloved border collie, my soul mate, Flower joined our family. She is now named Rosebud of Port Washington as befits a purebred dog. She is our antique Rose, our Rosie. She is entirely house trained. She doesn't bark or jump on people or furniture. She gets along with our other dogs and cats. She is as perfect as a living thing can be. Rosie has helped fill the vast empty place in my heart that Stormy left behind. She is not a replacement; she is sweet, gentle, affectionate Rosie. Our forever Rosie. We all love her so very much.



Rosie will never be cold again



One-eyed Jack with Alex

FIONA



Fiona is an exuberant and lovable Mastiff mix. Dog Handlers have remarked at how far she has come with her training and controlling her exuberant greetings. She is a quick learner, very focused on her lessons (or the treats, perhaps!) and eager to please. She sits, gives paw, rolls over and crawls "commando" style, and is perfecting her "leave it" and "down stays"! She will surely blossom and grow into a wonderful and learned canine companion when she gets regular exercise and a consistent life style. Do you have a place in your life and heart for the fabulous Fiona?

A Tail of Two Tails- "One-eyed Jack"

Our house was empty once again, no one to greet us when we came home or sit with us when we watch TV. So when the shelter called and asked if we were interested in looking at a small, two to three year old dog that was found wandering in the street, we said yes. Before we could do that he would have to have surgery to remove his left eye because it was badly injured. When he was ready for visitors we took our granddaughter Alex with us to meet this little "One-eyed Jack". It was love at first sight for all of us. Alex fed him treats which I keep a supply of in my pocketbook for her dog "Ragu".

This is another happy rescue story. Ragu is a sweet Rhodesian Ridgeback Shepherd mix that was adopted last year. Alex gave him a "surprise" 10th birthday party--hats and all. He gets plenty of food, love and attention. How lucky is he!

We couldn't wait to take our little one-eyed Jack to his forever home. He walked out of the shelter, hopped into our van and into our lives. He is a delightful little fellow who endears himself to everyone. You have to be careful you don't step on him because he is always next to you. He sits under the table between my husband's feet waiting for handouts. Jack knows a pushover when he sees one.

As with any new relationship, there is a period of adjustment. Jack has come to realize that one does not pee on the base of the toilet bowl or leave a deposit on the kitchen scatter rug. Nobody's perfect! Maybe having him blessed at the church for the feast of St. Francis of Assisi helped. One can always use a blessing.

We have been very fortunate to have had wonderful pets in the past, but I wonder who is luckier; Jack or us? I'd say it's a toss-up!



North Hempstead Animal Shelter Lends a Paw

The Shelter Connection and Helping Paw was such a powerful partnership for community outreach that the Town of North Hempstead Animal Shelter is proud to announce that Helping Paw will become a semi-permanent fixture at the shelter, offering low cost spay/neuter, vaccinations and micro-chipping. The "Petfixr" mobile van will spend time at the shelter offering affordable pet care BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

For more information about Helping Paw, go to their web site: www.helping-paw.org or call 888-PET-FIXR or 888-738-3497



SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 10, 2011

Harbor Links Executive Course
Port Washington, NY



Sponsored By

KATHY
Van Zeeland

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
6:00 pm Wine and Cheese Reception
6:30 pm BBQ Dinner & Raffle
Shot Gun Starts Promptly at **8:00 pm**



Hole-In-One! Winner gets
Lease on 2011 BMW
Compliments Rallye Motors

For More Information Call Committee Co- Chairs:

Nancy Verdi- 516-767-5103 verdi216@optonline.net
Lisa Scudley- 516-238-6680 lgs824@gmail.com
Sue Hassett- 516-944-8220 cowmandue@aol.com

The Shelter Connection, operating exclusively at
The Town of North Hempstead Animal Shelter
501(C)(3) not-for-profit organization
tsc@theshelterconnection.com

"GOLF FOR PAWS"

