



SCAN ME!



2022 Annual Report

Transforming Lives Through Teamwork

Mission, Vision and Values

Our Mission:

Rescue. Nurture. Adopt. Educate.

Our Vision:

A future in which all companion animals find responsible, loving homes where they are free from abuse, hunger, fear and loneliness, and receive the care and respect they deserve.

What We Value:

- The inherent worth of all companion animals.
- The principles and goals of the no-kill movement, which we've pioneered since our founding in 1944.
- The richness and complexity of the human-animal bond.
- The power of humane education, which is the heart of our Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum.
- Our global network of rescue partners with whom we share our decades of experience and expertise.
- Innovation, a hallmark of our 78 years of leadership in animal welfare.
- The generous support of friends and donors who make our work possible.
- Honesty, diversity, integrity, transparency, sustainability and innovation.





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When you make a legacy gift to North Shore Animal League America, you become part of The Pet Protectors Society®. These compassionate supporters are vital to our future, and help provide for the ongoing protection of abandoned animals. Scan QR code to see our Society member listing.



SCAN ME!

A Spanish-language translation of this report is available at animalleague.org/InformeAnual

A Letter From the President

Dear Friends,

I'm excited to report that 2022 was an exceptional year for our Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum. This unique program enables students of all ages to acquire empathy for animals, advance the no-kill movement, and create a humane world for animals and people.

A core component of Mutt-i-grees is the Global Student Ambassador program, which made great strides in 2022. I'd like you to meet some of our international Ambassadors, beginning with Milica and Anastasija. They are 12 years old and live in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where they fundraise and help socialize homeless canines at Green Valley Dogs, a small, nonprofit, no-kill shelter in Srebrenica near the Serbian border.



MILICA



ANASTASIJA



SALMA GRACE

On the home front, the North Country Initiative (NCI), our cat shelter in Glen Falls, New York, launched a Mutt-i-grees reading-to-cats program along with an in-school feline fostering effort, both hugely successful. Going forward, we're developing more programs like NCI in Tampa, Fla., and Saratoga, N.Y. Plus, we're translating all Mutt-i-grees materials into other languages, beginning with Spanish.



Education is about the future, which for Mutt-i-grees is best embodied in our youngest Ambassador ever, preschooler Salma Grace, of Morocco. Every day, she and her mother venture onto the streets of Marrakesh to care for dogs who suffer chronic abuse and extreme neglect.

If you ask Salma why she does this work, she answers like this: "There is always something we can do when we see animals suffering. We can't do nothing. I show people this and they see. That's what being an Ambassador is for me."

No one could say it better than Salma Grace. Like the 37 other Mutt-i-grees Student Ambassadors of 2022, this little girl with a big mission is ensuring that no-kill sheltering becomes the world standard of the future.

Thank you for making this work possible.

For the Mutt-i-grees,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. John Stevenson".

J. John Stevenson
President & CEO

Standing Against Animal Cruelty

An important tenet of our no-kill mission is taking action to stop the inhumane treatment of animals. After three years of waiting and postponements, sentencing was finally handed down in the animal abuse case of Ellie Knoller. Knoller had previously pled guilty to three counts of Aggravated Cruelty to Animals, after brutally beating to death two puppies he adopted (Tucker, from North Shore Animal League America, and Cooper, from a breeder) and causing permanent physical damage to a third, Bella, whom he also obtained from a breeder. Presiding Judge Teresa Corrigan called it the worst case of animal cruelty she has ever seen.

URGENT



Animal Abuse Needs to be Taken More Seriously

#JusticeForTucker

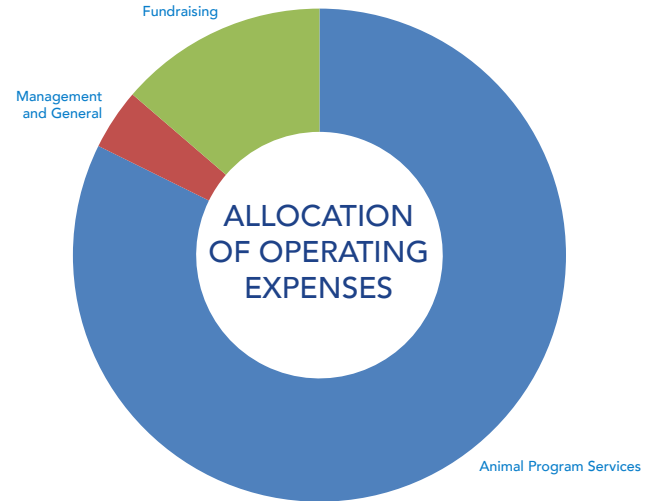
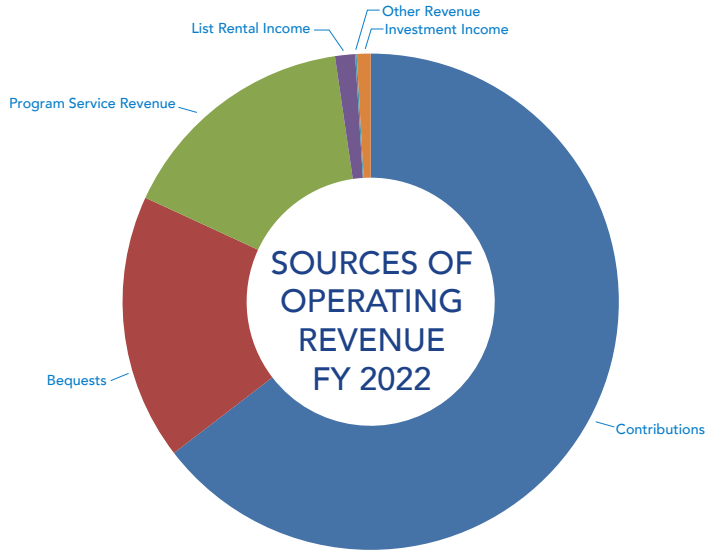
For the many hearings throughout the legal process, North Shore Animal League America made its presence known, showing up at the courthouse in force with signs expressing frustration and outrage. Animal League America leadership and staff submitted impact statements on behalf of the helpless victims and were in attendance for the sentencing. On October 26, 2022, Knoller was sentenced to a year in jail (a year for each fatality, to be served concurrently) followed by five years of probation. Knoller must also undergo mental health treatment and is banned from owning an animal for 50 years. A dog parent herself, Judge Corrigan was particularly horrified by Knoller's actions, and expressed dismay that she was limited to the maximum sentence for this violation under New York State law. Judge Corrigan also stipulated that she would be overseeing his probation personally.

