



# Paw Prints

September 2018

## Special Features:

- Bella gets life-saving surgery — see inside for details.
- Don't miss our next Raffle Extravaganza on Sunday Oct 14th. See inside for details.
- Opt to Adopt! Check out our featured Adoptable Dogs of the Month from the Babylon Animal Shelter.
- Don't miss our latest heartwarming Happy Tails story of Adam West.
- It's kitten season! See some of our adoptable cats and kitties inside.



Babylon Animal Shelter's new facility opening this fall.

## About Shelter Link

Welcome to Shelter Link's first newsletter.

Shelter Link is a non-profit, all volunteer based, 501c3 organization that works predominantly with the Town of Babylon Animal Shelter and surrounding communities. Shelter Link believes that every animal deserves a home, to be comfortable and fed well, to be fixed and healthy, and most of all to be loved. Many Shelter Link members are volunteers at the Babylon Animal Shelter where we walk the dogs daily, providing exercise and socialization, teaching them basic manners, and giving them lots of love and helping them become wonderful adoptable animals. We also run the cat adoption center at Petsmart in West Babylon. All of our cats up for adoption come from local neighborhoods and through our trap neuter return (TNR) efforts or abandoned animals. Members of Shelter Link also help care for local cat colonies by feeding them daily, providing clean water, shelter, and general care as well as making sure all cats are TNR'd.

The picture above is Babylon Shelter's new facility which we are hoping will be ready for its grand opening this fall. Stay tuned for our next newsletter for a full update on the new shelter.

## Quote of the Month:

“**T**he greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated. ~Gandhi

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## Shelter Link in the Community

When a driver on Southern State parkway spotted a cat on the side of the road she called a friend to help her locate where the cat came from. That friend happened to be a board member of Shelter Link. Several volunteers were also called in and after some searching they found a house on a dead end street that was overrun with cats and kittens. It was mid-winter and the cats all looked malnourished and their coats were very thin and straggly. It was obvious that the cats were all suffering. These cats needed immediate attention! After talking to the homeowner it was clear they were not doing enough to care for them. The cats had no shelter and the temps were freezing outside. The cats all huddled together for warmth. Food was only being put out every few days and only in very limited quantities, and the cats were not fixed. A Shelter Link volunteer began feeding the cats daily to put some weight on them and treating them for fleas as well as providing shelters. She took home the young kittens that were unable to nurse from the mother because she was too

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## Dogs For Adoption

Sweet Suede is waiting at the Babylon Animal Shelter to rescue you. This sweet boy is handsome, smart, friendly, and will bring you the newspaper and coffee in the morning... after you teach him. He loves people, and he's ready to become someone's new best furever pal.



Suede has been waiting at the shelter for almost 3 years, which is nearly his entire life. He is very well behaved, knows all his basic commands, will play fetch and tug with

**How can you resist this loveable face?**

you, and will gladly give you his paw for a treat or a belly rub. So if you're looking for a fun, playful, friendly, loveable, handsome guy to rescue you from the doldrums of everyday life, come to Babylon Shelter to meet sweet Suede. You won't be able to resist bringing him home for the holidays.

Please also consider fostering Suede until he finds his forever family — all expenses paid!

This handsome hunk is Hercules. If you're looking for a big loveable goofball to take running with you, Hercules is your guy. But if you're not into running, then any exercise will do... fetch, tug, or just going for a long walk.

Hercules is a young lab/husky mix around 2 years old. He loves people and kids, and loves to play. He knows his basic commands and has a very calm and gentle temperament.



Hercules has been the star at many of our adoption events outside of the shelter. He loves to rollover for belly rubs when he meets new people, and everyone falls in love with how sweet and playful he is.

Come to Babylon Shelter this holiday season and meet this sweet handsome boy. Maybe he'll be your new best furever friend.

This sweet pretty girl is Lindsay. She is about 5 years old and has been waiting at the Babylon Shelter for over 2 years for someone to bring her home.

She was found as a stray and taken to the shelter in May of 2016. Her family called the shelter looking for her, but never came to pick her up. So this poor sweet girl is still waiting for her furever home.

