



north shore  
**animal league**  
america®

# 2023 NO-KILL RESCUE REPORT



SCAN ME!

# 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 80 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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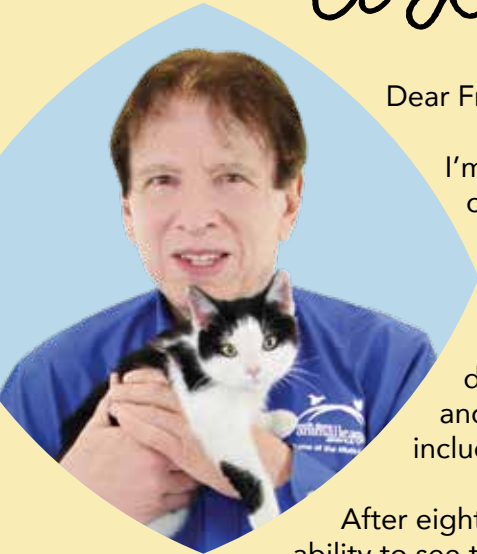
SCAN ME!

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.

A Spanish-language translation of this report is available at [animalleague.org/InformeAnual](http://animalleague.org/InformeAnual)



# A Letter from the President



Dear Friends,

I'm delighted to share our 2023 No-Kill Rescue Report with you because, as one of our many generous and compassionate supporters, you make every year feel miraculous to the thousands of vulnerable dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens who come to us for care.

But what might seem miraculous to some is, in fact, the product of hard work, dedication, and courage because miracles don't just happen. Teamwork and fiscal and ethical responsibility are basic to longevity and sustainability in any endeavor, including animal rescue.

After eight decades as a leader of the no-kill shelter movement, we've developed the ability to see the big picture. Since our early days, we've consistently pioneered new programs, setting a high standard for our peers in the no-kill movement. We're proud that our innovative programs inspire others and reflect our commitment to every aspect of our no-kill mission to Rescue, Nurture, Adopt, and Educate.

Over the years, we've learned that creating a humane world for animals is a long-term project requiring vision and resilience. We've also learned that the proverbial big picture consists of many daily, lifesaving details. So, we designed this annual report to reflect our goals as well as our day-to-day "miracles."

That's why we highlight animals like Knox, whose rescue from the cruel puppy mill industry epitomizes so much of our work. And it's why we feature our great volunteers, our incredible Pet Health Centers, our national and international adoption events, our powerful presence on social media and in the classroom, as well as two sweet bonded senior cats named Catherine the Great and Rum Tum Tugger who got another chance because you care.

Ultimately, the satisfaction that comes from looking back on a successful year is matched only by the excitement of anticipating an even more successful future — a future we will continue to build with your ongoing support.

Thank you.

For the Mutt-i-grees,

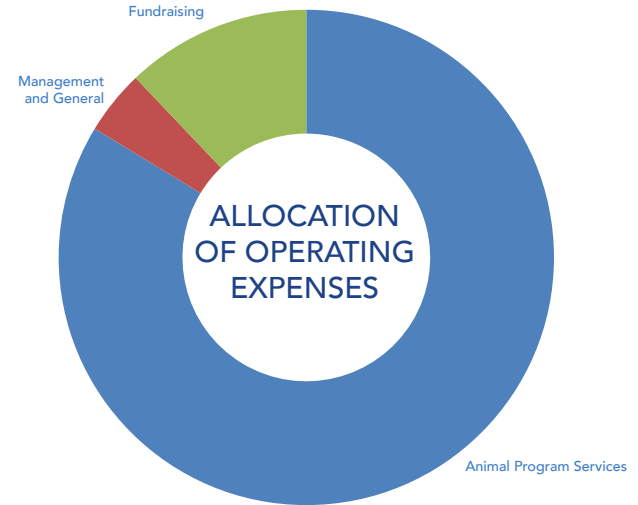
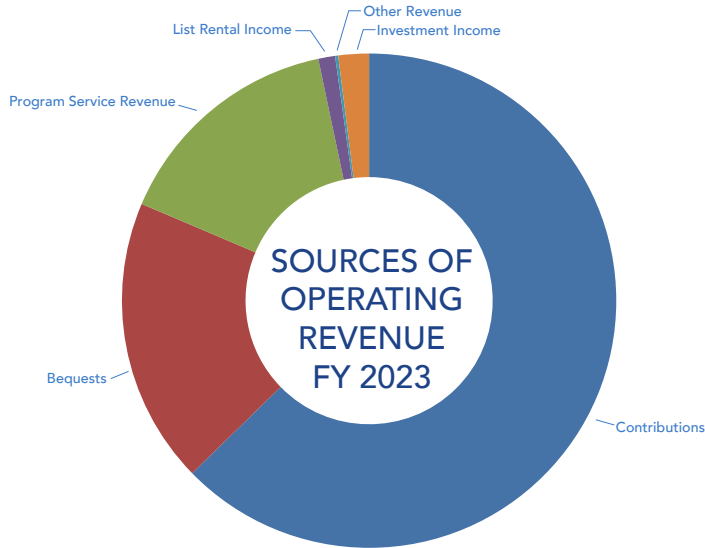