JUNE 10, 2011

RESERVATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

List Names Of All Golfers: indicate (G) for Golf & (M) for Miniature Golf. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Night Golf w/Reception & BBQ Dinner: \$150 per Goller
Reception & BBQ Only: \$55 per person
Miniature Golf: \$20 , \$30 w/kids meal

Indicate Sponsorship Level _____

Sponsorship Donation \$ _____

Night Golf Foursome \$ _____

Reception/Dinner(s) _____ @ \$55 \$ _____

Miniature Golf _____

Mini Golf _____

w/family friendly meal(s) _____ @ \$30 \$ _____

Additional Donation \$ _____

I cannot attend but please accept my donation to the Shelter Connection \$ _____

TOTAL DONATION \$ _____

Please Make Checks Payable To:
The Shelter Connection
POBox 226, Greenvale, NY, 11548
TSC is a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization.





**IT'S
COOL
TO
BE
KIND**



Little Miracle Workers at the shelter

It's Cool To Be Kind- On November 14th, 2010 three organizations came together at the Town of North Hempstead Animal Shelter to educate future adults about shelters and responsible animal care. The "Little Miracle Workers" are a group of dedicated grade school students and their parents who have a genuine willingness to do their part to help alleviate despair or to just give of their time in hopes of spreading a smile. Helping Promote Animal Welfare (Helping PAW) is a not for profit organization whose mission is to provide low cost

sterilization and wellness care as a means to reduce the number of homeless, abandoned, and feral animal populations. Shelter staff with volunteers from The Shelter Connection and Helping PAW hosted a day of education and fun at the shelter (but the best and most interesting hosts were the shelter dogs). The drawing above (by Little Miracle Worker Jesse Seaman) is one of many done by the Miracle Workers to express their feelings at the end of the event.



Coda (now Ollie on right) with Ella

Coda, Norwegian Elkhound adopted!

From Coda's Family: Wonderful Coda, who we adopted last week, is now known as Ollie (it suits his Norwegian heritage). Ollie is the perfect dog for us! He has been getting used to the smells of the Vermont woods and the howling of the coyotes off in the distance each night. Our older dog Ella has been very patient with his exuberance, and in turn, Ollie has been good at knowing when to give Ella space. He is smart, sweet, affectionate and completely wonderful! You guys run a great operation and we are so glad we found you. Thank you for a perfect puppy, we could not be happier! All our best, Ollie's family (also Ella, Dandy and Smokey- the cats and the 28 chickens that Ollie has chased, but thankfully not eaten)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Keep an eye on our web site for the dates of some exciting upcoming events...our free public lecture series is planned to begin again this spring along with a new Open House at the shelter to "show off" our new improvements and an opportunity to mingle with some of our alumni! Come hear their adoption success stories!

We will be wrapping books at Barnes & Noble Manhasset for Mother's and Father's Days. Drop by to say hello the two preceding days of each of these special holidays!

WWW.THESHELTERCONNECTION.COM

Come to the shelter and meet:

Roxy- female Carahoula
Leopard Dog mix

Rock-male Rottweiler mix



Eagle Scout Certification benefits the Shelter

In the summer of 2010 a Boy Scout, Vincent Buonincontro, was looking for a project to gain Eagle Scout certification. He was introduced to our shelter by John Luca, a volunteer. Our nature trail was now several years old and in need of some repair work, specifically a retaining wall that was rotting, and an area in need of brush clearing. He spent several months raising funds. In the fall he arrived at the shelter with a gang of hard working volunteers and supplies. By the end of the day a beautiful and functioning new retaining wall had been constructed and a new bed had been cleared and planted! Our thanks go out to Vinny and his crew, and again we witnessed the power of our community helping our dogs!



Regina & Sammy take a break on the new retaining wall

Obesity in pets- it's unhealthy!

More than half of U.S. dogs and cats are now overweight (15% above normal weight) or obese (30% above normal weight). Since Fluffy can't open the refrigerator, the culprit is owners who routinely overfeed their pets, don't exercise them enough, and are unaware of the health problems caused by excess weight. These include diabetes, arthritis, kidney failure, high blood pressure, cancer and shortened life span.