Lindsay enjoys splashing in the pool on hot days, going on leisurely walks with her



volunteer friends and especially loves cuddling with them. She would make a perfect tv buddy cuddling on the couch with you. She's great with people and kids and most dogs. She knows her basic commands, and is even great at catching treats in the air.

Please open your heart this holiday season and give Lindsay her new furever home.

## Cats For Adoption

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Simba #7-215. Arrived to Babylon Animal Shelter on 5/23/2017 at 2 years old.

Simba was actually adopted from the shelter as a kitten but his owner ran into health problems and they took him back. Simba loves to be petted and is very adventurous. He does well when loose with other cats during free time. Simba has been diagnosed with heart disease and is doing great on daily medication. Simba loves to take his meds each morning in a pill pocket treat. Please consider giving this sweet boy his new forever home. Simba is neutered, up to date on shots FIV/ FELV neg and microchipped.



**Simba**

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**Dominique**

Meet Our long haired beauty Dominique. She is a playful, sweet and loving 5 1/2 month old kitten. She and her sister Pepita are 2 of a litter of 4 kittens that were born in a foster home. Mama cat was in a trap on her way to be spayed when the rescuer discovered she was just about to give birth! A Shelter Link foster Mom took her in so she could have a safe warm place to have her kittens and they were born a few hours later! 2 of the 4 kittens have been adopted already but Dominique and Pepita are still waiting for their forever homes! Please come visit Dominique at Shelter Link's PetSmart Adoption Center in West Babylon or email Lori at [cateyes0224@gmail.com](mailto:cateyes0224@gmail.com) to learn more.

Pepita is a very playful and affectionate 5 1/2 month old kitten. Her name is derived from the cartoon character skunk, Pepe' Le Pew because of the cute distinctive white stripe down her back. She and her sister Dominique are two of a litter of four kittens that were born in a foster home. Her story is the same as Dominique's. Pepita and Dominique are still waiting for their forever homes! Please consider giving her the loving home she deserves. To learn more about Pepita, email Lori at [cateyes0224@gmail.com](mailto:cateyes0224@gmail.com) or visit her at Shelter Link's PetSmart Adoption Center in West Babylon.



**Pepita**

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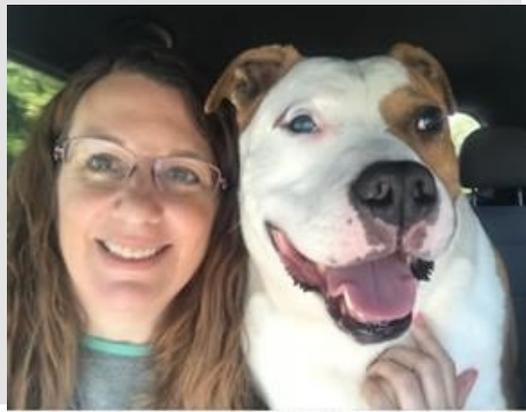


**Sugar**

Sugar is a special needs cat. She is about a year old and as you can see she is absolutely beautiful! Unfortunately she has had a very traumatic past where she sustained some injuries. Despite her past, Sugar is very sweet but she requires special attention. The foster mom has attended to all her medical needs and she has nurtured her back to health. All Sugar needs now is an extra special home where she will get the care and love she deserves. Sugar prefers to be the only cat in a home. She is spayed, up to date on shots, FIV/FeLV neg. Please consider giving Sugar a loving forever home. She is currently in a foster home. Please email [cateyes0224@gmail.com](mailto:cateyes0224@gmail.com) if you would like to meet Sugar.