J. John Stevenson  
President & CEO

“  
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# 2023 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2023



		<b>% of Income</b>
Contributions	\$ 28,117,308	<b>62.7%</b>
Bequests	\$ 8,385,244	<b>18.7%</b>
Program Service Revenue	\$ 6,863,182	<b>15.3%</b>
List Rental Income	\$ 475,786	<b>1.1%</b>
Other Revenue	\$ 95,376	<b>0.2%</b>
Investment Income	\$ 910,204	<b>2.0%</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 44,847,100</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

		<b>% of Expenses</b>
Animal Program Services	\$ 40,261,483	<b>83.7%</b>
Management and General	\$ 2,012,086	<b>4.2%</b>
Fundraising	\$ 5,842,777	<b>12.1%</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 48,116,346</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



## ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,956,886
Cash for designated purposes	12,350,937
Investments	21,172,525
Bequests receivable	144,261
Land, buildings, and equipment	24,357,208
Other assets and prepaid expenses	3,845,013
	<hr/>
Total Assets	\$ 64,826,830
	<hr/> <hr/>

## LIABILITIES

Accounts and accrued expenses payable	\$ 3,275,247
Annuity payment liability	328,375
Accrued pension benefit obligation	3,670,897
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Total Liabilities	\$ 7,274,519
	<hr/> <hr/>

## NET ASSETS

Without Donor Restrictions:	
Available for operations	\$ 20,816,422
Net investment in property and equipment	24,357,208
With Donor Restrictions	12,378,681
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Total Net Assets	\$ 57,552,311
	<hr/> <hr/>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 64,826,830
	<hr/> <hr/>



# Board of Directors and Senior Staff

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

Donald LaRocca, Jr.  
TREASURER/DIRECTOR

Yasuko Yamaguchi  
SECRETARY/DIRECTOR

Norma M. Meek  
DIRECTOR

Beth Stern  
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 2023, we are especially grateful for our partnership with The Rachael Ray Foundation (RRF). This year their support enabled North Shore Animal League America to save the lives of over 20,000 homeless animals through various programs across the country. With the help of RRF, we are positioned to save even more lives in 2024!  
Thank you, Rachael Ray!







