

# 2021

## IMPACT REPORT



TONY

LOVEY





## Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

There is nothing more gratifying than seeing an animal in need come through our doors, get the help and care it needs, and go off to a loving new home.

These small miracles happen all the time at the Southampton Animal Shelter Foundation thanks to your support. We are so grateful to all of our donors and volunteers who help us ensure that no animal is left behind. *Thank you!*

I joined SASF in December and am excited to build on its past success. While I am a native New Yorker, I came from a rescue organization in Jupiter, Florida, which I led for many years. I will use my experience there to grow SASF's capacity to rescue animals in need in the Southampton area and beyond.

We will do everything we can to help animals in desperate situations both near and far. We consistently check in with local shelters in Islip, Hempstead, Brookhaven, ACC, and others. We take what we can to help them re-home the rescues. I am proud that just recently we were able to quickly step in and help dogs in a Mexican sanctuary whose lives were threatened by a drug cartel, which you can learn more about below. We acted fast, partnered with the right rescue organizations, and transported twenty animals to safety!

As you can tell from this one example, every day brings new demand for our services and constant challenges. We could not do this vitally important work without your generous support. I hope the stories in this Impact Report, as well as our excellent results, inspire you to give as generously as you can to SASF.

Sincerely,

Pat Deshong

## LI groups help save 'cartel dogs' from Mexico

BY ANTHONY M. DESTEFANO  
tony.destefano@newsday.com

Three Long Island animal shelters are part of an ad hoc group of East Coast rescue organizations that have saved the lives of 20 dogs allegedly marked for death by Mexican drug gangs in an extortion scheme, East End officials involved in the effort told Newsday.

Eight of the so-called "cartel dogs" are in the care of animal shelters in Calverton, Hampton Bays and Westhampton — Long Island's contribution to a rescue effort that began in mid-March, according to former Assistant U.S. Attorney Bonnie S. Klapper, of Sag Harbor, who is active in animal welfare activities.

The dogs come from a small animal rescue facility in the Mexican state of Yucatan, whose owner had become the object of an extortion threat, Klapper said in an interview



Patricia Deshong with Tito, left, and Layla, two of the rescued dogs.

with Newsday.

Narcotics gangs operating in the area of Tulum and Cancun — resort towns on the Yucatan peninsula — had threatened to kill the dogs if they didn't receive the shakedown payments,

said Klapper, who as an Eastern District of New York prosecutor handled a number of cartel-related drug cases.

Known as "Rivera Maya," the strip of sandy beaches on Yucatan's Caribbean coastline has

become a major vacation spot, but since this past winter, also the site of a number of drug killings — including of two tourists — and extortion attempts by the cartel gangs, according to news reports.

After speaking with the founder of the animal rescue facility in Mexico, Klapper said, she called Patricia Deshong, the executive director of the Southampton Animal Shelter Foundation in Hampton Bays for help. Deshong said she then pulled the rescue operation together in three days.

"After I got the call from Bonnie, there was no way I was going to say 'no,' seeing how dire the situation was," said Deshong in an interview with Newsday. "I had to find a way to help and knew how to get to the right people to make this happen."

Officials with a nonprofit in the United States that they did want identified out of safety concerns, helped with organizing a

flight for the dogs out of Mexico, securing needed import permits and licenses, as well as locating facilities for the animals in the U.S., according to members of the group and Deshong.

The dogs first arrived in Fort Meyers, Florida, before being taken to a kennel in Tennessee run by the Animal Rescue Corp., where the animals were given veterinary care and allowed to rest from the ordeal, said Michael Cunningham, a spokesman for the Lebanon, Tennessee-based nonprofit.

In a statement, Tim Wood, executive director of Animal Rescue Corp. said: "The lives of these wonderful animals depended on this relocation, we're glad to be that safe space for them to land and then begin the next chapter of their lives."

Trainers have been observing and assessing the animals, who are all 4 years old or younger, to see how well they will adapt to lives with families.



# OUR MISSION

Southampton Animal Shelter Foundation (SASF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the welfare of all homeless pets in our community and committed to placing them in permanent, caring homes. Our goal is to promote and nourish the bond between people and animals through adoption, education, and community outreach.