"We remain outraged and heartbroken by this senseless act of cruelty," said Diane Johnson, Animal League America Vice President of Shelter Operations. "It is hard to say that there is justice when two animals' lives were lost. Many of our rescue animals need and receive extensive medical care before we make them available for adoption. It is so painful to know that after all our efforts to preserve a life through rescue, that poor Tucker was murdered."

At least for the moment, Knoller thankfully is confined to a cage. Though Bella ended up having a leg amputated from her injuries, the resilient pup survived and was adopted into a nurturing family where she now has all the safety and love she deserves.

2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2022



		% of Income
Contributions	\$ 27,679,503	64.5%
Bequests	\$ 7,432,174	17.3%
Program Service Revenue	\$ 6,790,009	15.8%
List Rental Income	\$ 572,383	1.3%
Other Revenue	\$ 57,419	0.1%
Investment Income	\$ 377,931	0.9%
Total Income	\$ 42,909,419	100.0%

		% of Expenses
Animal Program Services	\$ 36,940,729	82.3%
Management and General	\$ 1,814,506	4.0%
Fundraising	\$ 6,139,953	13.7%
Total Expenses	\$ 44,895,188	100.0%



ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 5,650,055
Cash for designated purposes	12,684,233
Investments	19,580,614
Bequests receivable	781,554
Land, buildings, and equipment	24,275,376
Other assets and prepaid expenses	3,888,650
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Total Assets	\$ 66,860,482
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LIABILITIES

Accounts and accrued expenses payable	\$ 3,194,529
Annuity payment liability	348,502
Accrued pension benefit obligation	3,663,879
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Total Liabilities	\$ 7,206,910
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NET ASSETS

Without Donor Restrictions:	
Available for operations	\$ 22,582,710
Net investment in property and equipment	24,275,376
With Donor Restrictions	12,795,486
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Total Net Assets	\$ 59,653,572
	<hr/>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 66,860,482
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Board of Directors and Senior Staff

J. John Stevenson, Esq.
PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Norma Meek
TREASURER/DIRECTOR

Yasuko Yamaguchi
SECRETARY/DIRECTOR

Beth Stern
DIRECTOR

Donald LaRocca, Jr.
DIRECTOR

John Cusimano
DIRECTOR

Rachael Ray
DIRECTOR

Valerie A. Fields, CPA
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Joanne Yohannan
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS

Jill Burkhardt
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF DEVELOPMENT

Mark Verdino, VMD
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND
CHIEF OF VETERINARY STAFF



A Special Thank You to the Rachael Ray Foundation

As we reflect on a successful 2022, we are especially grateful for our partnership with the Rachael Ray Foundation. This year their support enabled NSALA to save the lives of over 20,000 homeless animals through various programs across the country! With their help, we hope to save even more lives in 2023. Thank you, Rachael Ray!

New Community Outreach Center Opens

As our community cat outreach program has continued to grow, it was only natural to dedicate a headquarters for these efforts within our Port Washington, NY campus, where people can access related information and supplies.

Community cats are defined as cats who live outdoors—whether feral, stray or lost—and could use some extra support. “We wanted to help these cats and their caregivers,” explained Sylvia Ottaka, Senior Director of Rescue & Community Outreach. “The Animal League America Community Outreach Program came together to foster awareness and education around the plight



of community cats, and encourage the approach of Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate, and Return.”

Local dignitaries came out to celebrate the official opening of the newly renovated building, and to acknowledge the important role of our efforts in the community. Jennifer S. DeSena, Town of North Hempstead Supervisor, presented Sylvia with a “Certificate of Recognition, Achievement & Appreciation” and Christine Liu, Community Liaison for Gina L. Sillitti, presented a citation from the New York State Assembly that recognized the “many remarkable and valuable contributions” made by North Shore Animal League America.

“The Animal League America Community Outreach Program came together to foster awareness and education around the plight of community cats, and encourage the approach of Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate, and Return.”