## 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!**



## 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](http://animalleague.org/rescueregistry)

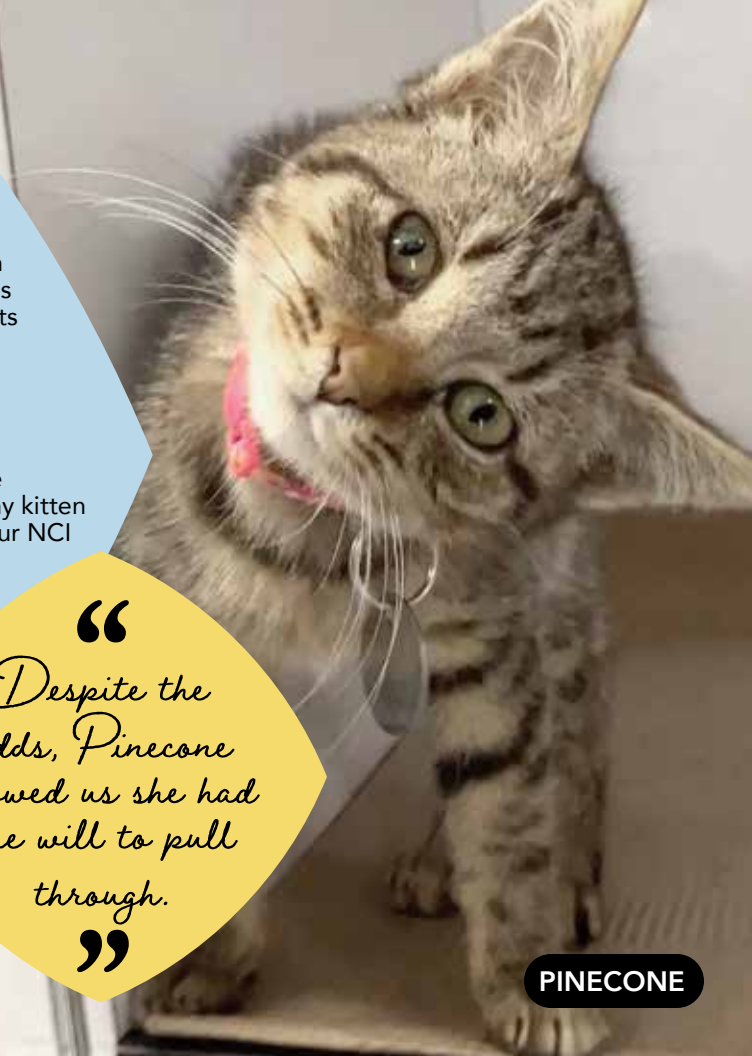
# NORTH COUNTRY INITIATIVE: Extending the Reach of Our No-Kill Mission

Since 2015, the North Country Initiative Adirondack Region Cat Adoption Center (NCI) located in upstate New York, has worked tirelessly to address cat overpopulation in the area. NCI takes a holistic approach to rescue cats and provide them with new homes. Many of the rescued cats come from difficult situations, such as homelessness and neglect, and they are given vaccinations; treatment for illness or injuries; spaying and neutering; and behavior rehabilitation.

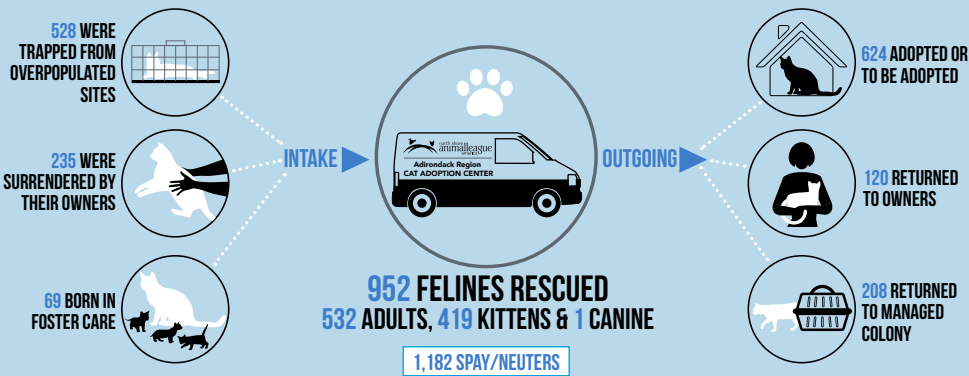
It is their commitment and determination that leads to success stories like Pinecone's. Initially discovered under a porch in upstate New York, this tiny kitten was near death. Dubbed Pinecone, she was brought to the attention of our NCI team, who acted quickly to begin providing her with care, determined to give her a fighting chance to survive. Pinecone was severely dehydrated, painfully thin, and suffering from severe upper respiratory and eye infections, but her rescuers were prepared to do everything in their power to save this precious soul.

Though at first thought to be both deaf and blind, Pinecone slowly began to show signs of improvement. Pinecone also found her appetite and began to put on the weight she so badly needed. Once stable, Pinecone was transferred to our Pet Health Centers in Port Washington, NY for further treatment. NCI Director Deborah Oligny marveled at Pinecone's incredible resilience. "She's a sweetheart," Deborah said. "Despite the odds, Pinecone showed us she had the will to pull through."

“  
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”



## 2023 North Country Initiative Statistics



With her quirky sideways head tilt, Pinecone is a charmer with a snuggly nature. It is unlikely her hearing will ever return, but thanks to the efforts of Animal League America and NCI, this little kitten went from the brink of death to a promising future filled with warmth, care, and the chance to experience the joys of being a beloved pet.