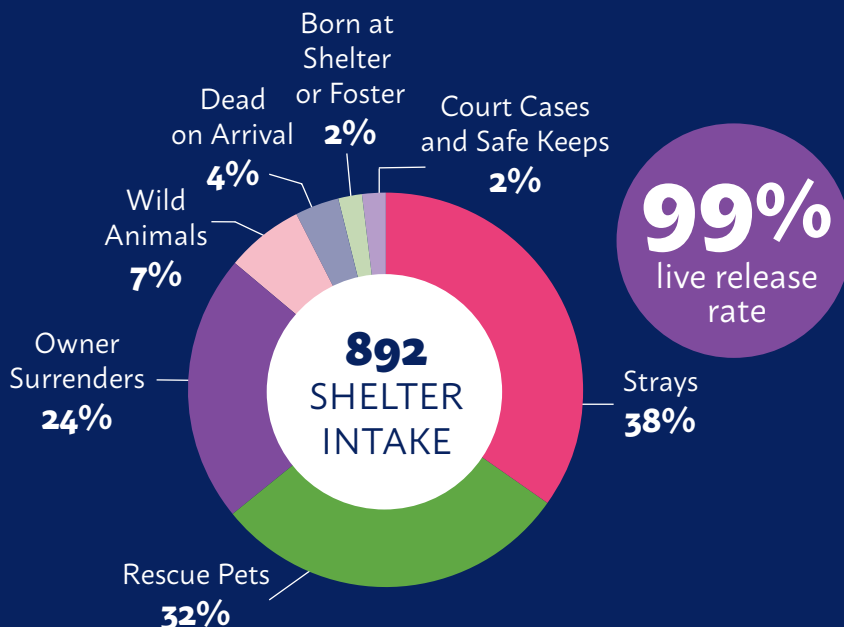
As an open-admission, no kill shelter, SASF welcomes stray pets regardless of age, breed, or health and provides them with compassionate care, food, medical attention, and training. Our goal is for all of our pets to be adopted. No animal is left behind!

## SAVING LIVES EVERY DAY

### Helping those in need

#### OPEN ADMISSIONS

Our doors are always open to any animal in need. We do not discriminate. We function as an animal shelter, taking in strays and owner surrenders regardless of age, breed, and medical concerns.



#### HOMEWARD BOUND

Our adoption center helped



**830** shelter pets **find** their **forever homes**

and **reunited**

**211** strays **with** their **families**



# ADOPTIONS

**Our adoption specialists and trainers work hand in hand to set each animal up for success. Through our “match-making” process we are proud of our success rate in finding our rescues their forever homes.**

## 2021 STATISTICS

Our adoption center helped

**830**

shelter pets **find**  
their **forever homes**

**98%**  
adoption rate



## FOREVER FRIENDS



**GODIVA:** German Shepherd mix pup (1 year old); came to shelter at 10 weeks old; has megaesophagus (inability to swallow food due to lack of muscle in esophagus) – has to eat sitting on a high chair! Fed in an upright position to aid with swallowing. Adopted May 2021 and has been happy and healthy at home ever since!





# MEDICAL CARE

## Providing the best care for our pets

Every pet who enters our doors, whether a stray, rescue, or owner surrender, is seen by our veterinarian and receives comprehensive care and love from our medical team. Each pet undergoes a thorough evaluation to determine if there are any medical issues that require observation or treatment. Before becoming available for adoption, all our pets are spayed or neutered, microchipped, and brought up-to-date on vaccinations.

Because of the training and expertise of our medical staff, we are able to welcome many special needs pets to our shelter and provide all of the medical care necessary.



DR. MICHELLE KECK



### ROSA

4 months old Pug/Chihuahua mix; currently in foster.

Our sweet girl Rosa came to us with her 5 littermates from Texas at just 8 weeks old. She suffered from severe double hip dysplasia. This very painful condition causes limping and favoring of limbs, difficulty running, rising or jumping. In addition, one of her knees had severe Medial Patellar Luxation (kneecap dislocation). She required several extensive surgeries on her knee and hips, and we were luckily able to raise enough money to fund them. Rosa is currently recovering in a foster home and will soon be ready for her new family!



### TIBERIUS

1 year old domestic cat; currently in foster.

Tiberius was brought to us in really bad shape. He was hit by a car and his jaw was fractured. Our incredible medical team jumped in to save him. His mouth had to be wired shut and he was placed on a feeding tube. He is getting lots of love at his foster home he shares with Rosa! We are thrilled to be able to give him and Rosa the medical care and love they deserve. They are both happily thriving and doing well.