Sylvia Ottaka, Senior Director of Rescue & Community Outreach

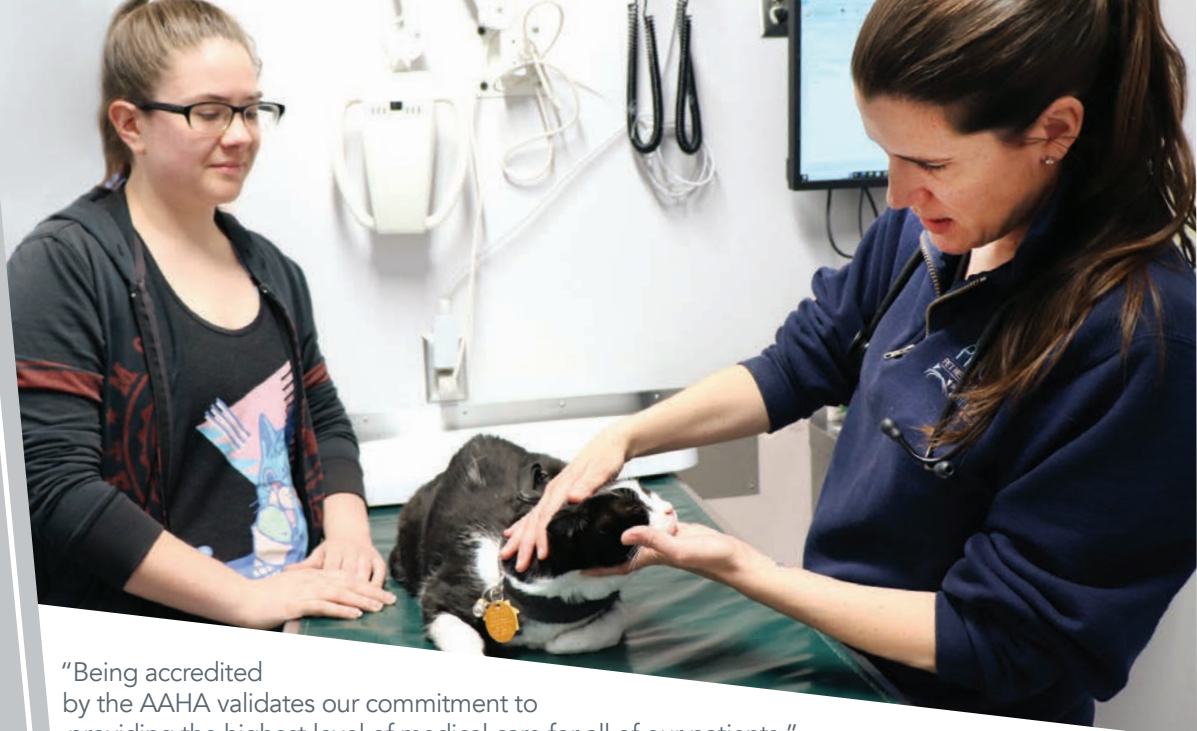
“We are in the process of growing our food bank to provide supplemental provisions for the caretakers devoted to helping these cats have a better life,” Sylvia noted. “Our new space is amazing and is going to help so many people and animals.” Anyone interested in learning more about caring for the cats in their community can visit animalleague.org/communityoutreach.

Pet Health Centers at the Forefront of Veterinary Medicine



When you bring your dog or cat to North Shore Animal League America's Pet Health Centers—consisting of the Alex and

Elisabeth Lewyt Veterinary Medical Center, Don and Karen LaRocca Pet Wellness Center, and the Elizabeth Freed Special Recovery Center—you can be assured that they are in the best hands possible. That's because we are proud to be accredited through the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA). Fewer than 15% of animal hospitals in the U.S. hold this distinction.



"Being accredited by the AAHA validates our commitment to providing the highest level of medical care for all of our patients," noted Dr. Mark Verdino, Animal League America Senior Vice President & Chief of Veterinary Staff. In fact, the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) is the only organization that accredits veterinary practices and hospitals in the U.S. and Canada. To become accredited, companion animal hospitals undergo regular comprehensive evaluations by AAHA veterinary experts who evaluate the practice on approximately 900 standards of veterinary care. These standards encompass all aspects of veterinary medicine—from pain management and patient care to team training and medical recordkeeping—and are continuously updated to keep accredited practices at the forefront of the profession.

Being a forward-thinking facility means that we take pride in keeping up with the newest technology to meet the ever-changing needs of our clients. With state-of-the-art equipment, we can take care of the spectrum of medical services pets might require, from diagnostic and ultrasound testing to hospitalization and surgery.

Our AAHA-accredited team brings their best to work every day—whether responding to an emergency situation or helping calm a fearful patient—and will continue to go above and beyond to help ensure every four-legged family member has a long and healthy life.

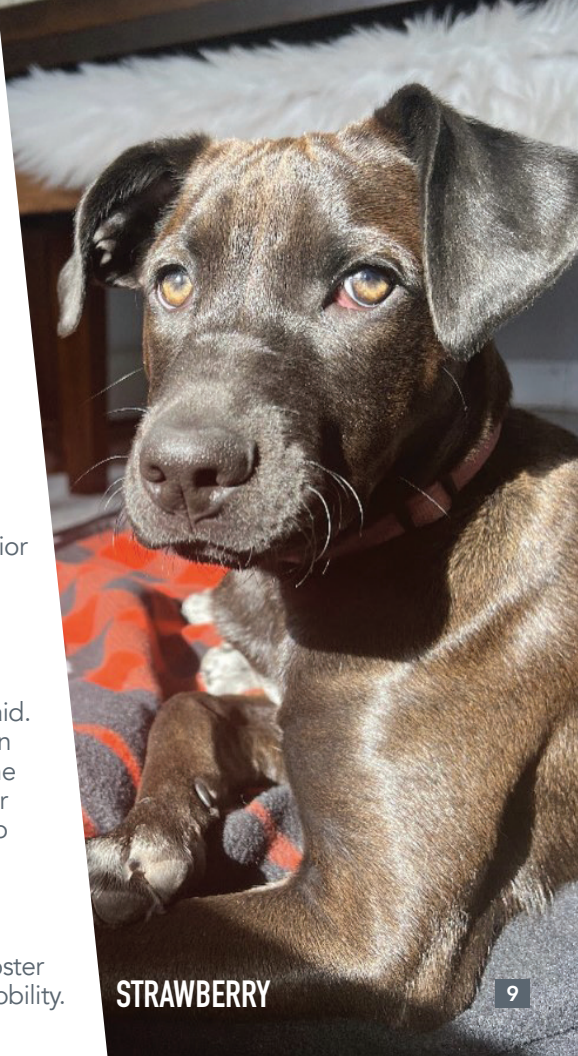
Helping Strawberry Walk Tall

When animals come to Animal League America, we don't always know what they have endured. For 12-week-old Lab mix Strawberry, the exact cause of her injury will remain a mystery—it's possible her tail was pulled or stepped on—but fortunately, we had the experts on our Pet Health Centers staff to help her heal and thrive.