### Rescue From Hoarding Horror

A hoarding situation, where 106 felines were being kept in a small trailer, was brought to the attention of our NCI team last spring. "Besides the horrendous filth and toxic air, it was extremely disturbing to see so many felines housed in cramped cages with no litter boxes or enrichment opportunities for a very long time," Deborah reported.

"Even though we wanted to remove every cat immediately, we knew it would be an extended process."



Handling rescue situations like this one requires a great deal of strategic planning. Starting the first day, they brought back large dog crates, food, litter boxes, litter, clean linens, and toys to provide a bit of relief for those in cages, while beginning to address the specific needs of each animal. Over the next 51 days, the NCI team worked to spay and neuter, vaccinate, and medically treat all the felines from the site. Once every cat was safe, our efforts continued as the team determined which cats needed more rehabilitation, and which were ready to find their loving home. The suffering that would have continued and been exacerbated is unimaginable had we not been there to help.



## Long Island University Veterinary Students Expand Their Knowledge at Our Pet Health Centers



The Alex and Elisabeth Lewyt Pet Health Centers is continuing to serve as a training site for LIU students in the Veterinary Medicine program. The groups of 3rd-year students hosted include future surgeons, anesthesiologists and assistants.

“The students are all candidates for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degrees and are moving through different roles while in their rotations,” explained Devon Butler, LVT, MA, Animal League America Clinic Services Manager. While in our surgical suite, students perform tasks that include physical exams prior to surgery, monitoring anesthesia, administering anesthesia, and performing canine spays on shelter pets accompanied by their professors (all veterinarians) and a Licensed Veterinary Technician (LVT) employed by LIU.

In the Medical Center, the students gain hands-on experience performing physical examinations on shelter pets (accompanied by their professors). During their time in the Wellness Center, the students perform annual exams, administer vaccines, obtain blood samples, and work with client-owned pets whose owners have consented to having student doctors. At the completion of the exams by the students, one of their professors who is a licensed veterinarian also performs an exam. “The LIU program increases our visibility among future veterinarians, while also building rapport in the veterinary community on Long Island,” said Devon. “The students also get to say they’ve done rotations at North Shore Animal League America, a premier organization in the shelter/rescue community.”

The program is clearly a benefit for everyone involved, with a recent client sharing, “If you have an opportunity to visit for this collaboration, don’t hesitate. They’re all so amazing!”



## Joy Triumphs with the Help of the *Ann Bryand Fund*

By the time eight-year-old calico Joy was seen in our Pet Health Centers, her condition was dire. She was having severe gastrointestinal issues but her owners did not know the cause. What Animal League America Senior Veterinarian Dr. Gamal Yousry knew he could promise Joy's distraught parents was that he would do everything he could. "They were feeling hopeless and worried she would be euthanized," Dr. Yousry said.

Upon examination, it was discovered Joy had a blockage from a combination of foreign substances she had ingested over time. Joy needed immediate surgery, during which it was also revealed that she was suffering from pancreatitis. This kind of intensive medical care can result in a significant financial burden, particularly for people living on a fixed income like the Traynors. Fortunately, the Ann Bryand Fund is available to help in circumstances like these.

"We have a fantastic team and are proud of what we can do for our patients. Joy was in critical care in our hospital for nearly 10 days, and her family was provided significant assistance through the Ann Bryand Fund after proving need," said Chief of Veterinary Staff Dr. Mark Verdino.

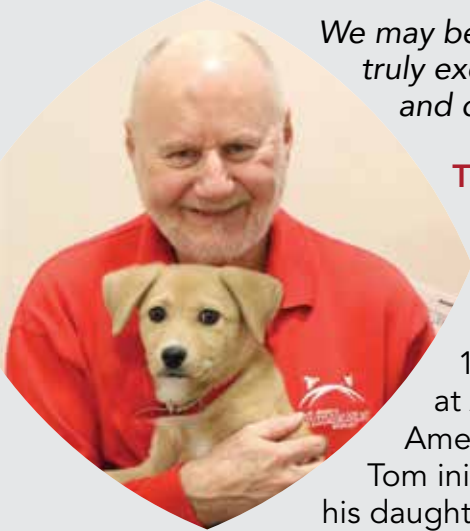
Joy's pancreatitis will require medication and monitoring, but thankfully she recovered well from surgery. Dr. Yousry was also pleased our organization could make a difference for this special family: "Animal League America gave Joy the chance to live, and her story ends in smiles!"