## From Our Team to Your Home

Our pets are equipped for a lifetime of love and companionship

Rabies vaccine  
**\$30**

Intake exam, vaccines and deworming  
**\$100-\$140**

Follow-up vaccines and deworming  
**\$60-\$100**

Spay/neuter  
**\$50-\$160**

Behavioral assessment  
**\$50**

Medical testing  
**\$50-\$250**

Microchip  
**\$35**



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Adopting a shelter pet  
**PRICELESS**

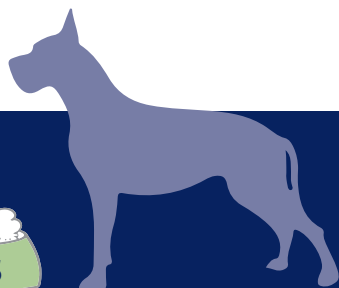
# ANIMAL CARE

**We provide a nurturing environment to make our pets' lives better while they wait for their forever homes**

## FEEDING



- Average dog population: **50**
- Cost to feed a dog per month: **\$65**



- Average cat population: **120**
- Cost to feed a cat per month: **\$60**

## HOUSING

- Dogs receive kuranda beds and comfortable bedding
- Dog enrichment keeps our dogs mentally and physically healthy
- Dog enrichment includes stimulating activities such as mind games, puzzles, and toys
- Comforts of home are created in our shelter environment, and many offices house cats and dogs to help with their socialization!
- Cats roam freely in our spacious "catios" while kittens congregate in our lobby or kitten rooms
- Cat enrichment includes socializing, interactive toys, and use of vertical space for exploration

### Spotlight on one of our most dedicated!

We are so grateful and humbled by Jeffrey Peterson's commitment to SASF. He has been a Kennel Attendant with us for 12 years. Always a smile on his face, willing to pitch in, and go above and beyond. When there's a snow storm in the forecast, you know you'll find Jeffrey sleeping overnight here to make sure the animals are taken care of. He is so well respected and appreciated by his peers, and has never called out sick! We truly appreciate you Jeffrey! The SASF team and animals give you a huge round of a-paws!





# TRAINING, BEHAVIOR & ENRICHMENT



## Changing the lives of shelter dogs

Every dog that arrives at SASF undergoes a thorough behavioral evaluation conducted by our training team which are on campus seven days a week. Dogs are assessed for sociability with people, cats and other dogs, trainability, body handling and resource guarding. Once a dog is evaluated, each dog's training begins.

Our program is more extensive than what is provided by most animal shelters. We believe this level of training and support provides them with a better foundation for success outside the shelter and broadens their adoptability for placement in a home.

***Voted by our Community Dan's Best of the Best Animal Shelter AND Dog Trainer!***

## OUR SHELTER DOGS

- **For a shelter environment, our dogs spend a significant amount of time outside of their kennels. They can be found in playgroups, on walks, yard rotations, training, or socializing in our offices or front lobby on a daily basis.**
- **Each dog receives an Individual Training Program (ITP) based on an evaluation of 13 major behavioral traits. Training starts with basic commands and manners, as well as proper leash-walking.**
- **Long-term resident dogs receive the opportunity to train for their Canine Good Citizen Certification.**



TOBY

KAHLUA

## OUR PUBLIC TRAINING PROGRAMS

Providing community workshops, group classes, individual training and behavior modification to dogs and their owners. Classes vary from playgroups for socialization, to basic obedience and agility, to classes for Canine Good Citizen.

## TRAINING PARTNERSHIPS

We are proud to continue our partnership with nationally recognized Dogs Playing For Life founded by Aimee Sadler right here at SASF over 12 years ago! DPFL and SASF share the mission to enrich the physical and mental health of dogs through play! Learn more at [dogsplayingforlife.com](https://www.dogsplayingforlife.com)



