



Tell Tails

What's Inside: 20 Years of Fighting for the Underdog

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

www.theshelterconnection.org
And click on the paver on the home page.

Before we get into reminiscing about The Shelter Connection's history and accomplishments over the past 20 years, I'd like to reflect a little on this past year:

Some statistics for 2018: 137 dogs were adopted into new, loving "fur-ever" homes, 96 stray dogs were returned safely to their owners, and 29 dogs were pulled from local, overcrowded shelters through our rescue program. In addition, \$32,453 was spent on Mend-A-Paw recipients for medical treatments and procedures that the town could not cover.

The best person to speak about our history is the President of TSC for the past 20 years, Bob Slifkin:

"The Shelter Connection is twenty years old - What have we accomplished? Most important- continuing the evolution of the North Hempstead Animal Shelter from a "dog pound" to an adoption center for homeless dogs. Ensuring that trained volunteers are available to help potential adopters find the "right" dog and to give resident dogs affection and exercise. Gaining the confidence of our animal loving community so that they support us financially. This enabled us to improve the shelter physical plant, feed better food, supply bones, treats and toys, and do whatever is necessary, medically and/or surgically, to fix any issues that we find before a dog is adopted. Winning the confidence of the shelter staff and the Town Board so (continued on next page)



Photos— **Top:** Shelter Connection Trainer & Board Member Roseanne's first graduating handling class, 2000. **Above:** Some of the founding members of The Progressive Pit Program pose with King, 2015.

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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Special Thanks to:

Photography: Margaret Tumino
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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.



we can work together to make “our” shelter the best shelter that it can be.

Personally, these 20 years have been an incredibly gratifying experience for me so I want to say “Thank You” to all of the dedicated volunteers, to the shelter staff, the Town Board, and our community who has supported us so well.— Bob Slifkin.

Former Shelter Director, Sue Hassett, wrote a counter “Thank You” on behalf of all of us to Bob for his 20 year (and counting!) service to the shelter dogs in our community:

“As President of TSC for its entire 20 years, Dr. Robert Slifkin, affectionately known as Dr. Bob, has been its heart and soul. From a handful of supporters, to hundreds of dedicated volunteers, he has provided the leadership needed to succeed. TSC has become a model partnership with North Hempstead Animal Shelter, providing what each individual animal needs to enjoy a better life in and out of the shelter.

For Dr. Bob’s 20 years of leadership, dedication, support, compassion, and friendship the volunteers and staff would like to say “thank you.” For the thousands of voiceless animals he has helped along the journey— another “thank you.” In most organizations “it takes a village.” For The Shelter Connection, “it takes Dr. Bob.”

I collected statements from our volunteers about their experience with TSC and what this place means to them. You’ll see them in the following pages, but we think it makes sense to start with one of our longest volunteers— Denise Waters. She has been a volunteer since the inception of TSC in 1999. On top of being one of our most dedicated and versatile volunteers, you can’t help but have a smile on your face when you are around her. She writes of her experience:

“In 1999 my husband and I joined TSC. We were getting a dog and felt it would be a good idea to immerse ourselves in everything ‘dog.’ 20 years later, I am still immersing! I am co-founder to The Progressive Pit Program where we specialize in training and socialization of the bully breeds. I am on the Board of Directors and still train dogs. I have been events coordinator, attended fundraisers, rescued, adoption advised, etc. I have done all things needed to promote and support our grass roots group. Here I will remain as long as my old bones will allow me! Love this shelter, everyone who works here, and all my fellow volunteers— but I especially love all the shelter dogs!”



Flip through the pages to read more statements and see “blast from the past” photos!

Photos— Above: Handler Adrienne and Adoption Advisors Andrea and Robbie pose with Penn, 2019.

Left: Group photo at King’s reunion party after being adopted, 2015.



Happy Tail: Boo

Get ready for an issue full of Happy Tails— we have had an incredible year full of “paw-some” adoption stories! We hope you won’t get bored of hearing them, but we have a feeling that won’t happen. First up is Boo, a sweet soul who was abandoned at a nearby animal shelter. Considered a stray, we immediately drove over and brought him to our facility and named him “Boo.” But don’t worry, this guy is definitely a “friendly ghost” whose mission was clearly to steal the hearts of all who meet him.

Somehow it took 4 months for him to find his perfect family, but clearly it was worth the wait! A new family member writes:

“Little update on our boy Boo! The most gentle and loving baby ever! Love his constant cuddles and he has truly made our family complete! Thank you again for everything you guys did for us! We are forever grateful and we plan on coming by soon so everyone can say hello to him!”

These photos speak louder than words of Boo’s new life at home. Yes, please come visit us soon!



Zeus Goes on a Field Trip!