“  
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”

# Our Volunteers are *Champions of Compassion*

*We may be biased, but the volunteers at North Shore Animal League America are truly exceptional. Each year we choose four individuals to honor for the passion and dedication they bring to their work and our mission.*



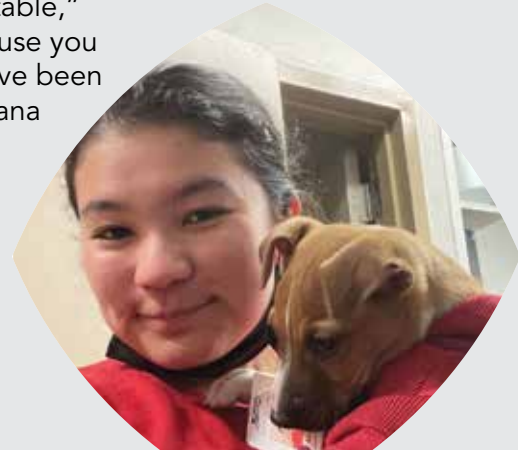
## **TOM AUDETTE**

Retired following a career in the county court system, Tom Audette now has 16 years volunteering at Animal League America under his belt.

Tom initially signed up after his daughters expressed interest and he figured he would volunteer too. Tom has a particular fondness for the dogs who are rescued from commercial breeders, because he knows they've had a hard life and need a little more patience: "When you find a home for them, it's so rewarding. I truly believe that people and dogs belong together."

## **ALANA**

From early childhood days, Alana Wolfson knew she wanted to be involved with animals as much as possible. When she was old enough to volunteer, she signed up to join the VolunTEEN program. Alana particularly enjoys assisting the animals in the Pet Health Centers who arrive needing medical care. "I really love helping them recover and making them feel comfortable," Alana said, "because you can see that they've been through a lot." Alana plans to pursue veterinary studies in college, saving even more future dogs, cats, puppies and kittens in need.



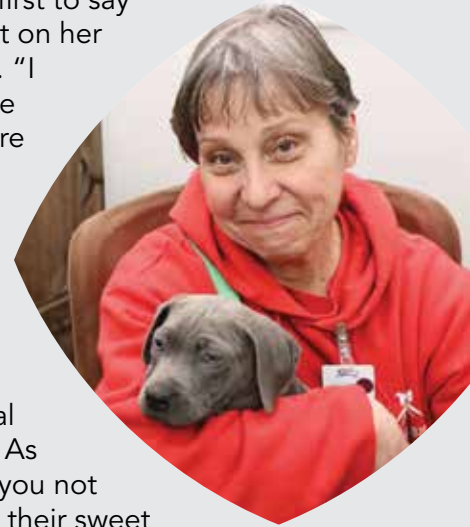
## SUZANNE SUTLEY

After 35 years teaching middle schoolers, Suzanne Sutley, wanted to direct the skills she had honed during her career to a new purpose. In 2020, she found the perfect outlet at Bianca's Furry Friends Feline Adoption Center. What Suzanne didn't realize until later was just how much cats and eighth graders have in common. "Everything that I learned teaching I use with the cats," Suzanne said. "Like eighth graders, cats are just trying to figure out the world. They don't quite understand what's going on and need patience. Children and cats both really want you to listen to them, be kind, and have respect for them."



## JOSSIE O'NEILL

Anyone meeting Jossie O'Neill is immediately struck by her infectious positivity and energy. Happily, North Shore Animal League America has had the benefit of her time over the past year and Jossie is the first to say it has a positive impact on her life off campus as well. "I find that being with the animals makes me more empathetic...more hopeful," Jossie said. On top of her duties around campus, Jossie has been getting involved with bringing some of our rescue pets to local hospitals and schools. As she says, "How could you not feel good after seeing their sweet faces?" We thank YOU Jossie – and all our volunteers – for sharing your time and positive energy with Animal League America!





