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 Syosset, New York 11791  
 631-425-1884  
[www.lasthopeanimalrescue.org](http://www.lasthopeanimalrescue.org)

## LAST HOPE SPONSORS LONG ISLAND'S FIRST PIT BULL CONFERENCE!!!

*By Linda Stuurman*

The problem is not hard to figure out if you happen to frequent the municipal shelters on Long Island, or for that matter any shelter in the country. The problem has been brewing for some time-there are too many Pit Bulls in our shelters and too few good homes for them. I was constantly asking myself week after week: *What can LAST HOPE do for these dogs besides rescue one or two at a time?* For every Pit Bull LAST HOPE is able to place in its dog adoption program, we are leaving scores behind. It is a horrible position to be in if you are a human or dog.

In January 2008, LAST HOPE initiated a meeting of Long Island's municipal shelter directors, rescue groups and interested parties to begin discussions on the Pit Bull problem. The first meeting was held at the Town of Hempstead Shelter where ideas, problems and possible solutions were discussed. It became evident that Long Island needed to become aware of what other groups in other areas of the country and the region were doing to address the Pit Bull problem. Thus, the idea of a conference was proposed and all participants concurred that it should happen as soon as possible. With the encouragement and support of Dr. Elia Colon-Mallah of Suffolk County Community College, we were offered the opportunity to have the conference hosted at the College by the Veterinary Technology Club. The conference was christened: **Long Island's Pit Bull Predicament**. The objective was to develop workable short-term and long-term solutions to the Pit Bull problem on Long Island.

We were extremely fortunate to attract



**LONG ISLAND'S  
 PIT BULL PREDICAMENT**

*A conference to focus on the current problems being faced by Pit Bulls and to develop workable solutions to curtail irresponsible breeding and enhance their public image and adoptability.*

**Suffolk**  
 COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
 GRANT CAMPUS

**The conference is open to the public, rescue organizations, municipal shelter employees, and no-kill shelters.**

**Saturday, May 3, 2008**

**Time: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm**  
**Place: Suffolk Community College, Brentwood Campus Health, Sports and Education Center, Conference Lecture Hall**  
**Cost: \$20 per person by May 1  
 \$25 at the door  
 (includes lunch)**

The conference is sponsored by LAST HOPE, Inc., Syosset, NY and being hosted by the Vet Tech Club of SCCC

For information, please call 631-425-1884 or visit [www.lasthopeanimalrescue.org](http://www.lasthopeanimalrescue.org)



speakers on the forefront of addressing the Pit Bull problem who had a wealth of information to share with our 100+ attendees. Our speakers included: Adam Goldfarb, Issues Specialist from the Humane Society of the United States; Jane Berkey and Bernice Clifford, President and Behavior and Training Manager, respectively, for the Animal Farm Foundation; Jane Hoffman, President of the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals; Jacques Lynn Schutz, Senior Director, ASPCA; and Linda Klampf, President, Almost Home, LI. The last segment was a working session where ideas were generated as to what could be done to address the problem. Some of the recommendations included:

- Intervention and training at the home level. Provide assistance to individuals having trouble with their Pit Bulls **before** they enter the shelter.
- Free Spay/neuter.
- Mandate that all dogs, including owner redemptions, (not limited to Pit Bulls) be spayed or neutered prior to adoption.
- Education, Education, Education. We must educate the public about Pit Bulls and debunk the myths.
- The municipal shelters must receive good press-the term "kill shelters" needs to be eliminated.
- Shelters and rescue groups must work together to address the Pit Bull problem.

Finally, in July 2008 as a result of the conference and the problem in our municipal shelters, LAST HOPE kicked-off our Pit Bull Breed Ambassador Program. This means that LAST HOPE will attempt to promote the adoption of the breed by having two Pit Bulls at all times in two kennels at our Dog Adoption Center. These Pit Bulls will be true ambassadors for the breed-friendly to people, eager to please, well trained, playful and good-natured. By adopting these breed ambassadors into the Long Island community, we hope that individuals will see what great dogs Pit Bulls make and will consider adopting one of their own. This will be the key to changing the public's image of the Pit Bull and to changing the Pit Bull's predicament.

*Editor's note: Thanks are due our volunteers, the participants in our Conference, Suffolk County Community College Veterinary Technology Club and Dr. Elia Colon-Mallah for making the Pit Bull Conference a huge success.*

## *A Letter from the President*

Dear Friends:

Déjà vu- feline style. Blink your eyes and we're back in the height of kitten season. Despite massive efforts and funds spent spay/neutering cats each year, we are inundated each spring and summer-kittens are born everywhere. This is the top concern facing animal rescue groups like **LAST HOPE** on a daily basis. Until there is sufficient progress establishing accessible and affordable low cost spay/neuter facilities Island-wide, we are going to face the same overpopulation problem every year.

I am happy to report that in 2007, **LAST HOPE** placed 413 cats and kittens plus 74 adult dogs in loving homes. Our cats emanate from both Long Island's stray and feral populations and the town shelters. All the dogs are rescued from Long Island's municipal shelters.