## Paw Prints

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### *There's No Place Like Furever Home!*

A few days short of TWO YEARS in the shelter, Adam West found his perfect family!!! Adam caught the attention of many through his AdoptAdamWest facebook page lovingly maintained by our shelter friend Theresa. Adam had many volunteer advocates, and he will dearly miss his BFF Kevin! Adam came to us partially blind,

but in time, and as confirmed by a specialist, Adam became totally blind. Add to that Adam had allergies, and also wouldn't be a good fit in a home with other pets, it seemed like a tall order to find a home that would take all of these needs into consideration. Adam's new family suffered the loss of their beloved dog, Desi, recently. They found Adam West on Facebook and fell in love with him. They recognized that a blind dog would be something new to experience and they did their research to understand what those needs would be. We recently received a beautiful first update of Adam in his new home. His new family is so grateful to have him. They said he was all smiles on his freedom ride home, and is adjusting well, especially to the couches. He made a friend in his new vet, and enjoys his nightly walk in the park - you cannot even tell he is blind! Adam's family thanks us so much for caring for him for so long. They are sure he misses us all, but we think he has many new comforting pleasures and we were just the foundation for his new beginning. Happy life Adam and family, thank you for adopting.

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### Volunteer Spotlight

Marty, our Vice President ~ One day Marty found an injured pigeon along the highway against the curb. He put it in a box and went to two different pet stores asking for help "What do I do with it?" It was suggested he bring it to the Babylon Town Animal Shelter, a place Marty had never been to before this. A worker there took the pigeon home. When he was there waiting he looked around and saw pictures of many dogs. Upon retirement Marty wanted to volunteer some place to give back to the community. So he started to volunteer at the shelter with one other person in 2010. Now Marty can be found at the shelter almost every day.

Besides his love of animals, Marty likes garages, cars and anything with wheels and wings. Marty shared with me that he feels great after an afternoon walking and training the dogs to help socialize them which makes the dogs more adoptable. Marty also transports the dogs to Shelter Link's many events which is greatly appreciated. Marty is looking forward to the opening of the new shelter and what it will offer. A future goal of his is to see established guidelines with explicit training for all volunteers so all procedures and training techniques for both the dogs and cats are the same. Shelter Link would like to say "Thank You" to Marty for his dedication to the dogs and the community.



**Dedicated Volunteer**

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Please Help in Any Way You Can.



If you can't adopt, Foster. If you can't foster, Volunteer.  
If you can't volunteer, Donate. If you can't donate, Advocate!

## Community Outreach

The following Q&A is with Theresa Maritato of Theresa's Programs, an amazing program reaching out to children and teens and connecting them with their local animal shelters.

### **What is Theresa's Programs?**

Theresa's Programs is a business that I facilitate. My goal is to connect children, teens and adults with their local animal shelter. I accomplish this goal through my Animal Lovers Club, which I host at libraries in both Suffolk and Nassau. When library patrons join this club, they take part in helping animal shelters through special projects, arts and crafts, fundraising and much more.



### **Theresa's Programs Connecting Kids With Animal Shelters**

#### **What is the response from the community?**

The response has been wonderful. People of all ages are so excited to help shelter animals in any way that they can. Whether it's lemonade stand fundraisers, a Teens to the Rescue seminar, DIY bandanas for adoption events, to (my favorite) "Adopt Me" portraits, every person, no matter their age, can make a difference. During programs, we also discuss how children, teens and adults can be involved in a hands-on at the shelters too.

In early August, a group of teens who attended my "Teens to the Rescue" at the North Shore Library, raised over \$1,000 for Kent Animal Shelter. So exciting!

#### **How did you get involved with Babylon Shelter?**

Back in 2016 or so, I dropped off a few of the projects that we made at the Babylon Library for the Babylon Animal Shelter. The day I met Kristin, my life changed! I was still working as a librarian full time but deep down, I knew I wanted to start my own business. Kristin was so encouraging and kind and really gave the teens and libraries lots of positive exposure. Last year, I decided

to branch out on my own. Now I'm able to dedicate my time on focusing on the Animal Lovers Club. I know that's its because of Kristin and the staff at your shelter, that I pursued my dreams.

#### **Where do you see Theresa's Programs going in the near future?**

One of my future goals is start a program where myself, Kristin, and the staff at Babylon Animal Shelter, can reach children in lower income areas. I'd love to educate children about how they can help animals, especially animals living in poor conditions or on chains. I'd love to work in a smaller setting, where the group consists of about 20 children or so. So that it can feel a little more personal. I truly believe if we can reach them at an early age, we can change the future for both humans and animals alike.