Strawberry arrived as part of a rescue mission with our partner Paws4Life. It was initially thought that she was a 'swimmer pup.' Dr. Gerard Laheney, Animal League America Senior Veterinarian, explained, "Swimmer puppy syndrome is the term for a newborn that can't support its body weight, so they tend to paddle around at first, but ultimately do gain normal motor function." Once we were able to give Strawberry a thorough examination, however, it was discovered that her issue was much more complex.

"We noticed that Strawberry was experiencing deficits in her hind limbs," Dr. Laheney said. "For example, you can see when Strawberry's paw is turned over, she does not reposition it properly, and that means there is a disruption in the neurologic connection between the brain and paws." Radiographs confirmed Strawberry suffered from earlier fractures to her tail, which impacted her spinal cord. Strawberry's treatment plan included acupuncture to help stimulate her nerves, and targeted rehabilitation and physical therapy to build her muscle strength.

Playful and exceptionally friendly, Strawberry is eager to engage with both people and animals, not letting her awkward gait slow her down. Thankfully she's doing well in her foster home, and we are pleased to report she is experiencing noted improvement with her mobility.



STRAWBERRY

Rescued Parvo Pups Receive Freed Special Recovery Care

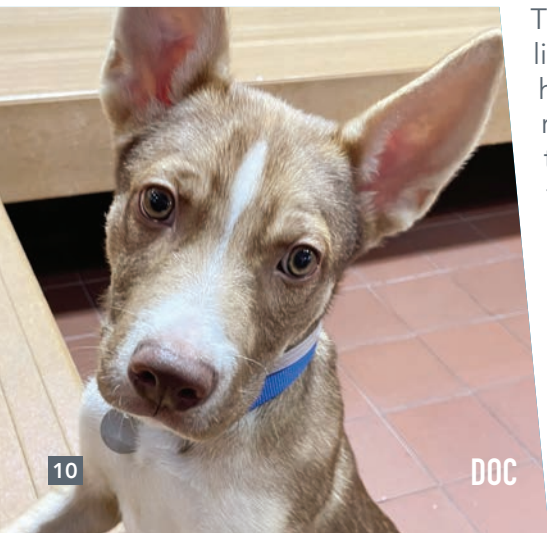
Boone and Doc—Siberian Husky-mix brothers—were suffering from neglect, and would likely have perished without intervention. Thankfully our team at the North Country Initiative Adirondack Cat Adoption Center in Warren County, NY, intervened and the siblings made their way to our Freed Special Recovery Center, where they received treatment for parvovirus.

These adorable and resilient pups had been living in the same negligent and irresponsible household as a previous parvo dog we rescued, Baby Girl. Fortunately, we were able to give Boone and Doc the medical attention they needed. Boone responded to his treatment quickly, however Doc required a bit more intervention. According to Dr. Mark Verdino, Animal League America Chief of Veterinary Staff, “Doc suffered from nausea and persistent diarrhea. His vitals were stable, so we provided additional symptomatic treatments to help him feel better as he fought off the virus.” This level of medical care is costly, but we do whatever we can to ensure the animals we see return to full health, and find the responsible, loving families they deserve.



“We do whatever we can to ensure the animals we see return to full health, and find the responsible, loving families they deserve.”

*Dr. Mark Verdino, Animal League America
Senior Vice President & Chief
of Veterinary Staff*



The Ann Bryand Fund Helped Gus Get Moving

When Alex Puls and his wife happened to see Gus, a charming, three-legged pit bull, featured on The Rachael Ray Show, they didn't imagine he would become a permanent member of their family. After meeting him in person however, there was no question they would be taking the two-year-old home. Gus—rescued as part of Animal League America Hurricane Florence relief efforts—was a favorite of everyone, Alex remembers: "He was a little rock star in the shelter and was just super sweet."

Having only three legs never slowed Gus down, but over time, the wear and tear took a toll on his limbs. One day his family



noticed Gus was struggling to walk and a visit to the vet confirmed that he was going to need not one, but two surgeries to repair damage to his ligaments. The extensive procedures were not only going to take time and lots of care and rehabilitation, but were also going to cause an extreme financial burden on Gus's family. "My wife was still in school at the time," Alex explained, "and money was really tight. We were going to do whatever we needed to do for Gus, but it was definitely going to be a significant financial burden."

The Ann Bryand Fund was established at Animal League America to help in situations just like this. "Everyone in the Pet Health Centers was so amazing," Alex said. "I am eternally grateful for what you guys have done." With the extra support, Gus came through his treatment well and is back entertaining his entire family with his antics, including using his charming personality to wrangle treats out of his caregivers. Alex continues to recommend our veterinary services to anyone with pets at home: "We always make the extra drive to Animal League America for even our routine care because it's priced affordably and the staff is wonderful."

"He was a little rock star in the shelter and was just super sweet."

Alex Puls, Adopter



Animal Rescue Was a Team Effort in Hurricane Ian Aftermath

One of the most destructive storms in Florida's history, Hurricane Ian left residents struggling in its wake. As always in times of crisis, NSALA gathered its resources to help, bringing people together and forging new bonds in the process.