**LAST HOPE** is working hard to ensure that every dollar you donate is well spent and that the best possible veterinary care is given to the animals that pass through our doors. A fundraising committee has been organized under the guidance of our Member of Large, Jessica Hanlon, to explore different fundraising ideas. We will be redoing our Cat Adoption Center in the fall to allow easier cage cleaning and to provide healthier living for our resident felines awaiting adoption.

Our in-store pet adoption programs at PETSMART, PETCO and PET SUPPLIES PLUS are doing very well, but are in need of volunteers. Can you spare an hour or two to help with the care of these needy cats and kittens?

Our dog center under the coordination of Cheryl Mera and Letty Canals is thriving. We recently completed our third year of operation. On July 13, 2008, we initiated our Pit Bull breed ambassador program to address the Pit Bull plethora on Long Island.

We want to thank you our supporters, volunteers and friends for assisting **LAST HOPE** achieve its mission. Without the support of each and every one of you, as well as your monetary contributions, we could not continue in our lifesaving work.

Sincerely,

Linda Stuurman  
President

### **Hi, my name is Yogi and I am the luckiest cat in the world** by Laurie Mass

One morning, a mean dog chased me onto the Koschiosko Bridge in Brooklyn, where I was marooned on a concrete median, in the middle of rush hour traffic. I was there for hours, very thirsty & hungry. I couldn't move or I would have been killed. But, my story has a happy ending.

My new Mommy, Laurie, from **LAST HOPE** saw me on the bridge desperate for help. I saw her turn the car around and come back to save me. She stopped at the top of the bridge, grabbed me gingerly in a blanket and put me in her car. I was relieved to get off that bridge. She kept saying everything would be all right.

I heard Laurie call Dr Brooke about an emergency... I guess she was talking about me. I arrived at Dr. Brooke's and was taken into the operating room. About 30 minutes later I was resting comfortably with food, water and my own litter box. This was heaven! I had been tested, x-rayed and prodded in every place possible on my body. I heard this kind vet say I'd be okay, even though I had a broken hip, torn ear and my mouth really hurt. I stayed there for 3 months, where Dr. Rowan, Dr. Wulforst and the entire staff at My Pet's Vet took extraordinary care of me.

My new Mom and Dad, Laurie & Jeff, adopted me so now I have a wonderful home with 10 brothers and a sister. But I still had a problem: I couldn't eat because my mouth was so painful.

A thorough exam showed I had stomatitis-an extreme inflammation of my mouth, gums and bone. It can only be relieved with surgery.

A specialist named Dr. Deforge gave me a painfree life with intensive surgery. The procedure took 4 hours, but was a success. I'll be healed soon with pureed food and medications sprinkled with lots of love.

My mom tells me that I am truly an amazing cat, and that all the bad tasting medicine, pureed food, and doctor visits will help me get better. Now when my Mom looks into my eyes, she sees past all the hardships I've endured. She sees the luckiest cat in the world.



Yogi

## LAST HOPE: AN EXPANDED MISSION

By Maureen Griffin, Auction Coordinator



Maureen and SOPHIA,  
Our Inspiration

Over the past twenty-six years **LAST HOPE** has been committed to helping the stray, abandoned, and death due pound animals on Long Island. Thousands of dogs and cats have found loving homes through our organization.

Two years ago it became increasingly clear that we needed to raise additional funds to cover the extraordinary costs associated with the numbers of cats and dogs that had special needs who were entering our cat and dog programs. Many of the municipal shelters, be it Babylon, Hempstead, Oyster Bay, Huntington, Islip, or Brookhaven, were calling and asking **LAST HOPE** to consider dogs and cats that had no chance of being adopted unless **LAST HOPE** intervened and provided the medical attention that they so needed. On many an occasion, the shelter brought the animal to us on a Saturday or Sunday, or in the evening, so that we could start the process of providing specialized vet care.

It was July of 2006 that five of us in **LAST HOPE** formed the committee that would become the backbone of the special needs auctions. Our inspiration was Sophia, a Beagle, whom I was fostering at the time. Sophia, unfortunately, died in Sept. of 2006, but her legacy lives on in our auctions.

All of the original committee members either had adopted, fostered, or were fostering special needs cats and dogs. We hoped that by our example we would encourage others to consider a special needs animal when they were ready to adopt. We have held eight fundraising events highlighting our needy animals and raised over \$23,000 for their care. This money has enabled us to help over 18 dogs and 15 cats with special needs in the last two years.

Hope, Kelly, Annie, Butch, Gracie, Henry, Rocky, Humphrey, Snoopy, Harriett, Domino, Ruby, (dogs) and Gin, Fizz, Frankie D., Vanna, Jeff, Lola, Milo, Amber, Torta, (cats) are just some of the animals that we have highlighted in our auctions. Most have been adopted into loving homes while some are still waiting patiently for their turn.

