

Hundreds Turn Out for First Annual Pit-A-Palooza Event at the Town of Brookhaven's Animal Shelter & Adoption Center

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Eight Pits Bulls/ Pit Mixes Adopted During Event



PHOTO #1: Brookhaven Animal Shelter and Adoption Center Director Dori Scofield (center) with members of the Guardians of Rescue and "Joey", one of the dogs that was adopted at "Pit-A-Palooza."



PHOTO #2: Pictured are some of the over 200 animal lovers from all over Brookhaven Town who participated in the First Annual "Pit-A-Palooza" event at the Town's Animal Shelter and Adoption Center.

Farmingville, NY - On Sunday, April 10, the Town of Brookhaven held its first annual "Pit-A-Palooza" at the Brookhaven Animal Shelter & Adoption Center. The event, which was attended by over 200 enthusiastic animal lovers, was designed to promote "Spay it Forward", a new program that offers Brookhaven residents free spaying/neutering for their Pit Bulls and Pit Mixes. During the event, eight Pit Bulls/ Pit Mixes were adopted - Farrah, Bonita, Pia, Pollyanna, Skittles, Checkers, Diesel, and Plato. Diesel had been at the Animal Shelter since 2008 and several had pre-dated Animal Shelter Director Dori Scofield's time at the shelter. Dori started in July 2010.

In addition, the Animal Shelter spayed or neutered 15 dogs, made future spay or neuter appointments for many more dogs, and provided free micro-chipping for over 50 dogs. Each family that adopted a dog received free spay/neuter, collar, ID tag and advise from professionals trainers who volunteered there services for the day. DJs from WBLI radio, along with members of the Guardians of Rescue and the Urban Animal Alliance also attended the event. Guardians of Rescue and the Urban Animal Alliance are members of the Animal Shelter's Brookhaven Bully Alliance, which encourages the adoption of Pit Bulls and Pit Mixes through the assistance of qualified rescue organizations.

"I commend Animal Shelter Director Dori Scofield for putting together such a great event that found loving homes for a number of our Pit Bulls who have been at the Shelter for a long time. However, we still have a long way to go. Approximately 95% of the 200 animals at the Animal Shelter are Pit Bulls or Pit Mixes. Unfortunately, there is a stigma attached to these animals, but when placed in the right home, they make amazing pets. The Town will continue to support Dori's efforts to bring attention to the wonderful Pit Bulls and Pit Mixes ready to be adopted at our Animal Shelter and encouraging spaying and neutering pets," said Supervisor Mark Lesko.

Councilwoman Jane Bonner, liaison to the Animal Shelter, said, "I'm thrilled that Pit-A-Palooza was such a successful event and that so many dogs were able to find new homes. Dori and the shelter staff work very hard to dispel the negative perception about Pit Bulls and Pit mixes, and I commend their dedication to this effort."

Dori Scofield, the Director of the Brookhaven Animal Shelter & Adoption Center said, "This day was about helping people and animals. Not only did we get adoptions, but we helped Brookhaven residents get their Pit Bulls

spayed/neutered, micro chipped, collared and tagged. It is our goal to help people keep their companion animals healthy and safe."

If you are a resident of the Town of Brookhaven and would like to take advantage of the "Spay it Forward" program, you must make an appointment by calling 631-286-4953. No appointment is needed for the free micro-chipping service.

The majority of the animals at the Brookhaven Animal Shelter are Pit Bulls or Pit mixes. 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 does not use taxpayer dollars to fund this program - the funds to pay participating organizations are provided by the Help the Animals Fund, a 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. If a rescue organization is interested in participating in the Brookhaven Bully Alliance, they can go to www.brookhaven.org.

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