



# Tell Tails



## What's Inside: President's Letter & Shelter Update

The Results Are In!  
Meet Jimbo and Bill  
Page 2

Presidents Letter and  
Shelter Update continued  
Page 3

"Pitty as a Picture"- Former  
Shelter Pits now Internet  
Stars!  
Pages 4 and 5

Kind Kids: Jesse Ryan  
Page 6

GOT the Spirit of Giving?  
/AmazonSmile  
TNHAS Welcomes New  
ACO Sandra Huertas  
Page 7

"Happy Tails"- Eli  
Page 8



"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.

Hello from all of us at the North Hempstead Animal Shelter ( and "woof, woof," say the shelter dogs)! We miss seeing everyone's faces down here, but we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Although the shelter hasn't completely returned to all of its pre-pandemic programs and operations, that hasn't hindered the success of our most important goal- finding homeless dogs their perfect "forever" homes. We are continuing to facilitate adoptions by appointment, have increased our social media presence, and are still regularly doing television spots to feature the dogs, such as News 12's Paws and Pals! (see Diamond below).

The Shelter Connection President, Dr. Bob Slifkin, wrote a letter to bring everyone up to speed with the volunteer group's happenings:

### President's Letter-

As with many aspects of our everyday lives the pandemic demanded a major change in shelter activities, including volunteer activities. For a short time, during the worst of the viral activity in New York, the shelter was completely closed to the public. In June, the shelter re-opened with limited hours and dogs could be seen only by appointment. When the Town and the shelter staff felt comfortable that it was safe, outdoor dog handling by our volunteers resumed in October. In the fall, the shelter reopened to pre-pandemic hours but adoptions are still by appointment only. (continued on page 3)



Recently adopted **Diamond** with her classic "puppy dog eyes" was a natural at posing for her appearance on News 12's Paws and Pals segment!

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 Results Are In!

Meet two of our adorable adoptables currently awaiting their forever homes at the shelter! We couldn't quite put our finger on what breeds these two mutts may be a mix of— so we decided to figure it out! Learning about a dog's breeds can be very helpful to understand certain behaviors and traits, and in turn create a more profound relationship with better communication between you and your pooch. We used Wisdom Panel Essential kits to obtain these results:



### Guard

30 % American Staffordshire Terrier  
28 % American Bulldog  
3 % Staffordshire Bull Terrier

### Sporting

15 % Labrador Retriever  
1 % German Shorthaired Pointer

## Bill

For lack of a better guess, we dubbed 2 year old Bill a Shepherd Mix when he arrived here from Georgia, based on his markings and ear shape. Lo and behold— Bill is 0% shepherd! His main breeds comprise of guard-type dogs, but the substantial mix of Labrador, Australian Cattle dog, and Malamute all contribute to his unique look. Bill can take some time to become comfortable in a new setting, but once he is he becomes a playful and affectionate guy. Bill will need an experienced home, ideally with another mild mannered dog, that has the patience to show him the world is not so scary!

### Herding

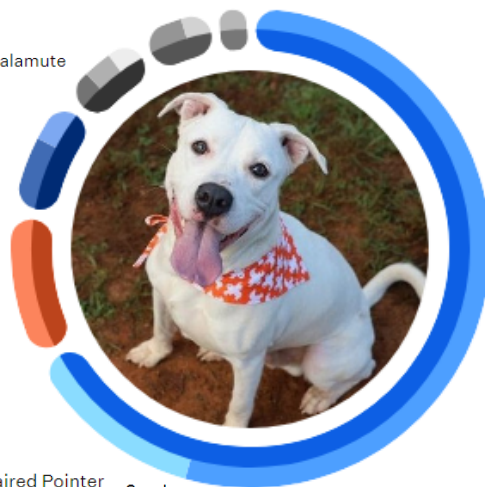
13 % Australian Cattle Dog

### Asian

10 % Alaskan Malamute

## Jimbo

Young, energetic Jimbo is almost too handsome for words! We had a feeling that he was mostly American Staffordshire, but his longer coat and slighter build had us scratching our heads. The boxer is likely where he gets his build from, while the Chow explains his longer coat and purple-tinged tongue! The Pointers and Hounds are common mixes in Georgia where he is from, although we have to admit, we don't quite see the Papillon.... Jimbo is seeking an active home that has experience with training. He gets along well with other dogs and probably would love a companion to help tire him out!