We will continue to do all that is necessary to give a "leg up" to those dogs and cats that life has given special challenges.

Our Special Needs Auction Committee: Gayle Wunsch, Patty Wagner, Rosemarie Patterson, Connie Pryor

## CAT Mission: Caumsett State Park

We received a call about 2 cat sightings at Caumsett State Park in Lloyd Neck, particularly disturbing because one was declawed, so most likely an abandoned house cat. Our worry was the presence of the hawks and foxes. My mission was to rescue them, if possible. I made my way to the park with 2 carriers and a map. I spied Ambrose lying in the brush relaxing. He was grey, thin and friendly. Nearby, was Audra chasing a butterfly. I said hello and petted both. Seeing how accepting they were, I wasted no time planning my next move. I scruffed each and placed them securely into carriers.

Destination: Last Hope Cat Center. There, Ambrose ate voraciously, never seeming to get enough. Audra, too, was hungry. As the days went by they became more comfortable with their surroundings and with our volunteers. Both had ticks removed from their bodies. They were inoculated, checked for spay/neuter scars, wormed and given lots of TLC. Ambrose, 8 years old has since been adopted; while Audra, approximately 2, is still waiting for her forever home.

Bonnie J. Gaines



# Sunday, Monday, Tuesday

By Lisa Sokol



*Tuesday*

feared he would be euthanized, but the vet examined the cat, gave him medicine and told me to see if he improved in the next few days.

Since the kitty was already about 5 months, we figured he'd be feral and a handful. Immediately, though, we noticed him at the front of his cage displaying affectionate postures. I was quite taken by him.

My husband trapped two more kittens: one each on the next two days. To distinguish them, I referred to the cats as the one we got on Sunday, the one on Monday and the one on Tuesday. The first kitty was much improved so now I was certain he would survive. When I was signing them in at the **LAST HOPE** foster clinic, I named them for the day of the week they had been trapped. Each has a special story:

"Monday" turned out to want no part of being rescued. He was small and adorable but very hissy. Try as I might, he wasn't coming around. Since it was winter I only had a short time to decide what to do with him—a difficult decision, but if I were too slow, then he would lose his winter coat and could not be returned to his colony. So after two weeks, we had him neutered and ear-tipped, then sadly released him at the trapping site. He is always around when we feed and seems quite content in the only home he's ever known.

"Tuesday" was much like her brother "Sunday", very affectionate. The pair went to PETSMART to be adopted. A call came that "Tuesday" was very ill with a high fever and had to be rushed to the vet. We brought her home and "Sunday", too, for fear that he would soon become ill. She had a ton of meds. I kept them separate, as "Sunday" seemed to be fine. "Tuesday" did recover. After the two-week isolation, both went back to the store.

A few weeks later, "Tuesday" was adopted by two lovely women who decided they had healed sufficiently from the loss of one of their cats to bring home another. Soon I received a heart wrenching call. They had taken her to their vet and found that she now tested positive for feline leukemia. They were told that if they kept her she would undoubtedly infect their resident cat. We agreed we would not immediately euthanize her, but would try to find someone who would give her a home. The women cried before leaving "Tuesday" with me. I, too, cried as I held her on my lap and lamented at this sad turn of events.



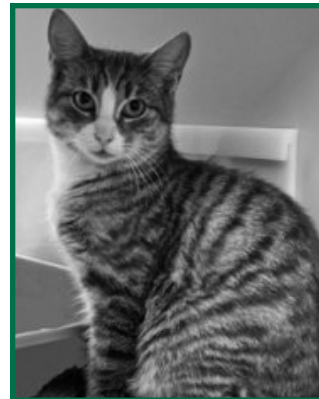
*Monday*

Every day as I held or played with "Tuesday", I'd be numb thinking that if no home could be found, the alternative was euthanasia. Appeals went out through **LAST HOPE** to place this FELV positive cat. Weeks later I got a call from a woman who had positive

cats. Her niece was looking to adopt a cat and was willing to take "Tuesday". She would be the only cat in the household. As of this writing, "Tuesday" is doing well and is loved—she is treated like a princess.

Only "Sunday" remained. After "Tuesday" tested positive, we had to retest him. My heart was in my mouth as I paced in the vet's waiting room awaiting the results. Thankfully he was negative. I brought him back to the store thinking he was in the clear. Then I learned he had to wait a month and be retested—just to be sure. It was a very long month. Finally the email: "Hooray! Sunday is negative." Within weeks he was adopted along with another **LAST HOPE** foster. And so on June 12th, my Little Christmas gift left to start life in his new forever home.

**Editor's note:** *It should be noted that LAST HOPE does not admit feline leukemia cats or kittens into its Cat Adoption Program. Tuesday was already in our adoption program when this turn of events occurred.*



*Sunday*



*Last Hope's  
Murphy*

I volunteer Thursday afternoons at the Dog Adoption Center, but besides walking, socializing, and petting, I offer the dogs something unique. I am a Reiki Practitioner specializing in Animal Reiki.