Answering the call for donations of emergency supplies, our supporters and friends on Long Island and the tristate area succeeded in filling our Mobile Rescue Unit with critically needed items such as food, water, and pet and household necessities. Animal League America volunteer Catherine Klyde, now retired from law enforcement, joined the team on their trip to Florida, and was able to bring her experience in emergency situations and love for animals to the benefit of our mission. "When I was asked to join the transport, my heart was pounding," Catherine recalled. "I knew it was the chance of a lifetime. I was so excited to see the beginning of our animals' journey here." It truly is the passion and dedication of everyone in our organization that makes our lifesaving work possible.



"I knew it was the chance of a lifetime. I was so excited to see the beginning of our animals' journey here."

*Catherine Klyde,
Animal League America volunteer*

The first stop was our longtime partner Clearwater-based Pinellas County Animal Services, who served as a distribution hub and helped deliver the relief supplies to multiple animal shelters impacted by the storm. Upon their

arrival, Animal League America Rescue Team Leader Ted Moriates was in for a surprise. His uncle—and Clearwater resident—Raymond Reicherter had jumped in his car and come to help. “We pulled up to the front gate of the shelter and my aunt and uncle were standing there waving,” Ted told us. “He assisted in unloading everything which was so kind.”

With the supplies unloaded, the team was able to take in animals to bring back to our Long Island campus. Ted reminded everyone that “all the animals we had on our truck were residents of the shelter and not ‘owned’ animals. The dogs and cats we brought with us made space so that if people in Florida need to take their pets somewhere while they get on their feet, there is a place to go.” In fact, Animal League America pioneered the nation’s first humane relocation program, and that has been a crucial part of our emergency rescue efforts since Hurricane Andrew.

The next destination for our Emergency Rescue Team was Bronson, FL to connect with a new shelter partner. “Love My Pittie Rescue reached out because they were in desperate need of help,” said Sylvia Ottaka, Animal League America Senior Director of Rescue. “The organization works with animal control and rescue for two counties, and they have a sanctuary as well. Due to the storm, they have taken in more canines than usual. They have all types of wonderful dogs, and we look forward to partnering with them in the future.”

In all, 26 dogs, cats, puppies and kittens made their way to our Port Washington campus, including an endearing mamma Pittie and her litter of pups. Animal rescue takes teamwork, and at NSALA, people pull together during times of adversity—and every day—to protect animals in need.



Journey Home Took Five Years and Nearly Ten Thousand Miles

It's easy to forget that in some corners of the world, dogs are considered pests to be exterminated, or, horrifically, sold as food at meat markets. Five years ago, as part of our rescue efforts to save street dogs in Thailand, Max made the long journey from Phuket to our Port Washington, NY campus. A Thai Ridgeback mix, Max arrived with no knowledge of what it meant to be a loved companion, or how to enjoy the company of other dogs. His previous existence was a fight for survival.

Max's handsome features brought him a great deal of attention from adopters; however, no one was willing to provide the extra care he required. Fortunately, the Pet Behavior team at North Shore Animal League America has an unlimited reserve of patience and continued working with him. Our no-kill promise means Max never had to worry we would give up on him.



"Ideally, animals that will live as pets are socialized properly, and exposed to different situations so they aren't fearful."

*Diane Johnson, Animal League America
Vice President of Shelter Operations*

Diane Johnson, Vice President of Shelter Operations, recalled, "The dogs we brought over from Thailand had a hard time adjusting. It's like placing a feral cat in a cage. Ideally, animals that will live as pets are socialized properly, and exposed to different situations so they aren't fearful."

Max had to learn how to interact with strangers, and how to handle new experiences like walking on a leash. It took a long time for him to trust; then Veronica came along. Veronica, a volunteer in the shelter since November 2013, came as often as she could to walk Max and over time a bond formed.

"Week after week Max was there and we just connected," Veronica said. "And every week I thought 'oh my God, you're still here. How?' I was never at peace. I wanted him with me." Finally Veronica's schedule changed to where she could work from home, which would be better for Max. "Because he had never lived in a house, we didn't know how it was going to go," she said, "but I wanted to try. Now he's just so happy. He has beds everywhere plus loads of toys. We have so much fun, and I love him to pieces!"

Almost 10 years old, Max has kidney issues and severe skin allergies, but Veronica is keeping up with the treatment he needs. Though Max has experienced much adversity in his life, we are thankful we could make this magnificent journey of many years and thousands of miles possible to get him to his very first home.

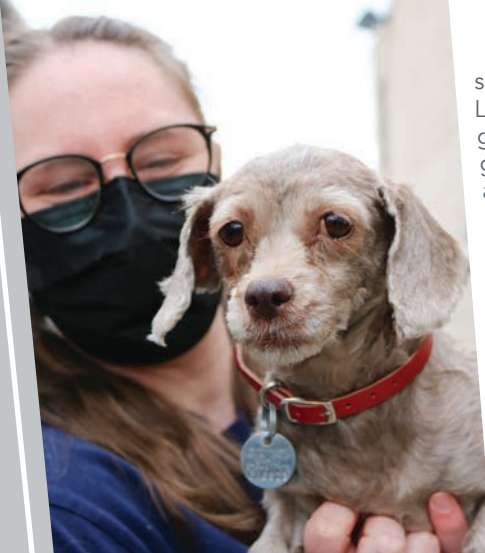
Tireless Rescue Efforts Save Dogs from Commercial Breeders

The lifesaving work of North Shore Animal League America does not rest. Just weeks from rescuing 40 dogs from commercial breeders in the Midwest last spring, our Rescue Team made another trip westward and returned with more than 50 dogs and puppies from Kansas-area breeding facilities.