CARTEL DOGS

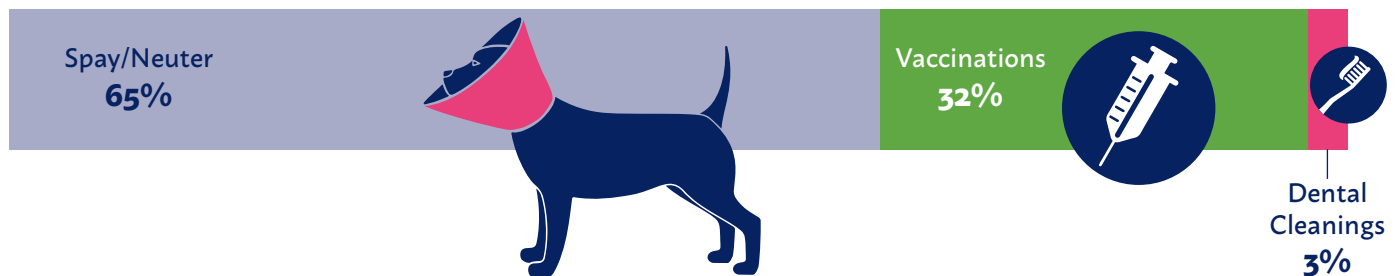
# OUTREACH

## Programs and services for our community

### PUBLIC VETERINARY WELLNESS CLINIC

We know your pets are your family. We also know that caring for them can get expensive. Our goal is to provide your pet with excellent veterinary wellness care at a reasonable cost. During the Covid-19 pandemic, SASF was the only shelter in the area to keep our doors open and offer spay and neuter to the public.

#### Wellness Clinic Visits 2021



This year our affordable wellness & mobile clinics treated over **6,000** pets

### MOBILE CLINIC

Our low-cost mobile veterinary spay/neuter clinic is a state-of-the-art surgical suite on wheels. We travel to underserved areas to provide affordable surgeries, vaccinations, microchipping, and nail trims.

- Our mobile clinic performed **2,366** spays/neuters in 2021





## ADVO-CATS

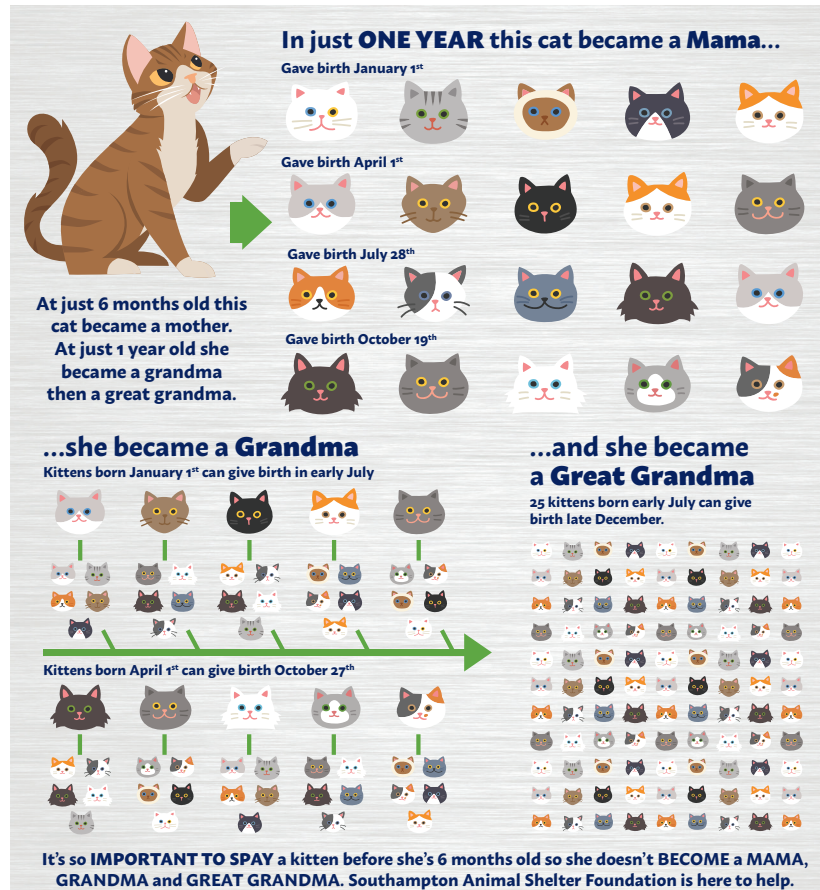
The leading resource for helping our community's feral cat population



### Advocates for Feral Cats

- Our Trap Neuter & Release (TNR) program is the most humane and effective way to help stop the overpopulation of feral cats in our community.
- This is a free program offered to residents in the Township of Southampton and is run solely off of donations.
- Our TNR program operates with the help of volunteers to trap feral cats so they can be altered and then released.

Our TNR Program assisted in trapping, altering, and releasing over  
**1,000**  
community cats



## PET PANTRY

### Providing support for families in need

Through our community outreach program, we are able to offer food and supplies to pets whose owners are struggling. Pets who are living in low-income situations or with home-bound individuals can utilize our pet pantry. This program helps people in the community keep pets that they truly love and care about even during times of financial need.

- **450** pets received assistance from our Food Pantry program throughout the year
- Over **300** community cats receive assistance from our Food Pantry through the year
- This program assists families from the 7 villages and 18 hamlets in the Township of Southampton

## JOIN OUR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

“There is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer.”