## PAWS FOR PATRIOTS: Animal League America's SPOT Program Honors Our Veterans

Veterans Day is a time to salute the dedication and sacrifice of our nation's heroes. North Shore Animal League America's Shelter Pet Outreach Team (SPOT) honors their service not just on this special day but throughout the year. For over a decade, our SPOT volunteers have been making regular visits to the New York State Veterans Home at St. Albans, bringing joy, comfort and companionship in the form of puppies to brighten the days of the residents.

The SPOT program is more than just a visit; it's a connection for those who may find themselves isolated or in need of a furry friend's affection. These small interactions hold tremendous therapeutic value – proven to reduce stress, alleviate anxiety, and rekindle cherished memories. Deirdre Samuel, Coordinator of Volunteer Services for St. Albans, emphasized the profound impact of the human-animal bond: "Dogs offer unconditional love, with no judgment. Their affection reaches those who might not communicate verbally, particularly residents with Alzheimer's or dementia. You can witness the change in their expressions and the happiness it brings."

This summer our partnership celebrated a milestone as a group of veterans from the St. Albans Veterans Home made a heartwarming field trip to our Adoption Center for the first time. It was a special occasion for these heroes, as they were able to tour Bianca's Furry Friends Feline Adoption Center and interact with cats and kittens, in addition to getting precious snuggle time with our pups.

Across generations and wars, the shared love for our four-legged friends unites us all. This Veterans Day, North Shore Animal League America proudly honors our heroes and reaffirms our dedication to providing the healing and happiness that comes from animals.



# Homecoming for Commercial Breeder Rescues

David Haliski, an Animal League America employee, didn't know how joining the rescue team on our Mobile Unit to save dogs and puppies from commercial breeding facilities in the Midwest would change his life. In partnership with National Mill Dog Rescue, this mission was one of many lifesaving trips our team made to Missouri over the past year to retrieve commercial breeder survivors.

On this particular transport, the dogs included Yorkshire Terriers, Dachshunds, Shih Tzus, as well as a one-year-old Labrador Retriever named Knox. Dogs in commercial breeding facilities are often confined to small cages, denied proper medical care, and forced to produce litter after litter. It's a cruel existence. Too fearful to walk on his own, Knox had to be carried onto the Mobile Unit.

David kept careful watch over Knox. "His face was tucked into the corner of his crate," David recalled. By the time they arrived, the dogs and puppies were visibly less anxious, even if some weren't ready to make eye contact. Each dog gets a thorough examination by our veterinary team and a behavior assessment. The rescues are also groomed and receive any medical procedures they need, including spay/neuter. And we don't stop nurturing each one until they find a loving family.

For Knox, there was no waiting. On the journey back, David knew Knox would be a wonderful addition to his home. David now sees how grateful Knox is for basic things like regular feedings, and it serves as a reminder of how vital our efforts are, and the power of compassion to make a difference.



## Hawaii Felines Find Refuge

North Shore Animal League America collaborated with rescue partner Lucky Paws Animal Foundation to save cats and kittens impacted by the devastating fires in Maui. Last September, 17 felines arrived at John F. Kennedy International Airport after a long journey from Hawaii, and on their way to the safety of our Port Washington campus.

Due to the catastrophic fires, the situation facing shelters in Hawaii was critical. Animal League America took swift action to help create a safe haven for the animals affected. The 17 cats transported to our no-kill campus – mostly aged between 5 to 6 months – had been awaiting adoption at our shelter partner, Lucky Paws Animal Foundation, on Oahu before the fires ravaged Maui. By helping to clear shelter space, we created more opportunities for them to house and care for pets that were displaced due to this natural disaster.

According to Karla Scaramuzzo, Animal League America Senior Rescue Manager, "Lucky Paws was desperate to make room so they could take in more animals. The shelters in Maui were in dire need of help, and it was great we could assist all the way from New York!" Our partnership with Lucky Paws Animal Foundation began in 2022, and this rescue mission marked our third collaboration.

The journey of these 17 precious felines to Animal League America from Oahu exemplifies the teamwork required to make these rescue efforts possible. Now these young cats and kittens are getting the support they need to thrive and the love they deserve.