Fun fact: our shelter dogs get to go on field trips! A few days ago volunteers treated our boy Zeus to a wonderful afternoon in the sunshine at Sands Point Park & Preserve. Zeus got to enjoy all of the wonderful trails, sights, smells, and sounds that the preserve has to offer a dog. Our staff and volunteers regularly take the shelter residents to nearby parks and outdoor



events to give them a brief respite from shelter life; it’s also

a beneficial socialization tactic. Now, for a few facts about our “adopt-a-bull” Zeus, the longest resident in the shelter:



Zeus loves feeling the wind in his ears while driving along in the car.

Zeus is a playful, affectionate, and goofy boy who walks great on a leash and (clearly) loves to go for rides in the car. Sadly, Zeus has been patiently waiting for his perfect family or a best buddy to call his own for over 7 years. Although he enjoys life at the shelter, he knows life would have even more to offer alongside that special person at home! He loves all people he meets but would need to be the only pet in the house. If you're considering completing your home with Zeus, give us a call at 516-869-6311 for more information.

The Shelter Then and Now



“It is such a great feeling when I witness a dog getting adopted; or I introduce a potential adopter to our dogs and they come back with their family and/or pets for another meeting. I always start my session excitedly looking through the adoption books to see who got adopted the past week.

The abandoned and lost dogs that come through this shelter are lucky to end up here because of the loving staff and volunteers who have also welcomed me into their family.”

- Lauren, Volunteer since 2016

Photos— **Above:** “Meet The Breeds Day,” 2004. **Right:** “Ruff & Roll: Bowling for Shelter Dogs” event, 2017. **Below left:** First TNHAS & TSC Open House, 2001. **Below right:** Volunteers treat the dogs to a trip to the park, 2014.

“Going to the shelter brings a smile to my face. The love and care shown by the staff to the dogs reinforces my belief in people. You can see [this reflected] in the dogs. Thank you for allowing me to volunteer.”

- Patrick, Volunteer since 2018

“Volunteering with The Shelter Connection has brought me so much joy over the years. The friends I have made and the dogs I have loved have meant the world to me. So much so, that I have two of our pups at home. Bless you for all the good work you do.”

- Linda, Volunteer since 2009



Connection:

and Now

“I became a volunteer with the Shelter Connection in the fall of 2013. I’m an adoption advisor and enjoy every minute! It’s so rewarding when I can help our dogs get a forever home. Being an animal lover, I’m always sorry that I can’t take them all home!

- Robbie, Volunteer since 2013



Photos– **Right:** “National Night Out” 2012. **Middle Left:** Kelsey with a litter of puppies, 2016. **Middle right:** Valida teaches commands to Maggie, 2010. **Below left:** Adoption Advisors, early 2000s. **Below right:** John and Milo have fun with the agility equipment, 2012.



“[My granddaughter] wants to be a vet and felt by volunteering at a shelter she could start her dream. At 11 1/2, Kayla called the area shelters- TSC allows kids to start at 12 with an adult. Grandma Helen was asked and loving dogs as much as Kayla, quickly accepted.

When a dog is adopted by a person you helped, you change two lives, the person/ family and a dog's, for good. Our most memorable adoption was when a family came in with their disabled daughter seeking a companion. We recommended a large, loving mutt named Webster-he did not leave the girl's side- Webster went home that very day. We are honored to work with staff and volunteers of the same mind and hope to volunteer for years to come.”

- Helen, Volunteer since 2017

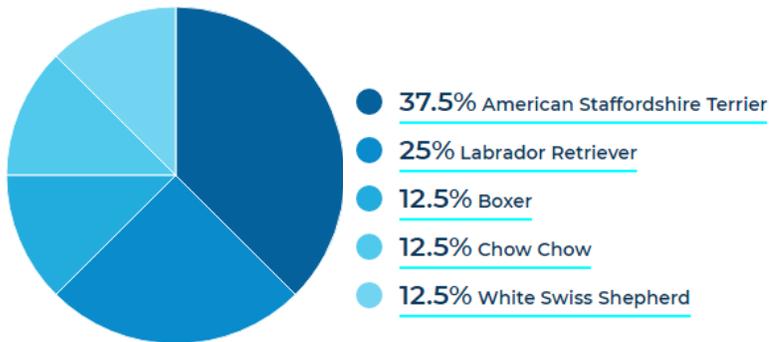


“The best volunteer experience I have ever had.”