For those not familiar with Reiki, here is a simple explanation: "Reiki" is derived from two Japanese words, "Rei" and "Ki," meaning Universal Life Force Energy. This technique is the channeling of Universal energy for the purposes of healing. Reiki is the life energy that flows through all living things. When a person or animal's "ki" (energy) is strong and free flowing, they are in a positive state of health. When the energy becomes weak or blocked, it results in symptoms of physical or emotional imbalance.

Reiki is an excellent stress reduction and relaxation technique so the potential benefits to shelter dogs and cats are many. Since Reiki is "energy," it can be hands-on or given from a distance. For Otto (Lhasa) and Zoe (Cocker Spaniel) that meant eagerly creeping into my lap and soaking up the Reiki I offered in a hands-on session. Murphy (Lab mix) takes Reiki from both close and afar. In one session he rolled on his back for me to give him hands-on Reiki to his belly. He remained like that, in that gently submissive posture, with a kind of canine smile, so I knew he was enjoying the energy. Some of the dogs prefer to take energy from several feet away as they lay down or chew happily on a toy.

I have been studying Animal Reiki with Kathleen Prasad, probably the country's foremost authority. Her book, "Animal Reiki: Using Energy to Heal the Animals in Your Life" profoundly influenced me. I have taken Kathleen's Animal Reiki courses and am currently completing my advanced certification. You can find me listed on the website, [www.animalreikisource.com](http://www.animalreikisource.com) under the Practitioner Directory for New York State. There are many articles on the website about animals that have benefited from Reiki.

To gain experience, I worked evening shifts at a local animal hospital for about a year (in addition to my regular day job). I originally studied Reiki for people and became attuned/initiated through the various levels. This year I plan on achieving Reiki Master Teacher level so I will be able to teach.

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## OFFICERS

*President*

Linda Stuurman

*1st Vice President*

Milda Darzinskis

*2nd Vice President*

Cheryl Mera

*Treasurer*

Marilyn Price

*Secretary*

Bonnie Gaines

*Outreach Coordinator*

Joanne Anderson

## MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Doris Klem

Sandy Amato

Diana Valentine

Letty Canals

Jessica Hanlon, Esq. as legal advisor

**Election to be held May 2010**

## NewsBriefs

**"Seniors For Seniors"****New Last Hope Program**

Studies show pets prolong human life. We want to encourage seniors to consider our older dogs and cats. Thus, we've initiated a **LAST HOPE** program that matches senior citizens with senior dogs and cats at a reduced adoption fee. To qualify as a senior, adopters must be 65 or older, and the pet at least 8 years old. Visit our website to see our senior pet candidates.

**"Dress Down Days"****Generates Generous Donation for Last Hope**

On occasion the kind employees at Data Device Corp. (DDC) in Bohemia "pay" for the privilege of wearing jeans to work. Non-profit organizations suggested by the employees share in the proceeds. Two recent "Dress Down Days" resulted in a windfall of over \$3,000 donated to **LAST HOPE**. Special thanks to Dave Shekailo (and his Last Hope cat "Pete") for putting our animal rescue on DDC's wonderful charity calendar.

**"The Children Are Our Future"**

Oct. '07 at the Fall Dinner we honored the youngsters who volunteer for Last Hope. Honorees included: Amanda Badke, Eric Brennan, Nicholas Brennan, Blaise Doremus, Jamie Geraghty, Sean Lynch, Julia McGinley, Kelscy Moore, Sara Parrish, Alex Chautin, Shari Simons, Jay Steinberg and Samantha Weydig.

One enterprising young lady, Julia McGinley, organized a lemonade stand for two summers. Last year she raised \$500 for our rescue efforts. Thank you, Julia! We applaud all these young men and women for their dedication to our mission and anticipate they will be **LAST HOPE** ambassadors in years to come.