#### **How did it get started?**

When I was the manager of the Teen Department at the Hampton Bays Public Library, I started an Animal Lovers Club. Since I have a real love for shelter animals (and adopted two rescues myself) my goal was to teach the children and teens the importance of compassion through humane education. The Club really caught on! Within the first 2 years, our Animal Lovers Club had over 100 members. The teens raised over \$10,000 for animal shelters too. As a group, we visited the shelter each month. I thought it was important for children and teens to meet shelters cats and dogs in person, and really care about and help them, by seeing them in a shelter environment.



If you would like to contact Theresa for more information:

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631-617-0179.

## Paw Prints



### It's All About Fundraising

**Fundraising.** Notice the word “fun” in there?

The truth is that there is very little fun involved. I remember in my early years in Catholic School being sent home with cards, wrapping paper and candy. I was terrified. How was I going to sell this stuff? How could I ask Grandma, Aunt Mimi and Mrs. Curley, the retired senior citizen who cleaned houses to supplement her income, to buy my candy bars? Of course my parents usually bailed me out. They purchased the very minimum amount necessary and sent me back to school with a check. Which I would then hand in with one of the leading sellers who sold two hundred rolls of wrapping paper and won a bike. Talk about feeling inadequate. Once I graduated high school, part of my relief was knowing that my selling days were over. Of course, my first job was in a retail store but that story is for another time.

Fast forward another forty years and I'm a member of Shelter Link, a not for profit animal rescue group. At first I helped put together baskets of items donated by our supporters. Then we decided to have an annual Chinese Auction – now politically correctly known as our **Raffle Extravaganza**. I was handed a letter describing Shelter Link, its mission statement and myriad of activities. It explained how all of these activities require funds, and those funds are acquired by donations.

Now exactly what was I supposed to do with this letter? It was easy to tell my close friends and family to go into their closets and give me items for baskets but was I to go to stores and strangers and ask? Thoughts of wrapping paper and candy floated in my mind.

But there I was, letter in hand. I decided to start small at the local chain restaurants. I politely asked for the manager and waited (and waited). When they finally appeared, I handed over my letter and gave them my best (nervous) rendition of why they should donate to Shelter Link. Sometimes it worked; sometimes it didn't. Sometimes they said they'd consider it and would call. Sometimes the calls would come from the least expected places – the ones that seemed the least interested. Sometimes the ones that I'd be sure after a 15 minute conversation about animals were a sure bet would never call.

After a while it started to get easier, or maybe I just got more accustomed to rejection. I started to carry letters with me. Dinner out with a friend meant a request to see the manager and ask him or her for a gift certificate. Regular shopping chores involved a call on the management with a polite request.

So we are once again preparing for our now **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Raffle Extravaganza**. In the spirit of soliciting, I am asking for your help. There are many ways to help our efforts. When you are out shopping, perhaps you see a good sale on an item. Perhaps that item would be a start to a great basket. Have a favorite restaurant, pizza place, nail salon or hairdresser? Ask them for a gift certificate. If you feel awkward, let me know the names and I'll ask them! Think of a venue, store, or activity that would make a good prize? Pass along your suggestions to me and I'll follow through on them.

Fundraising really does take a village. It's a year round activity. All of our activities are funded by donations. While we are currently focused on the **Raffle Extravaganza**, there's still garage sales and future events to think about. We're hoping to try some new ideas in the coming year and we're hoping to keep everyone more informed via this Newsletter, emails, and our Facebook pages (**Volunteers for Shelter Link and Shelter Link Fundraising and Sharing Page**). I am apologizing now if you get tired of seeing emails and posts from me. Fundraising never ends. And when it comes down to it, it's all about the cats and dogs. I want to try to make it easier for everyone. Everyone can help and no matter how small you think your effort, every effort counts. I'm here to help and am open to all your suggestions.

Maybe I can put the fun back into fundraising. Together I think we can do great things.

*Roseann can be reached at [ran402@optonline.net](mailto:ran402@optonline.net) or call or text at 631-513-0717.*

Please join us for our 3rd Annual Raffle Extravaganza Sunday October 14th from 12 to 3 at American Legion Hall, 39 Nassau Ave, Islip.



