

Over 300 Dogs Vaccinated at Brookhaven's Free Rabies Vaccination Clinic

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Supervisor Mark Lesko (second from right) and Animal Shelter Director Dori Scofield (center) with the Martinalbert family and Lola (left) and the Caldron family and Zach (right).

Farmingville, NY - On June 4, the Brookhaven Animal Shelter and Adoption Center, with the support of the Suffolk County Health Department, held its annual Free Rabies Vaccination Clinic at Brookhaven Town Hall. Residents were offered free rabies vaccinations, low-cost booster shots and micro-chipping of pets. Over 300 dogs were vaccinated and more than 50 animals were micro-chipped.

"It is so important to protect our pets and our families from rabies," said Supervisor Lesko. "The free rabies clinic is just another example of how Animal Shelter Director Dori Scofield and her staff are working to help residents improve the health and safety of their pets."

Councilwoman Jane Bonner said, "To ensure the health and well-being of every dog, they must be vaccinated for rabies and other diseases. Events like our Rabies Clinic bring much needed attention to this issue and it's great to see that so many of our residents took advantage of the free shots as well as the micro-chipping."

Dori Scofield, director of the Shelter and Adoption Center said, "This is one of many programs available through the Town to help keep the animals of Brookhaven healthy and safe. We are moving forward with the Spay it Forward Program as well, which offers free spay/neuter/vaccines/micro-chipping for Town of Brookhaven residents."

The Brookhaven Animal Shelter has been very progressive in launching programs that will increase adoption rates and pet retention and find homes for the many Pit Bulls and Pit Mixes in the Animal Shelter. The Brookhaven Bully Alliance (BBA), which was announced earlier this year, encourages other animal rescues to adopt Pit Bulls from the Brookhaven animal shelter and find loving homes for them. Every shelter dog that enters the BBA program is professionally evaluated, spayed or neutered, vaccinated and micro-chipped. \$250 goes to each participating organization for the care of the animal.

The Town of Brookhaven Animal Shelter has also recently introduced "Spay it Forward", a program that offers

incentives to get animals spayed and neutered. This new program is presently concentrating on the ever-growing Pit Bull population in Brookhaven Town. For every Pit Bull that a resident gets spayed or neutered, the owner will receive a voucher to help another needy Pit Bull to receive the same services. The goal of this program is to help curb over-population and increase education and awareness about adopting Pit Bulls. The Animal Shelter is also providing free micro-chipping, vaccines, heartworm testing, and collars for anyone who gets their Pit Bull spayed or neutered.

Pit Bulls and Pit Mixes make up 95% of the approximately 200 dogs at the Brookhaven Animal Shelter.

The Town does not use taxpayer dollars to fund Spay it Forward or the Brookhaven Bully Alliance- the funds to pay participating organizations are provided by the Help the Animals Fund. The micro-chipping at the Rabies Clinic was also paid for by the Help the Animals Fund, a 501(c)(3) charitable, not-for-profit organization. The Help the Animals Fund is currently accepting donations and will be sponsoring various fundraising events to support this program and others. Residents who would like to sponsor one of the shelter's Pit Bulls can donate by visiting www.brookhaven.org/animalshelter and clicking the Help the Animals Fund link.

The Animal Shelter is located at 300 Horseblock Road in Brookhaven, NY and is open from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. For more information on the Brookhaven Animal Shelter, visit www.brookhaven.org/animalshelter.

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