# THE BAYLES HOUSE: A Sanctuary of Healing

Nestled within the North Shore Animal League America campus, the Bayles House is more than just a physical space; it's a place of healing and rejuvenation. Thanks to the generosity of The Rachael Ray Foundation, renovations were completed to create a domestic-type setting where dogs can decompress. Some dogs struggle with the sights and sounds in a kennel environment, and can start to deteriorate behaviorally. Other dogs may need quiet to recover after a surgical procedure or following their rescue from traumatic circumstances. For any animal who needs it, the Bayles House provides respite.

Rooms upstairs and downstairs in the Bayles House have a limited number of crates in a more homestyle setting. There is also a kitchen where the dogs can also get used to domestic etiquettes. Having a kitchen means that the dogs can learn to acclimate to the preparation of food – the sounds and smells – and learn proper behavior around it. The Bayles House acts as a bridge space where dogs get to experience being in an actual home environment.

Patience is key within the Bayles House walls. We recognize the potential within every shelter pet that is just awaiting discovery and nurturing. It's an evolution made possible by Animal League America and the Bayles House, where remarkable animals are given the support they need on their journey toward brighter tomorrows.



## Feline Behavior & Long-Term Care Home Is a Safe Haven

The Feline Care Home at North Shore Animal League America is a place for cats who have more specialized needs. Whether their stay is temporary, or if they become long-term – even life-long – residents, these cats receive support in overcoming fears and anxieties, so they can become the best version of themselves.

While the open and windowed atmosphere at Bianca's Furry Friends Feline Adoption Center is suited for most of the cats who come through our doors, some of our residents need more privacy, and do better in a "home-like" environment with less people traffic. In the Feline Care Home, anxious cats also benefit from the comfort of a more predictable schedule.

Our team of pet behavior experts bring their years of experience and limitless patience to the residents, and an advanced level of care including socialization and enrichment training. Some of our residents were rescued from hoarding situations. Others were surrendered to local shelters, homeless after their owners passed away, or rescued from the streets. We care for their emotional and medical needs. No matter what their condition, we do what we can to help them get adopted into loving families or live out their days by our side.

# Life Lessons Courtesy of Mutt-i-grees® School Dog Nina



Nina was only three months old when she was found in the backwoods of Virginia, scared and alone. After saving her, our Virginia shelter partner contacted us and in no time at all, Nina arrived on our Long Island campus as part of our national humane relocation program.

Right from the start, we saw that she had tremendous “academic potential,” so it was inevitable that she would become a North Shore Animal League America Mutt-i-grees School Dog. Today, Nina is a beloved member of Abraham Lincoln High School in Brooklyn, NY.

“Nina is the sweetest and most gentle dog,” said Lincoln Assistant Principal David Robinson. “She adds so much to Lincoln by just being herself. She builds a sense of belonging, helps students in crisis, and teaches us loving kindness. She also raises awareness of shelter pets and connects students with a worthy cause — helping them develop a sense of responsibility — to care about something beyond themselves and to advocate for animals.”



“  
*Nina is the  
sweetest and most  
gentle dog, said Lincoln  
Assistant Principal  
David Robinson.*  
”



# Life Lessons Courtesy of Mutt-i-grees® School Dog Nina (cont'd)



Nina is one of more than 140 Mutt-i-grees School Dogs worldwide — teaching students from pre-k through high school — and they're all part of the Mutt-i-grees curriculum. Cats are a part of the Mutt-i-grees movement, too. This year, we introduced "the Mutt-i-grees School Cat foster program," which matches a cat with a high school to provide the kitty with socialization and veterinary care until adoption. It's been met with great success in Puerto Rico and at our North Country Initiative Adirondack Adoption Center.

A School Dog, on the other hand, is adopted by a faculty member or administrator, attends school daily, and becomes part of the school community. School Dogs are the furry embodiment of the curriculum and its lessons in kindness and compassion. Lincoln also participates in our global Mutt-i-grees Student Ambassadors program, which boasts 250 ambassadors worldwide. Ambassadors take leadership roles in their schools and communities, working with other students and adults on projects that create awareness and generate adoptions.

Lincoln's motto — "many nations, one pulse" — reflects its commitment to diversity and its welcoming heart. And at the center of that heart is a charming, snaggle-toothed Mutt-i-gree named Nina, a very good and very loved dog.