A wide range of adorable canines arrived at our Port Washington campus, ready for our care and nurturing. Rescued in collaboration with our longtime partner, National Mill Dog Rescue, the pure and mixed breeds represented included Cocker Spaniels, American Eskimos, Poodles, Yorkies, Maltese, and even a precious litter of Schnoodles (Schnauzer/Poodles).

Canines Lifted Out of Cruelty

Our Rescue Team made sure that the transformation for these dogs and puppies began immediately. "The best thing for me is that I get to see where they start, and then



see where they go," Animal League America Rescue Team Leader Ted Moriates explained. "A lot of these animals are getting their very first gentle touches with us, and soon will be getting their happily-ever-afters." Ted cuddled one of the new arrivals as he spoke, who continually licked his face, as if in thanks. At only eight weeks old, the adorable, black Schnauzer puppy was missing the paw on her left hind leg, which had been crudely removed.

This physical condition surely would have meant a death sentence for her, had we not come to the rescue. "It is incredibly heartbreaking to think this sweet puppy would have been euthanized," Ted noted. "Sadly, some commercial breeders kill animals who they can't sell or who can no longer have litters." At Animal League America, we don't give up on animals with physical challenges, and are committed to finding them loving families who appreciate their unique qualities.

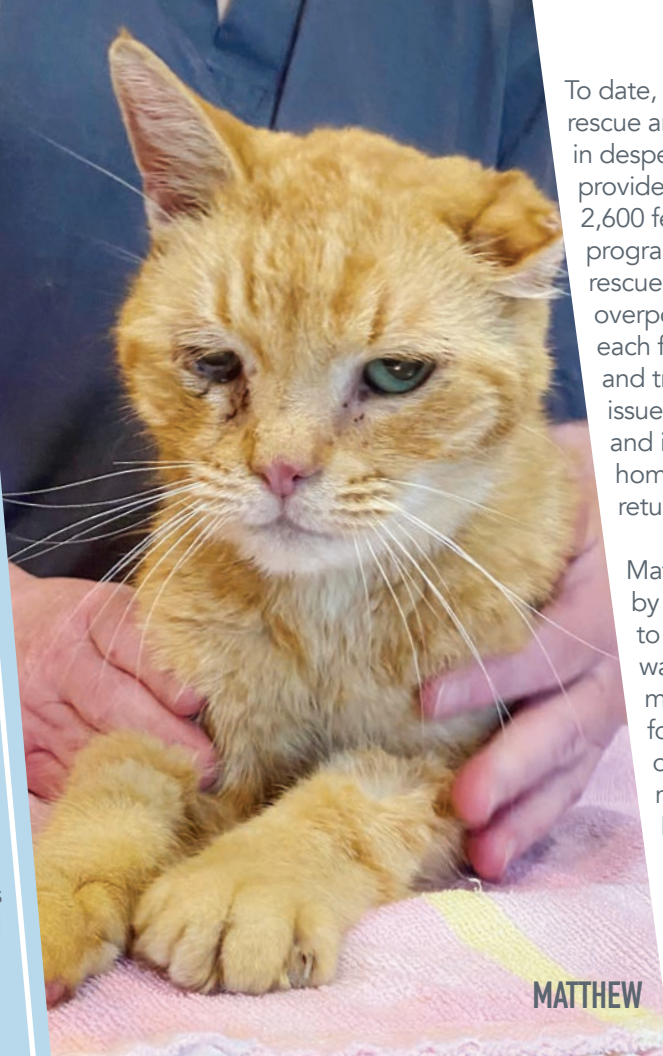


The first step for all the dogs and puppies was an examination by our veterinary team, thorough grooming, and assessment by the Pet Behavior staff. Sadly, we could see that for many of the dogs arriving, their basic grooming needs had not been met, a vital component for keeping pets healthy and comfortable.

The tiny pup with the missing paw, now named Zag, is no longer missing love and affection. She was gently carried off the Mobile Unit, along with the rest of her littermates and a stunning array of puppies and dogs that included Poodles, Yorkshire Terriers, Pomeranians, and many others. What they can count on is safety and nurturing ahead, thanks to our humane relocation program and its lifesaving efforts.

NCI Reaches a Momentous Milestone for Community Cats

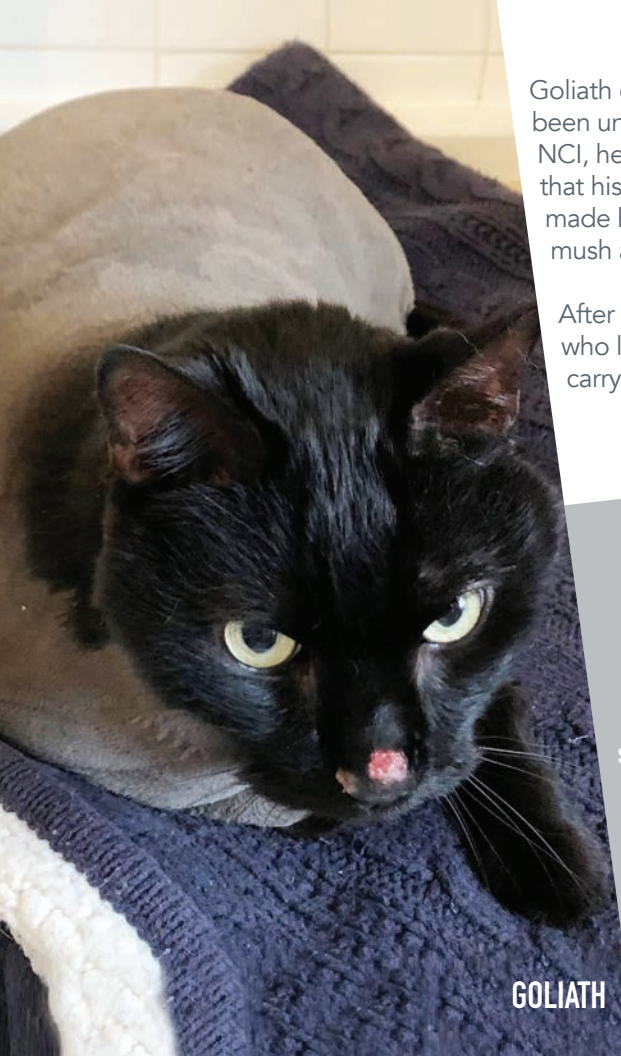
In an effort to do more to help community cats and reduce overpopulation, North Shore Animal League America extended its reach into upstate NY through the formation of the North Country Initiative Adirondack Region Cat Adoption Center in Glens Falls. September 2022 marked the fifth anniversary of this impressive and impactful no-kill facility, which assists with the needs of homeless felines and feral colonies in the region and utilizes spay and neuter programs to reduce cat overpopulation and the corresponding suffering.