### It Takes A Village!

Over and over again in animal rescue you find that it takes many people - volunteers, organizations, donors, rehabbers, fosters, veterinarians, and others - all working together for a common cause... to save a life! This isn't always the case, sometimes it's just as simple as an adoption from the shelter or rescue, but other times due to no fault of the animal, they end up needing much more. I am so proud to be a part of the village that has helped so many animals over the past 10 years as a board member of Shelter Link and as President for the past 2 years. Just this year alone Shelter Link has been a part of helping some wonderful animals such as Bella the beautiful

young German Shepherd dog that came into the Babylon Animal Shelter in January as an owner surrender. Upon her intake exam the on-staff veterinarian was able to detect a heart murmur and after some testing it was found that Bella had a serious congenital defect and would need major surgery by a specialist. Without it she would most likely not even live until her first birthday. The Veterinary specialist hospital worked with us to make it affordable for the surgery and we started a fundraiser. In the meantime the shelter found a wonderful foster for her where she could wait until the money was raised and could return to after her surgery to heal. The money was quickly raised by many wonderful people who support the Babylon Shelter and Shelter Link, and Bella had her surgery. Everyone that met Bella instantly fell in love with her and were hoping she would pull through the surgery and that the surgery would be successful in correcting her condition. Thankfully the surgery was a huge success and it took Bella a few weeks in her foster home to fully recover. Thanks to everyone involved Bella is now a happy healthy young girl with a full life ahead of her. And of course her foster family who was completely head over heels for her officially adopted her and they are all living a happy life together!

And here is an update from her adopters - Bella has been renamed Millie, and she is now a beautiful, healthy, playful, loving, hyper, silly puppy. The time before the surgery and especially the weeks following were exhausting and worrisome, but she was a rockstar. She was a favorite among the vet techs. Millie's new favorite past time is chasing tennis balls and belly rubs. She has children to run around our yard with and loves evening walks. We feel like we were meant to nurse her to health, and she was meant to be part of our family. She is loved and gives endless love in return. Thank you to all that donated to help save the life of this amazing dog. We will be forever grateful.

-The Matheis Family



**Please** help us help the animals at our local shelter.

**Yes I want to help improve the quality of life for local animals including the Babylon Shelter. Enclosed is my donation to support Shelter Link.**

\$100     \$50     \$25     \$10     Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail check to Shelter Link, PO Box 163, Islip NY 11751.**

**Or visit ShelterLink.com/waystohelp. Donations are fully tax deductible.**



# Organization

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**We're on the web!**  
**ShelterLink.com**



*"The world is a dangerous place,  
not because of those who do evil,  
but because of those who look on  
and do nothing."*

- Albert Einstein



## DogVinci Raises Money for Babylon Shelter

*(Continued from page 1)*

weak. Although these cats were living in terrible conditions many of them were very sweet, friendly and adoptable. As soon as possible some of these cats were taken into the volunteer's home and were given extra care. When they were healthy enough they were taken to be fixed, tested for fiv/felv, vaccinated, and micro-chipped and then were adopted out to loving homes through our Petsmart cat adoption center in West Babylon. The rest of the colony is now being fed on a daily basis as well as receiving flea treatments and vaccinations, being sheltered and are waiting for their turn to be taken in, fixed, and adopted out into loving homes where they will never again have to be hungry, shiver in the cold and rain, and have no human love.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the special volunteers who put their hearts, money, time, and effort into caring for these cats and all those in similar situations. It certainly takes a toll on them but they continue to do it because of their love and compassion and wanting to help the cats lead healthier, happier lives.

On Saturday June 23rd 2018 Dagger DogVinci of Gimme Shelter held an art show and auctioned off 40 pieces of art that he dogally painted. Yes, dogally, Dagger DogVinci is a famous artist that also happens to be a wonderful & sweet Black Lab mix. All funds raised from the event were donated to Babylon Animal Shelter and will be used to purchase medical equipment for the new shelter. The event will be in an upcoming episode of Shelter Me. For more information on amazing Dagger DogVinci aka "The Do Good Dog" please visit his website [www.DogVinci.com](http://www.DogVinci.com).

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