### Sporting

3 % German Wirehaired Pointer  
2 % German Shorthaired Pointer

### Companion

2 % American Eskimo Dog  
2 % Papillon  
2 % Tibetan Terrier

### Terrier

2 % Russell Terrier

### Guard

56 % American Staffordshire Terrier

13 % Boxer

### Asian

10 % Chow Chow

### Hound

5 % Treeing Walker Coonhound

3 % English Foxhound



Due to all of these changes the way that our Adoption Advisors work had to be redefined. Until more is known about the protection offered by the vaccines, we cannot ask our volunteers to put themselves at risk to meet and greet the public at the shelter. For this same reason, adoption advisor classes cannot be held until these questions are answered.

Thanks to funding from The Shelter Connection, the Rescue and Mend-A-Paw programs continue. The shelter has accepted several great dogs from over-crowded shelters in Georgia and Texas, some of which are heartworm positive and could not be treated in their home shelters. The Shelter Connection continues to fund purchase of better food, special food if needed, beds, bones, treats and anything else needed for the safety, comfort, and well-being of the dogs at the shelter.

With this pandemic many families in our community have faced an economic crisis and some are having difficulty feeding their pets. Long Island Cares ([www.licares.org](http://www.licares.org)) supplies food to about 30 agencies in the Town of North Hempstead for their food pantries but has not been able to supply pet food. The Shelter Connection has agreed to supply funding so that pet food, as needed, is regularly delivered to the food pantries along with human food. Hopefully, this will enable families to keep their pets and they will not have to make a choice between feeding themselves or their pets.

Everything that we have accomplished, or are doing now, comes because of the support from our wonderful community of animal lovers. For our volunteers and the families that our efforts are helping- **THANK YOU!!**

Bob Slifkin

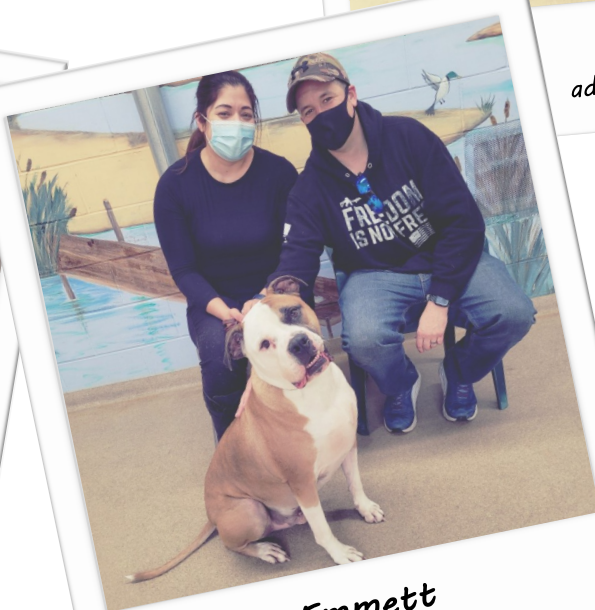
**These are just a few of our  
many successful recent  
adoptions!**



**Cecily**  
adopted 3/11/21



**Chase**  
adopted 12/15/20



**Emmett**  
adopted 3/3/21

# “Pitty” as a Picture

Who knew so many of our Progressive Pit Program graduates would go on to seek Internet stardom? Meet six of our former shelter pitties (you may even be familiar with a couple from prior newsletters!) that clearly have the “it” factor. All of these lucky pooches ended up in wonderful, loving homes that allow us to keep up with all of their happenings! If you don’t have Instagram yet, make yourself a profile, if only to follow all of these wonderful pups!



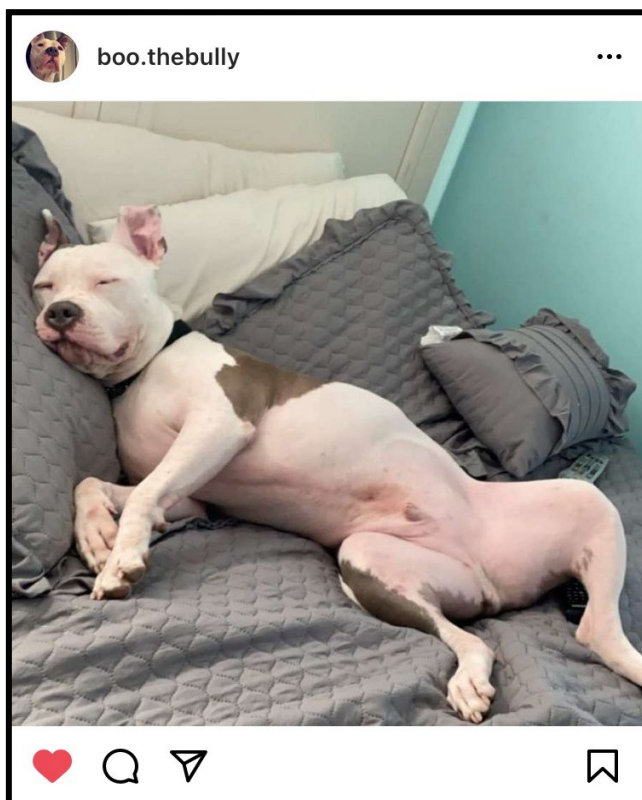
You may remember **Harry (left)** from the cover of the Quarantine newsletter (June 2020), where he was in his element catching a tennis ball in our play yard. Shortly after that issue published, Harry was adopted by a fun-loving family after waiting for more than 4 years! He has two fur-brothers, Mac and Chief, and loves going on adventures with the whole family. Harry’s first Christmas festivities, in his dad’s words, included “laying by the fire and opening the fridge to eat the 8 lb beef tenderloin his mom aged for 2 weeks for Christmas dinner.” Maybe not Harry’s finest moment, but can you really blame a guy? But don’t worry, his family loves him enough to forgive and forget!