**COORDINATORS***Adoption Center Coordinator*

Bruna Bernstein

*PETS MART Adoption Coordinator*

Barbara Teska

*Pet Supplies Plus Coordinators*

Milda Darzinskis/Doris Klein

*PETCO Adoption Coordinator*

Daylia Simons

*Vaccination Clinic Coordinators*

Linda Stuurman &amp; Sandy Amato

*Trap Lending Coordinator*

Susan Abruzzi

*FIX-A-FERAL Program Coordinator*

Cindy Hyman

*Auction Coordinator*

Maureen Griffin

*Adoption Center Volunteer**Coordinator*

Janet Palucci

*Cat Intake Clinic Coordinator*

Sandy Amato

*Dog Center Coordinators*

Cheryl Mera

Letty Canals

*Flea Market Coordinator*

Stephanie Russo

**ADVISORS***Veterinary Advisor*

Dr. Bridget Brooke

*Financial Advisor*

Robert Goldfarb, CPA

**WEBMASTER**

Bonnie Gaines

**SAVE THE DATE** (Subject to change)**Saturday, September 13, 2008 1:00 pm - 6:30 pm\*\*****8th ANNUAL DOG WALK & FUN NIGHT****Wantagh Park, Wantagh, NY****Monday, September 15, 2008 7 am - 4 pm****1st ANNUAL GOLF OUTING****Crab Meadow Golf Course****Northport, NY****Saturday, October 4, 2008 10 am - 2 pm****FALL FLEA MARKET at****St. Bede's Episcopal Church, Syosset****Thursday, October 23, 2008 6 pm - 10 pm****FALL DINNER at****La Chateau La Mer****Lindenhurst, NY****Sunday, October 26, 2008 9 am - 4 pm****FREE SPAY/NEUTER DAY FOR FERAL CATS****Basic Pet Care****Lindenhurst, NY****Saturday, December 6, 2008 10 am - 2 pm****HOLIDAY BAZAAR****St. Bede's Episcopal Church, Syosset****Saturday, December 20, 2008 4 pm - 7 pm****TREES OF LOVE LIGHTING CEREMONY****St. Bede's Episcopal Church, Syosset****Clinics will be scheduled in August 2008****\*\*Microchip Clinic at Wantagh Park****Saturday, September 13, 2008 1:30pm - 5:30pm**



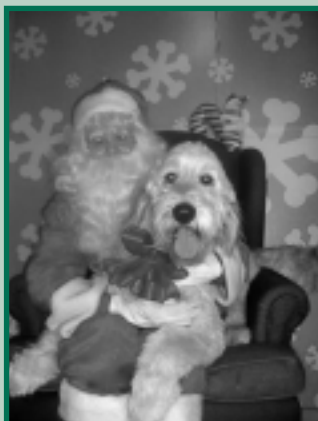
# ANOTHER YEAR OF LAST HOPE

May 2008



*Audra, rescued from  
Caumsett State Park*

December 2007



*Photo with Santa  
at PETsMART*

January 2008



*Lola and Milo at our  
Cat Adoption Center  
Adopted together  
April 2008*

March 2008



*Dr. Kevin Cummins at  
Feral Cat  
Spay/Neuter day*

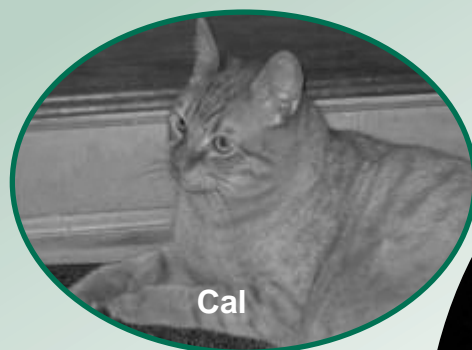
June 2008



*Bernie, a Bernese Mountain dog mix, enjoys  
playing in his new backyard.*



*Pixie at our Cat Adoption Center*



Cal



Angel



June

December  
2007



Trees of Love Lighting Ceremony



Santana



Zoe & Elmo



Aida

February 2008



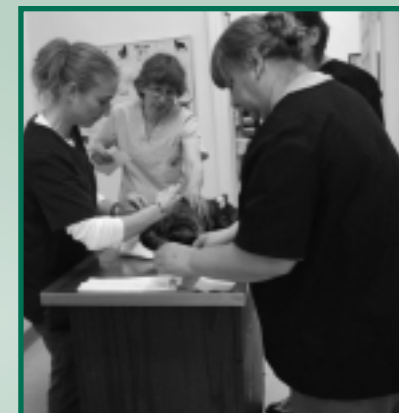
*Volunteer Appreciation Party*

October 2007



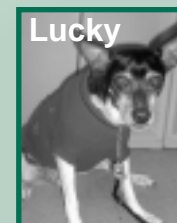
*Honoring the young women  
and men volunteers at our  
Fall Dinner*

October 2007



*Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Day*

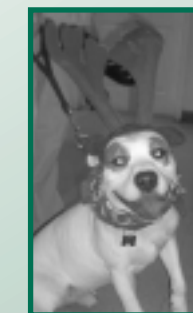
January 2008



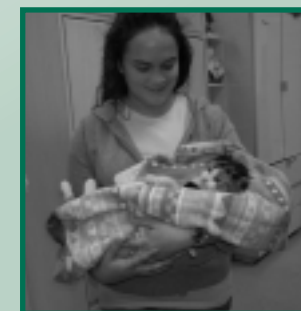
Lucky

December  
2007

Butchie



March 2008



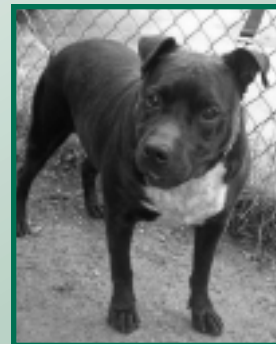
*Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Day*

September 2007



*Jeb ( Our Southern Dog Rescue)*

June 2008



*Clover comes to  
LAST HOPE after living  
in a Town Shelter for two years*

February 2008



*Volunteer Appreciation Party*



## FIX-A-FERAL UPDATE

Feral cats on Long Island are finally being recognized by our local municipalities. Since 2003, the Town of North Hempstead with **LAST HOPE**'s assistance has been spaying and neutering feral cats. In 2008, the Towns of Babylon and Oyster Bay initiated TNR (trap, neuter, release) programs for residents. **LAST HOPE** helped the Town of Babylon start their voucher system and is one of three organizations working with the Town of Oyster Bay to implement a pilot TNR program.