MATTHEW

To date, the NCI team has provided hands-on rescue and assistance to over 5,000 felines in desperate need. Additionally, they have provided financial support to owners of over 2,600 felines through the spay/neuter voucher program. Of the homeless cats and kittens rescued, most are trapped as strays or from overpopulated feral colonies. Once trapped, each feline is spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and treated for any other necessary medical issues. They are also assessed behaviorally and if possible, are adopted into a loving home. If the feline is deemed feral, they are returned outside to a managed colony.

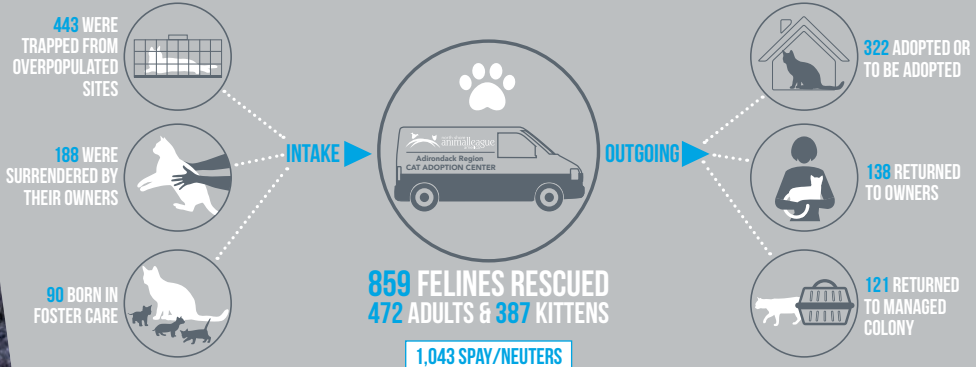
Matthew recently had his life transformed by NCI and his loving rescuers. Abandoned to fend for himself, Matthew was found wandering by the side of the road, in the middle of nowhere. Medical intervention for Matthew came just in time. Not only was the poor feline suffering from malnourishment and dehydration, but Matthew also had an upper respiratory infection, as well as severe infections in both of his ears. He was given all the treatment and nursing he required to return to full health, and now Matthew is part of a wonderful, caring family.



Goliath came to NCI in dire need of help, caused by his owner's neglect. Goliath's owner had been unable to provide proper care for so long that by the time Goliath was surrendered to NCI, he was significantly overweight, had an injury to his nose, and was so severely matted that his fur had become thick and hardened. Understandably, the pain Goliath was living in made him a little grumpy. Once shaved—which required sedation—he turned into a big mush and his affectionate personality helped him find his new family very quickly.

After five years and thousands of lives changed—including cats, kittens, and the people who love and care for them—the team at NCI is going strong and looking forward to carrying on their mission well into the future.

2022 North Country Initiative Statistics



GOLIATH

School Cats Are Cool Cats!



Thanks to the ingenuity from our North Country

Initiative Adirondack Region Cat Adoption Center (NCI), we are excited to announce a new part of the Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum that will help us save more lives — the Mutt-i-grees School Cat Foster Program. Deborah Oligny, NCI Director, has not only been busy rescuing cats and kittens, but also helping schools in the surrounding area incorporate our Mutt-i-grees Curriculum. Additionally, Deb has developed a reading program on-site at NCI that has already been a tremendous benefit for both kids and cats.



"My students are enjoying working with and socializing the animals to get them ready for adoption. We are happy to be a part of reducing pet homelessness in our own small way!"

*Carter Stevens,
Science Program Teacher*

The very first Mutt-i-grees Cat School is WSWHE BOCES in Saratoga Springs, NY, where they have introduced the fostering of a cat or kitten as part of their Small Animal Science Program. The school's foster cat is given a dedicated room of its own. The students care and nurture the cat each day with food, water, socialization, health checks, nail trims and lots of love. Their building and maintenance staff are responsible for checking on the cat at night and on weekends. When the cat is ready for a home, the approved adopter picks the cat up directly from the school. Having the children participate in the full-circle journey from foster to adoption is what our Mutt-i-grees Curriculum is all about. It builds humane education and service learning through the students' experience, and they take away the lifelong critical skills of empathy and resilience.



"My students are enjoying working with and socializing the animals to get them ready for adoption. We are happy to be a part of reducing pet homelessness in our own small way!" said Carter Stevens, Science Program Teacher.