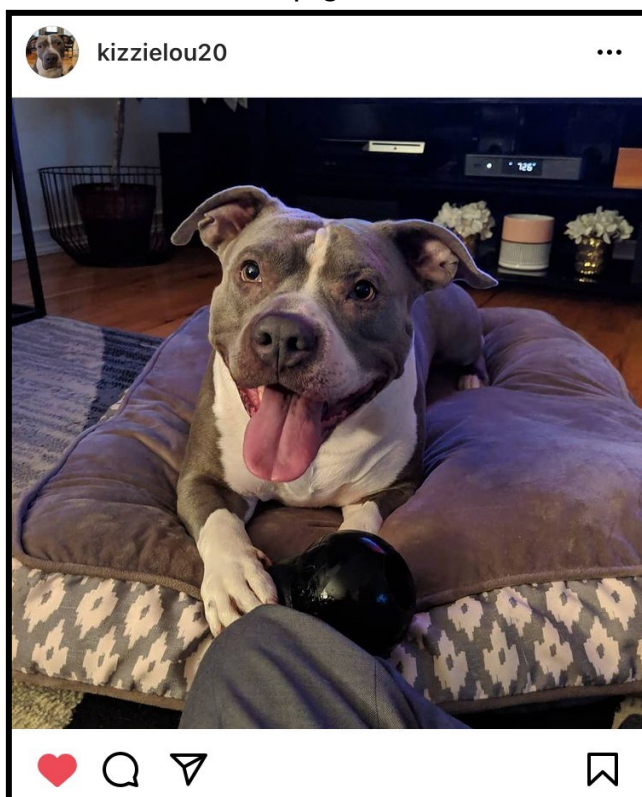
I don’t think anyone could forget **Zeus (right)**!

Zeus is a very special boy that waited an astonishing 9 years before finding his “paw-fect” dad. Although Zeus was the “kennel clown” and ultimate sweetheart with people, Zeus did not want to be around other dogs which made him a harder to place adoption. We featured his adoption story in our Holiday 2020 issue, but we just had to feature this spring update post of him enjoying the woods! If you scroll through Zeus’s Instagram, it’s clear how much he loves his dad and is enjoying his new life. We miss Zeus back here, but we couldn’t have wished for anything greater for him.





**Boo (top left)** was adopted in January 2019 after being abandoned at a nearby location. Although he misleadingly looks like a couch potato here, the parents of this fun-loving dog instantly recognized his star power. **Macho (top right)** was a rescue dog from a local, overcrowded shelter in October 2019. Not surprisingly, this incredible boy was scooped up in just a couple weeks. He is enjoying a leisurely life with his human sister and fur-cousins, and Macho has a special affinity for wearing the latest fashions. It was baffling that **Kizzie (bottom left)** was in three different homes (none a fault of her own) before landing with her awesome fur-ever family in October 2018. It's clear from her photo that Kizzie is an incredible girl full of personality! Handsome, well mannered **Hudson (bottom right)** was with us a short 2 months before he was snatched up by a lovely family in 2017. Follow his page to witness his hilarious habit of resting his squishy, kissable lips in various places!





## 🐾 Kind Kids: Jesse Ryan 🐾

Eagle Scout Jesse Ryan, representing Troop #201 in Mineola approached us wanting us to be the recipient of his eagle scout project. Jesse chose the shelter because he loves animals, especially dogs, and he wanted his project to have a positive impact to help the lives of the shelter dogs at the shelter. With the perks of having a beautiful, wooded property and nature trail for the dogs to enjoy also comes the burden of mosquitoes. In the summer the nature trail can become almost intolerable for some because of them, and mosquitoes are a super vector for

disease, including heartworm disease in dogs. Jesse and shelter staff together brainstormed on ideas to assuage this issue and came up with the idea of constructing bat boxes to help increase the resident population of native bats. Did you know that a single bat can eat up to 1,000 mosquitoes per hour? Having more bats on the property can certainly help the comfort of both humans and shelter dogs, alike!