**LAST HOPE** continues to operate its own spay-neuter program for feral cats on Long Island known as the **FIX-A-FERAL** program. As of this date through this program, we have been able to provide low-cost spay-neuter to over 6,000 feral cats since 2003. This program is supported by grants and special fundraisers and appeals. We recently received a grant from the Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation in the amount of \$2500.00.

In October 2007 and in March 2008, **LAST HOPE** held two very successful **FREE** spay-neuter days for feral cats at Basic Pet Care in Lindenhurst. In October, we spayed and neutered 110 feral cats and in March, we spayed and neutered 135 feral cats on a very busy day.

We are indebted to the following veterinarians who donated their time on these Sundays: Dr. Cathy Grey, Dr. Laura Gay Senk, Dr. David Foster, Dr. Amanda Hauck, Dr. Kevin Cummins, Dr. Janet Juliano, Dr. Susan Zollo, Dr. Steven Kolbert, Dr. Lauren Entes, Dr. Courtney Maeda, Dr. Mark Caporaso, Dr. Jeffrey Siegel, Dr. Ronald Pettinati and vet in training Daniela Baccillieri.

We thank Dr Peter Lutgen of Basic Pet Care for donating his hospital to this effort and to Diane Pionegro for organizing these clinics.

PET PEEVES Inc. provided **LAST HOPE** with funding to help defray the expenses of operating these clinics. Our next **FREE** Feral cat clinic will be held on Sunday, October 26th. We will start booking cats for that date in early October. Please do not let any cat you are feeding breed!

## **HARD-LUCK CAT. We're trying to find her a home.**

This is **SUNSHINE**. She is about 2 years old. She is a lovely Tabby cat with green eyes. She is a little cat who only weighs 8 lbs. 4 oz. but is very healthy. She loves people. **SUNSHINE** and her litter were rescued in Brentwood about a year ago by **LAST HOPE**. She lived in a foster home while she took care of her kittens. After they were old enough to be adopted out, she was spayed and brought to PETSMART in Huntington for adoption. Since kittens are always adopted more quickly, **Sunshine**, like many full grown cats, lived in a cage at PETSMART for almost 5 months. She hated her cage and was very depressed. No one could see how playful she really is. She was adopted last August to be a companion



*Sunshine*

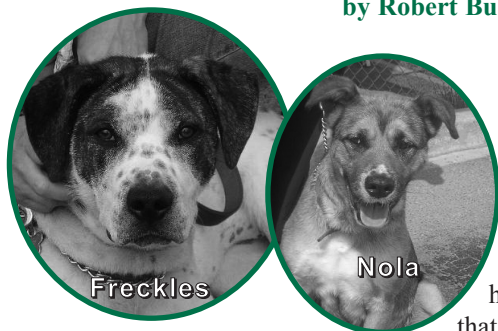
to another cat. She was terrified of the other cat. Although she loved her adoptive mom, she couldn't get past her fear of the other cat and she ultimately had to return to **LAST HOPE**. She will probably only be happy if she is the only

pet in a loving home. She is a very sweet cat. She has never failed to use her litter box. She confines her scratching to her scratching post. She did not damage anything in her foster's house or her adoptive house. She is grateful to be inside where it's warm, to be fed and to not be confined to a cage. **SUNSHINE** is a wonderful, gentle, cat who loves being petted and brushed. She has learned to come to you to have her head kissed and will quickly roll over for a belly rub. She

would be a wonderful, loving addition to anyone's life. Bring some sunshine into your life and give this little love a home.

## I KNOW NOLA HAS FRECKLES

by Robert Buoneto

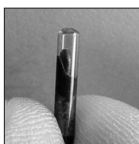


Since June of 2007, thanks to my friend Tony Russo, I have been walking homeless dogs that are at the

**LAST HOPE** Dog Adoption Center in Lindenhurst. Nola, a five year old mixed breed had spent a quarter of her life in a pen, and Freckles, also a mixed breed but younger, had the same story. Both animals, although lovable and large, always seemed to be passed over by potential adopters. Each dog was unique, but both were starting to feel the stress of living a long time in a kennel. Freckles, in particular, became unruly at times, using my foot as a chew toy as I walked by her.

The outlook for these two just did not look good. I know that I speak for the dozens of other volunteers who felt the same way. I was beginning to accept the fact that the **LAST HOPE** Dog Center was going to be their last home.