## FOSTERING HOPE AND SAVING LIVES

Animal League America National Spokesperson, Foster Parent and Board Member, Beth Stern has a commitment to saving animal lives that is nothing short of inspirational. Through her words and actions, Beth reminds us all of the profound difference we can make for dogs, cats, puppies and kittens in need. She shares heartwarming stories, adorable photos and informative posts daily with her vast social media following about the importance of pet adoption, spaying and neutering, and responsible pet ownership; and as Chairperson of the 2023 Celebration of Rescue, Beth helped make our event a resounding success.

We invite you to visit our website each month to read Beth's Blog and follow her touching foster cat and kitten adoption stories at [animalleague.org/bethsblog](https://animalleague.org/bethsblog).



## NATIONAL EVENTS: Global Pet Adoptathon® Finds Homes for Thousands

During Global Pet Adoptathon month, held annually in May, we team up with our more than 2,000 shelter and rescue partners around the world to find loving, responsible homes for thousands of dogs, cats, puppies and kittens. Our opening weekend in Port Washington, NY included food and games – and even a special visit by Mr. and Mrs. Met! More than 300 incredible animals found their new families through North Shore Animal League America over the first week of Adoptathon.

We couldn't get enough of the wagging tails, sweet purrs and big smiles!





# NATIONAL EVENTS: DOGust 1st® Party on the Beach Was Pawsitively Perfect!

It was an unforgettable day at our DOGust 1st® Birthday Party on the Beach, held at the stunning Crescent Beach Club in Bayville, NY. On Tuesday, August 1st, the sun was shining, and the beach was full of puppy love and happy tails. We celebrated DOGust 1st, the universal birthday for all rescue dogs, in true style – with a paw-some beach party that had something for everyone!

During the event, we had the honor of presenting North Shore Animal League America's Crystal Collar Award® to Mark and John Cronin, co-founders of John's Crazy Socks. Combining a social and retail mission, John's Crazy Socks gives back not only to Animal League America but to a variety of charity partners with the message of "spreading happiness." They are showing the world what people with differing abilities can do. We are grateful to have a partner so aligned with our vision and values around creating a more compassionate world.



# NATIONAL EVENTS: Tour for Life® Marks 23 Years and Counting!

More than 28,000 dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens across the country have been adopted into homes as a result of North Shore Animal League America's annual Tour for Life which launched its 23rd national run in February 2023. Tour for Life is the world's largest cooperative pet adoption event.

Nationally, Tour for Life featured weeklong events throughout March and April in collaboration with our shelter and rescue partners in 66 cities and towns, across 39 states. The focus is always finding loving, responsible homes for the pets in their care. Animal League America mobile units and staff joined our rescue community friends along the route.

Locally, North Shore Animal League America kicked off the event in partnership with Rachael Ray Nutrish® with a weeklong celebration featuring giveaways for all approved adopters.



# Helping a Senior Feline Duo Find Their Next Chapter

The cats who arrive at North Shore Animal League America come from a variety of past circumstances but have one thing in common. They're all welcomed into a warm, nurturing environment where they can settle in and hopefully make a smooth transition into a loving, new family. For some animals, it takes more time to reset from what they left behind.

Senior cats Catherine and Rum Tum were part of a clowder of seven felines who lost their home when their owner passed away. Fortunately, estate provisions had been made for the precious pets and they all came to the sun-filled, cage-free atmosphere of Bianca's Furry Friends Feline Adoption Center. Rum Tum wasn't a very curious cat and content just to cuddle into a favorite sibling. BFF Volunteer Kate Haslbauer remembered, "Originally Rum was paired with his outgoing sister Dorothy Two Dots, and Catherine was a sullen single. Over time, Rum found comfort laying on top of Catherine, and she didn't seem to mind, while Dorothy found more pleasure in her freedom."

Our staff and volunteers are highly attuned to the animals in their care and make adjustments for them as needed. They decided to partner Rum Tum with Catherine. It's not easy for seniors to assimilate to shelter life, but the duo began to trust certain caregivers, who then showed the rest of the team how to initiate more positive interactions.

After 722 days, our efforts were rewarded. They had been waiting for someone who would be able to understand Catherine and Rum Tum's needs and limitations, when a previous BFF adopter came along looking for a pair of seniors. Catherine and Rum Tum now have the most wonderful mom who understands their needs. We are rejoicing for this new family, proving once again that there is no expiration date on the lengths we will go for our animals.



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*"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."*

*- John Stevenson*

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