In **2021 ...**



**207**

volunteers

+



**3,118**

hours

=



**1.5**

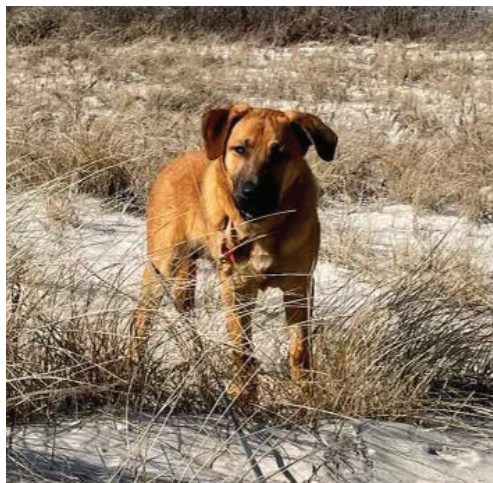
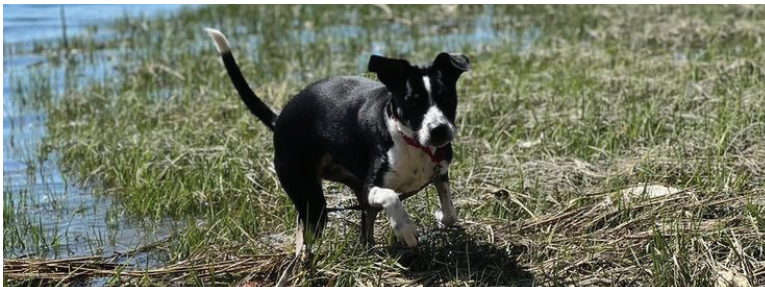
full-time staff

Our volunteers help us run adoption events, socialize cats, walk dogs, and provide pet enrichment, transports, shelter housekeeping and maintenance, administrative work, community outreach, fostering and so much more!

## JOIN OUR FOSTER PROGRAM

**More than 716** pets went into foster homes!

Fostering provides animals with time away from the shelter, helps us reassess any behavioral and training needs before adoption, and provides insight for adopters to assist in a smooth transition.





# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

**You have continued to be there for our animals, even during the challenges of the pandemic these past two years. Without your support, none of the many accomplishments we have highlighted in this report would have been possible. We are so grateful for every donation we receive! Here are a few highlights of the enormous generosity to SASF over the past year.**

## 2021 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL UNCONDITIONAL LOVE GALA

This event is SASF's most important fundraiser of the year and raised more than \$470,000. It was Chaired by Jean Shafiroff, with Georgina Bloomberg serving as Honorary Chair.

## BETTY WHITE CHALLENGE

To honor Betty White's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, rescue organizations across the country raised funds for her greatest passion — animals. Betty White fans in our community donated \$11,455.88 to SASF.



## HELP FOR ROSA

When we rescued this special Pug/Chihuahua puppy and her littermates, we discovered she was born with severe orthopedic abnormalities. We had a goal of \$10,000 to cover her surgeries and you made it happen! She is happy and recovering nicely in a foster home.

When an animal needs specialized, complex care, such as surgery, we often reach out to our supporters to help fund the exceptional costs involved. We are so grateful to those of you who jump in to help save these animals so they can go to forever homes.

## PLEASE SUPPORT US

*There are many ways to help SASF's animals in need. It's easy and can often provide tax benefits as well. We hope you will give today!*

**ONLINE:** [www.sasf.org](http://www.sasf.org)

**CALL US:** 631-728-7387 ext. 234

**SEND A CHECK:** 102 Old Riverhead Road West, Hampton Bays, NY 11946

Include us in your financial planning with gifts of stock, retirement funds, or in your wills or other estate plans.

Join us at one of our fun events!

*Thank you for helping us, help them.* 🐾



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VOLUNTEER  
FOSTER  
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*Let's be friends! Follow us on:*



631-728-PETS (7387) • [www.sasf.org](http://www.sasf.org) • Open Daily: 10 am – 5 pm

13<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
*Unconditional*  
**LOVE** Gala

**SATURDAY, JULY 16, 2022**

GIN LANE, SOUTHAMPTON, NY

HONORING

**William Bratton & Jonathan McCann**

*Former New York City Police Commissioner*

*Founding President of SASF*

Join us for the event of the season.  
Make your reservations now at [sasf.org](http://sasf.org) or email [ul@sasf.org](mailto:ul@sasf.org)