This past Christmas proved me wrong when a loving couple adopted them both! The old phrase, "God works in mysterious ways" is no longer an old phrase to me. The prayers and tears shed for these two discarded dogs were not only heard but answered. It's a funny thing how two of God's creatures can teach us a lesson about faith and hope. And now Freckles has Nola.



### Low Cost Microchip Clinic

Provided by the Mayors Alliance for NYC Animals, Inc.

Microchips help lost pets return home. Pet owners can get their dogs/cats protected with **HOME AGAIN** chips at the **LAST HOPE DOG WALK** at Wantagh Park on 9/13 from 1:30pm to 5:30pm for only \$25 per pet. Registration is included; a savings of up to \$80 each per dog or cat.

Microchips will be implanted by veterinary personnel within the Mayors Alliance secure tent. Call 631-661-6164 for details.

## ON THE ROAD TO A NO KILL LONG ISLAND.. IS IT POSSIBLE?

by Linda Stuurman

About ten years ago, I visited a shelter in Henderson, Nevada as part of the Humane Society of the United States annual conference. What has stayed in my mind since that rather unnerving visit was the incredible number of adorable young and cuddly dogs, cats, puppies and kittens all vying for our attention as we walked through the shelter. There were just so many, and I knew many of them would be euthanized.

This was how it used to be in Long Island's municipal shelters in the 1980s and 1990s when I started my weekly rounds to the Island's shelters. There was a pit in my stomach as I walked the kennels trying not to look the cats and dogs in the eye. It was easier that way to look the animals over. At times, I just removed an animal and brought it straight to the vet for euthanasia because I knew it was not going to make it through the weekend at the shelter. There was absolutely no medical care provided for the animals. Animals were brought in the morning and euthanized by the afternoon. I do not miss those days at all.

Today, some animals are still euthanized in our municipal shelters, but the number of animals destroyed is being reduced every year. Can we ever reach a point where every cat or dog, that is adoptable (meaning they are not terminally ill or aggressive) will be placed in a home on Long Island? I believe that this is possible, but that there need to be some major changes made regarding animal related services on Long Island. For example, the municipalities or counties need to provide:

1. Free spay and neuter for owned cats and dogs, including feral cats - still today too many animals are born. Increasing veterinary costs make spay/neuter too expensive for some individuals.
2. Education about pet ownership, responsibilities and training including the importance of spay/neutering.
3. Outreach to the impoverished areas on the Island about the above.
4. Innovative ways to market the cats and dogs at our town shelters to the public so that they adopt rather than buy their pets at puppy mill-style pet stores.
5. Inexpensive microchips so more lost pets find their way back home.

On Long Island, more so than other parts of the US, municipal shelters are beginning to make humane progress because we, the caring public, are demanding more of them each day. We can change things-a walk through today's shelters proves this. We just have a few more miles to go. Hopefully, in my lifetime.



## Moppet and Me

Reprinted from "Pets, Pets, Pets" by Joanne Anderson  
Babylon Beacon 8/2/07

After stays at three LI shelters, Moppet has a Gettysburg address. This middle-aged mix's new Mom calls each progress report "Moppet and Me"....a long distance pet love connection, thanks to that Internet Godsend, Petfinder, and one persistent lady. Try as I might, I couldn't talk her out of driving 13 hours and 530 miles round trip to meet the 7, almost 8 year old scruffy pooch. So glad I didn't.

Last winter Moppet, a well-mannered Beardie/Otterhound mix, was bounced out of her home when her family got a new puppy. She wound up at Islip Shelter where she was adopted by someone who could not "meet her emotional needs"...what ever that means...and two months later was surrendered at Babylon Shelter. Several home prospects fizzled so in April she became a **LAST HOPE** dog.

Last winter Linda Rinehart from Fairfield, PA, west of Gettysburg, lost Samantha, her 14 ½ year rescued Bearded Collie after a long battle with cancer. She nursed Samantha through many ups and downs, and even had her vet's permission to sleep at his hospital with her ailing dog when no staff was there over night. After typing "Bearded Collie" into Petfinder Linda followed Moppet's listing from afar on the Babylon Shelter site. Though not ready for a new dog she was dismayed when the post vanished, and afraid to call to find out if Moppet was adopted. The dog haunted her.

Petfinder's breed search is an interesting feature. For example, when you enter "Pug", you get every dog with "Pug" in the description, including all the mixes, so "Moppet" popped up each time a searcher typed "Beardie" or "Otterhound". Moppet isn't that combo, merely the scruffy type I call a "Disney dog". When "Moppet" became a **LAST HOPE** dog, the "Otterhound" and call name caught Linda's eye on a different Petfinder list. She decided it was a sign to respond since this had to be the same Moppet, alive and available.

I'm a true believer in out of state adoptions for purebred rescue, because such expertise ensures the matches are perfect. With purebreds, rescuers are dealing with set expectations; mixes are more ambiguous. Locally based **LAST HOPE** likes their dogs within reach. However, I was forwarded Linda's Moppet inquiry to investigate further- turns out she had a lot of dog experience.