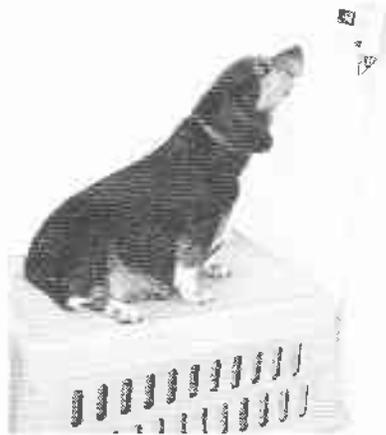
How can you tell if your pet is "portly"?

- Can you feel your pet's ribs easily? If you have to "dig" around, your pet is likely too heavy
- Look at your pet from the side, there should be a tucked abdomen. A hanging belly indicates excess fat
- Look at your pet from above, there should be a tapered waistline, not a broad flat back

What can you do to promote weight loss?

- Calculate calories, check with your Vet for the proper amount. Food label recommendations may be too much for your inactive pet. Calories for many food brands are listed at www.petobesityprevention.com
- Measure meals, don't just fill the bowl. Feed small high protein, low carbohydrate meals 2-3 times daily. Use low calorie treats or substitute vegetables and fruits such as carrots or apples
- Exercise daily, at least 20-30 minutes of brisk walking or active play time daily

Summarized from the Wall Street Journal - Personal Journal 2/22/2011



Jessie gets weighed at the shelter

Sammy is so handsome, sweet, attentive, affectionate and playful it is a mystery why he is still sitting in our shelter. He arrived at the shelter in October 2010 and was a little shy but he soon relaxed and made friends with everyone. Sammy is most likely a Husky-mix, he weighs 70lbs and is about six-years-old. Generally he is calm and attentive and because he is highly food motivated he enjoys training sessions where his rewards are treats. Sammy loves petting and is playful. He will play with toys but he is really more interested in interacting with his people. Sammy appears to have it all except a family and home he can call his own.



SAMMY
Male Husky Mix
Adult

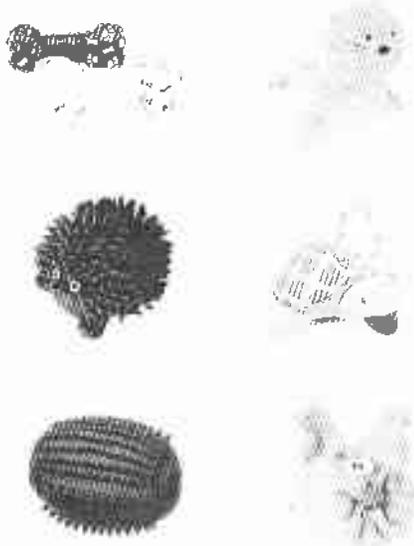
Got Squeaky Toys?

...and the series continues! The shelter dogs are looking for toys with squeakers, especially hard rubber ones but latex and tough cloth or any fabric would also be great! Needless to say the half life of toys at the shelter is quite short and we can always use more.

Thank you in advance!

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

GOT SQUEAKY TOYS?



The Shelter Connection

Tell Tails Spring 2011



**Peaches at the shelter
waiting patiently for her
people**



**Her people come and she
goes home March 5th**



9/2010: Peaches is a senior who has lived at the shelter since September 2010. She is calm and sweet and has yet to find a person she doesn't want to hang out with. She is practically perfect knowing her basic commands, showing good manners and taking treats with a gentle mouth. She does have some age related stiffness particularly in her back legs and so she is not able to climb stairs. Contrary to normal canine requirements Peaches needs little exercise or training just the love and companionship of a good person and a warm soft place to while away the day and sleep through the night- preferably curled up with her person.

3/2011: Potential adopter comes to the shelter seeking a puppy, meets Peaches in the real life room next to the nursery (where the puppies were living) and goes home. At home can't stop thinking about Peaches, brings his family to meet her. On March 5th Peaches goes home.