Jesse recruited other scouts and family members looking to put in some community service hours and began fundraising for the project by building extra bat boxes and selling them locally. After sufficient funds were raised, on April 10th, after the skies cleared, Jesse and his team installed four bat boxes on various, suitable areas of the property. Believe it or not, there are many specific criteria to properly mounting a bat box– they should not be placed on trees due to increased predation and too much shade, they should have 6 -8 hours of sun exposure a day, and they should be no further than 1/4 mile from a water source (thankfully, we have a babbling creek that runs along the property!) In addition to the bat boxes, Jesse and his team erected a new 20 ft flagpole on the property to replace the old one that had been knocked down by a truck years ago. Now our flag can proudly fly!

Jesse would like to thank various businesses that either donated or provided discounts, including Mineola Flag Company in Lynbrook, Sherwin-Williams in New Hyde Park, Riverhead Building Supply in Mineola, and Home Depot in Westbury. We would like to thank Jesse and his whole team for being so hard-working (they did this in one day!) and dedicating their time to positively impacting the dogs (and the staff and volunteers!) lives here at the shelter. We can't wait for the bats to start moving in!





## GOT the Spirit of Giving?

We have been so fortunate this year and have received so many donations that we are not currently in need of anything specific. We encourage you to pay it forward and rather than donate to us, to donate to your local pet food pantry. Many families are struggling to feed themselves during this pandemic let alone their pets. Your donation to a pet pantry could save a pet from being brought to the shelter simply because they can't feed him. If you would still like to send us donation, you can send through AmazonSmile! **The Shelter Connection's unique link is:** <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/11-3526416>. AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support The Shelter Connection every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop through AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to the Shelter Connection, where 100% of that goes to the dogs at the Town of North Hempstead Animal Shelter.



### Welcome Sandra, Our New ACO!

We are very excited to announce that the shelter has hired a new Animal Control Officer, **Sandra Huertas**! Sandra has been working with animals for more than 16 years, starting her career in the animal world as a pet groomer. She learned to groom as a volunteer in a little shop that would groom and help take care of dogs living on the street in that area; it is here where her passion for animals began. Sandra joined a grooming school which led her to start her first grooming salon. As both the owner and a groomer at the salon, she had the opportunity to continue her education and become a Veterinary Assistant Technician. She was able to continue her practice with the animal hospital in the little town she was living in. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond Sandra's control, she was not able to finish her schooling and had to close her business.

However, Sandra never stopped working with pets- she became certified for the City of New York as a qualifying animal care handler and has been working as a Grooming Salon Manager for several companies and veterinary offices. In addition, Sandra works in the community for several Nassau County non-profit organizations as a liaison between them and the most vulnerable populations in the county. Sandra's biggest dream is to have this opportunity of working for the community by helping animals in need and connecting man's best friend with their forever loving families. Welcome aboard, Sandra! (P.S- "Smoooshable" pup Nellie, in the photo with Sandra, is available for adoption!)

## 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**  
Your donation is fully tax deductible and will be acknowledged with a receipt. **P.O. Box 226**  
100% of your donation will be applied directly to program services. **Greenvale, NY 11548**

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**For this holiday season, we  
encourage you to donate to your  
local pet food pantry!**

The Shelter Connection

Tell Tails Spring 2021



## Happy Tail: Eli



In April 2014 a little poodle/ bichon mix was brought in by a good Samaritan who caught him roaming the streets. He brought new meaning to the word “hound-dog”- he was very determinately chasing after her female dog! This little guy was so dirty and matted it looked like he had stuck his paw into an electrical outlet—naturally, we named him Fusebox! Fusebox turned out to be a happy little guy that stole the heart of one of our former treasured volunteers, Margaret. Margaret adopted him after receiving a month of TLC at the shelter, and as you can clearly see from the photo, Fusebox, now Eli, has been living a pampered life with his mom ever since. Margaret writes:

**“ Eli is the true definition of love. He came to his forever home seven years ago this month. I am forever grateful to all of you for giving him a second chance. Eli turned 12 on April 5th. His favorite show is Law and Order. Eli loves long walks and is loved by family and friends.”**

Thank you, Margaret for giving Eli the “paw-fect” home that he deserves!