Linda lives in Pennsylvania but travels over 100 miles to her office in Virginia. Some days she works from home. I knew from the get-go that Linda was, as she says "such a dog person"; confirmed when I spoke to her colleagues in Virginia. Her friend Sandy had rescue background and was involved in a court battle seizure of 167 Shelties from a backyard breeder. She explained that both she and Linda had suffered through their dogs' illnesses and deaths at the same time, but Linda had to go through all the heartache alone. She told me about Linda's joy in rediscovering our Moppet online.

I had no doubts about Linda but had reservations about sweet but low key Moppet. I couldn't vouch for the dog's health. She was middle aged with ear /eye infections, plus an odd growth on her ear. A rabies certificate from her original owner's vet said she weighed 49 lbs. in 3/06. She was 38 lbs. now. Was the drop due to stress? Was it cancer? How could I ask this poor woman to come so far for a dog that might break her heart within months? I did everything I could to dissuade Linda- dangled photos of an adorable Tibetan Terrier pup at a different shelter; sung the praises of Bearded Collie Rescue and the wonderful national chairman who lives on

LI. He would find her a purebred Beardie. No, Linda wanted Moppet.

This perpetual pessimist kept stalling her until the vet removed and biopsied the ear mass. I wanted blood work to rule out cancer for the weight loss. Didn't she prefer I find her a younger dog? No, Linda wanted Moppet.

When all the medical tests came back good, Linda planned her solo journey. (She had only been to NYC once as a kid.) Her trusty GPS led her to Canal Street during Monday morning rush hour. "Oops, I just went over some bridge", rattled her cell phone when she called to say she was in traffic. After a 6 hour ride with a few scenic detours, Linda met Moppet. They clicked and began their new life together following lunch at the diner across from **LAST HOPE** to chat about dogs, of course, and to fortify Linda for the 7 hour trip home by way of Canal Street again.

In little more than a month Moppet has become an animated social butterfly. A pet sitter lets her out at noon. She's gotten the A-OK from Linda's vet, put on some pounds, been groomed twice, takes daily mile long walks through the park, and begun obedience school where she rediscovers her talent for a "High Five". Moppet is taking all prerequisite courses so she can learn sheep herding, just for the fun of it.

The transformation is mutual. Sandy, Linda's Sheltie Rescue pal, wrote: "I just wanted to know what a change Moppet has made in Linda's life, as I know that Linda has done the same for Moppet. I get a new Moppet story every day, and Linda is alive again...Thank you and your organization for believing in Linda and doing an out of state adoption. This is one you will never regret."

### REIKI CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

I learned of Last Hope after meeting the special needs dogs, Gloria (now Annie) and Kelly, both adopted by my friend, Rosanne. At a Last Hope Auction I met Linda and Maureen, and had an opportunity to offer Reiki to Maureen's dogs, including her Last Hope foster Beagles, Ruby and Humphrey. Ruby prefers nearby Reiki so I would sit with her on the floor. Then I would place my hands gently on her hindquarters and she would give an intrigued look, feeling the energy flowing through my hands. Humphrey was very happy to accept direct hands-on Reiki.

A typical Thursday afternoon at the Center begins with a walk for each dog. As I walk with each one, I begin to let the Reiki energy flow. If the weather is nice, I can offer them one-on-one sessions in the yard. Usually I can give individual attention to several dogs in the time available. However, before I leave, I shut the lights and sit quietly near the kennels, asking for Reiki to heal the animals' pasts and any issues they may have. I set my intention for the highest good of each dog, for each canine to receive healing on whatever levels he/she may need. I also ask that the right loving, safe homes to be found for each. Since the energy is Universal, I trust that the Universe will provide a great home for these animals. As I send this lovely light energy, almost all the dogs settle down as comfortably as possible. It grows amazingly quiet as they start to snooze with gentle Reiki sighs and rhythmic breathing. Then I quietly leave, asking Reiki to continue to flow to the dogs as long as they wish to receive it.

I am truly happy to be a part, even a small one, of an organization that rescues animals from town shelters, where their fate is uncertain at best, and then finds them loving forever homes.

*Reiki is a wonderful complement to traditional medicine, but it is not a substitute for regular veterinary care.*



Moppet & Linda

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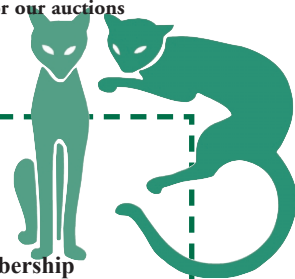
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PIXIE

PIXIE, an adorable Jack Russell Terrier mix, was found in a local shelter, with road burns and a leg injury. She had been hit by a car and left as a castaway. Her friendly and loving nature won us over immediately. **LAST HOPE** removed her from the shelter and arranged for her orthopedic surgery. Now she needs a permanent home where she can just be a fun-loving and playful pup.

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