- Walter, Volunteer since 2000



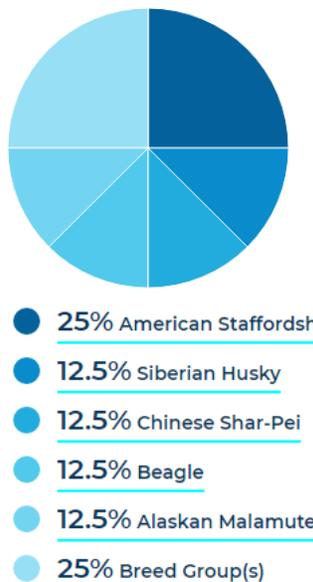
Shelter Dog Spotlight: Benny (+ DNA Result!)



Are you looking for a 100% mutt to 100% love? Benny might be the guy for you! We were wondering about the ancestry of this long-legged handsome fella and sent in a Wisdom Panel DNA test to satisfy our curiosity— what a combo he turned out to be! Benny is a fun-loving guy but can be somewhat aloof to new people at first (that must be the Chow in him...). He is easily won over by treats— once he is focused he aims to please and has shown to be an “A+” student at commands. Benny loves walks on the nature trails, having the tennis ball tossed for him, and playing with plush toys. Benny is seeking an active family with older kids that will give him all the love he deserves. Benny may be able to live with the right dog – a meeting would be required at the shelter before adoption to make sure they get along. If you are interested in adding Benny to your family, please call the shelter at 516-869-6311.



Happy Tail: Vinny



Vinny came to the shelter several months ago through The Shelter Connection’s Rescue Program. This handsome, loveable boy quickly stole the hearts of everyone that met him, but especially our very own volunteer, Danielle. Unfortunately, Vin tested positive for heartworm infection and he had to stay at the shelter for treatment for a few months before Danielle took him home. We couldn’t resist DNA testing him because of his unique looks— what incredible results! He is now officially heartworm free thanks to the Mend-A-Paw fund. This loveable mutt now spends his days alongside his favorite human.

GOT Busy Bone Refills?

Continuing the GOT ___? series, we again ask for your help with Busy Buddy Bone treat refills in size C for the dogs. These longer lasting treats are great to keep the dogs busy in the kennel!

*These can be purchased through Smile.Amazon.com and sent directly to the shelter at 75 Marino Avenue, Port Washington, NY 11050. 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.

Upcoming: Free Rabies Vaccination Clinic

Saturday, May 4th, 2019 | 10:00 am– 12:00 pm

Town of North Hempstead Animal Shelter
75 Marino Avenue, Port Washington, NY

Save a few bucks at the vet and join us at our bi-annual free rabies clinic co-sponsored by the Nassau County Board of Health and the Town of North Hempstead. The clinic is open to all dogs, cats, and ferrets; you do not have to be a resident of Nassau County to receive a free vaccine. If you are a resident of North Hempstead it is required that your dog be licensed. We will be offering on-the-spot new licenses as well as license renewals. If you are questioning why you should license your dog, see below:



Why should I license my dog?

There are many reasons why licensing is beneficial to you, your dog, and the community as a whole. Proof of rabies vaccination is required to obtain a license. Up-to-date shots not only keeps your dog safe, but, in the event he gets lost, animal control or anyone else who comes upon your missing pooch will know he is safe to approach. Dog licensing is a state requirement in New York and it is possible to be fined if you do not comply with dog licensing laws— many dog parks and apartment buildings have begun to require proof of license. In addition, licensing is the best way to identify your pet and prove you are the legal owner of your dog. In North Hempstead, a spayed or neutered dog costs \$7 to license (\$2.50 for senior citizens) and must be renewed every year. By licensing your dog you are keeping both your pet safer and your community a more dog-friendly place to live!

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:
Your donation is fully tax deductible and will be acknowledged with a receipt.
100% of your donation will be applied directly to program services.

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“GOT” Busy Bone Refills in Size C?

Don't forget to order through AmazonSmile!
For more details see page 7.



Happy Tail: Mocha



Mocha came to our shelter as a result of the most common tale in sheltering: his owners were moving and they didn't involve him in their plans. This sweet boy waited almost a year before he found his perfect home— most likely because of his kennel behavior. His new mom writes:

"Good afternoon! I wanted to share a quick update about one of your former pups - we adopted our boy King (he was "Mocha") from you guys about 6 months ago. Everyone seemed to love him, so I wanted to let you know that he's doing great and adjusted to our family super quickly. The biggest concern we all had was how he and the littlest member of our family - then 2 years old - would get along. These days, she'll tell anyone who will listen, "he's my best friend!!" I've sent a couple pictures of them together so you can see what I mean. Thank you so much for all of your help! He was well loved in his time with you and it definitely shows"

This is a great reminder to not judge a dog by his kennel behavior- to give that dog barking behind the fence a chance— all he is really saying is that he wants to get out and meet you. Thank you so much for giving Mocha the home and best buddy he deserves!