Along with the School Cat Foster Program, local students—ages 10-14 years old—have been taking part in a new reading program at NCI. On their scheduled days, the students come in accompanied by a guardian and visit three different cat rooms, spending 20 minutes in each. They are informed about the cats in each room and learn which are approachable, or who may be nervous. NCI is proud to report that the young readers have been extremely respectful and enjoy seeing how some of the scared cats can overcome their fear with a little patience and consistency. It's clear the kitties love their readers!

For more information on our Mutt-i-grees Program, please visit www.muttigrees.org.



Beth's Room

"Beth's Room" became part of Bianca's Furry Friends Feline Adoption Center in 2022. This delightful space is dedicated to Animal League America National Spokesperson, Board Member and Foster Parent Beth Ostrosky Stern, who has worked with us for more than 16 years. She helps us raise awareness and opens her heart and home to cats and kittens in need, especially those who are "perfectly imperfect."

Beth's Room proudly displays some of the many cats Beth helped rescue and ended up adopting into her own family over the years. The sanctuary is a beautiful addition to BFF and we are grateful to Billy and Alexis Joel for donating this room in honor of Beth's birthday.

Be sure to check out
Beth's Blog
each month
[animalleague.org/
bethsblog](http://animalleague.org/bethsblog)





For foster parents, adoption day means letting go of one so you can open your heart to another. Although I have to confess, I never completely let go, because a part of each one remains in my heart forever.
-Beth Stern



My Instagram friends are the best. They make what I do possible and joyful. I couldn't do this work without the love and support of this incredible community.
Beth Stern
Volunteer, Foster Parent, National Spokenword.com, and Board Member North Shore Animal League America



Live Love Rescue



Walkers & Waggers Joined Forces Nationwide

Virtual walkers participated from their own communities across the country to support the sixth annual Walk & Wag. Participants in the New York area were able to join the in-person event on September 17, which served as the kickoff for the final two weeks of Walk & Wag fundraising.

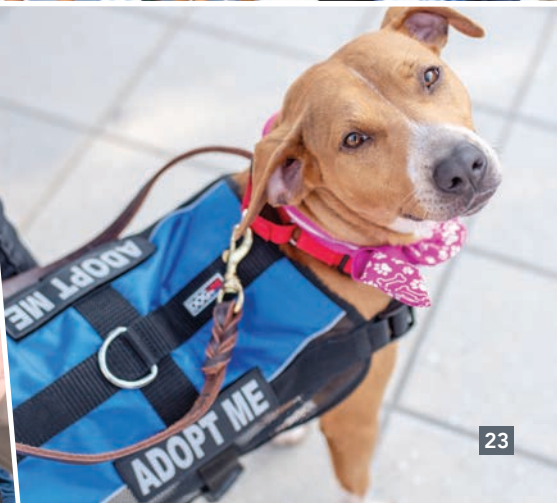
Greeted by stunning views of the Hudson River, supporters gathered on a sunny Saturday morning on Pier 84 with their furry pals. Everyone enjoyed vendors, snacks and entertainment before embarking on the three-mile stroll along the waterfront. Generating energy and excitement, cheerleaders



from Saint Francis Preparatory School in Queens, NY lined up at the starting arch. Their enthusiasm—along with the music from DJ Teal Camner and MixMaster Marley—kept spirits high.

Kathryn Erbe—star of film, stage and TV, as well as proud mom to two rescue dogs and three cats—was this year's Walk & Wag Ambassador and cut the ribbon to launch the walkers. Kathryn is a longtime friend of Animal League America. "I've been a dedicated supporter ever since I adopted my dog Lilah there in 2008," she said. "Too many beautiful animals are euthanized every year, which is why the no-kill mission of Animal League America is so important."

Attendees were thrilled with the location and inspired by the incredible views of the river as well as the USS Intrepid, anchored nearby. Thanks to all our generous supporters, fundraising for the 2022 Walk & Wag exceeded expectations!





You Got Your Rescue On. Now Be Counted.

Mutt-i-grees Rescue Registry® Engages Adopters

Visitors coming to North Shore Animal League America to adopt are truly enthusiastic animal lovers. Once they find that new family member, we encourage them to join our Rescue Registry and “be counted.” To date, more than 127,000 Animal League America adopters have enrolled their pets in what is now the world’s largest rescue pet registry. Enrollees get the satisfaction of knowing they are part of the Mutt-i-grees® Movement, and receive a special membership certificate. And we have the ability to connect with an incredible database of engaged and committed rescue animal advocates.



animalleague.org/rescueregistry



Become a Social Media Volunteer

Make a connection with the animals here at Animal League America and share their stories with your friends and family so they can find their perfect homes. We are looking for people who love animals and want to further our no-kill rescue mission using everyday technology to post videos, photos and spread as much awareness online as possible.

Start raising awareness today!
As an ANIPAL you can make a
difference in the life of a shelter pet!

BECOME AN ANIPAL TODAY!



Rescue Rabbits!

There are many similarities between having a pet rabbit, or a dog or cat. Domestic rabbits can quickly form a bond with their humans. And just like any companion animal, rabbits can provide love, companionship, and increased health benefits to their owners. However, there can be a misconception about the care rabbits need from their owners in order to thrive in their new homes.

In general rabbits, like any pet, need time, patience, and commitment. They can be a wonderful addition to your home and family and can provide many years as beloved companions.

The most important thing to remember is that domestic rabbits are not the same as wild rabbits, and they would not survive if abandoned outdoors. They are not capable of living outside the care of humans. If they did not become easy prey to larger predators, they would simply starve. We have helped rescue and find homes for several rabbits over the past year and encourage people to contact us or their local animal shelter if they have a rabbit they can no longer keep in their care.



GEORGE AND JERRY

"We believe that the best way to ensure the future of our vision and values is by remaining a focused, growing organization with a commitment to long-term stability."

– J. John Stevenson

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