

70 Years Of North Shore Animal League America

It started in a garage on Long Island. A small group of animal lovers joined forces and formed a shelter dedicated to the no-kill philosophy. Seven decades later, the result is North Shore Animal League America, the largest rescue and adoption organization in the world.

1944
North Shore Animal League and Dog Protective Association, Inc., led by animal advocate Marianne H. Sanders, begins rescuing homeless animals in and around the Town of North Hempstead, Long Island. The Association dedicates itself to the no-kill philosophy.

1945
Buys first vehicle, a station wagon.

1953
Acquires two lots and a house in Port Washington; begins planning shelter construction.

1956
Shelter is completed; group purchases local homes to expand offices.



1960
As Long Island grows, the Association must choose between handling animal control and remaining no-kill. It chooses no-kill. As a result, it loses lucrative animal control contracts and suffers a serious drop in revenue.

1969
Name changes to North Shore Animal League, Inc.

1969 Cont'd
Alex and Elisabeth Lewyt become more involved in day-to-day operations, helping the Association regain financial stability. ♦ Lewyts recruit their neighbor, popular singer and dog-lover Perry Como, as celebrity chairman of a successful membership drive. ♦ Alex Lewyt becomes President and Chairman of the Board of Directors.

1974
Elisabeth Lewyt begins driving her "Love-A-Pet" van from pound to pound to rescue pets, paying \$12 a piece for each dog the pounds will release.

1978
Establishes small medical center on the premises.

1980
Humanely relocates animals from the ASPCA in New York City and other municipal shelters on Long Island to the safety of its no-kill shelter.

1981
Elisabeth Lewyt's Pound Rescue Team grows from one volunteer to dozens, saving thousands of animals from municipal shelters.

1982
Launches outreach program — volunteers and associates visit nursing homes, senior citizen centers, etc., where puppies and therapy dogs bring joy and comfort to residents.

1988
Alex Lewyt dies. ♦ Elisabeth Lewyt is named Chairperson of the Board of Directors, a position she holds until her death.

1991
Celebrates grand opening of new adoption center and Alex Lewyt Veterinary Medical Center. ♦ Launches nationwide National Shelter Relocation Program, the first to work with overcrowded shelters in the South, welcoming animals slated for euthanasia. Today this program is widely imitated, saving hundreds of thousands of lives.

1992
Launches Pet Savers® Foundation, with a revolutionary Cooperative Advertising Program that supports local advertising and provides advertising grants for other shelters to encourage adoptions. First such advertising campaign in the country.

1993
J. John Stevenson becomes President. ♦ Introduces SpayUSA®, the first and largest nationwide network providing referral and information about affordable spay/neuter services. ♦ Develops Seniors for Seniors Program, which enables senior citizens to adopt well-matched senior pets, with some veterinary costs covered.








1994
Surviving Pet Care Program starts.

1995
Conducts its first annual Pet Adoptathon®, saving 525 lives.

1997
Establishes monthly donation Sponsor Program, providing ongoing care for special-needs animals.

1998
Acquires first state-of-the-art Mobile Adoption Unit.

1999
Uses new Mobile Adoption Unit. to pioneer two off-site adoption programs: Mobile Adoption Program (MAP), which transports our pets to high-traffic areas, leading to countless adoptions; and Cooperative Adoption Program (CAP), through which we share our mobile units with small rescue groups and shelter partners, saving even more lives.

2000
Name changes to **NORTH SHORE ANIMAL LEAGUE AMERICA, INC.**, reflecting growing national scope of programs.

2001
With Purina as sponsor, completes first Tour for Life®. One mobile unit travels "From the Golden Gate to the Empire State," saving more than 200 animals. Purina also becomes sponsor of worldwide Pet Adoptathon®.

2002
Laura J. Niles Foundation donates funding for second mobile adoption unit.

2003
Don and Karen LaRocca donate funds and design the dog park.

2004
Volunteer Beth Stern becomes official spokesperson, raising our profile and generating countless rescues and adoptions.

2005
Emergency Rescue Team is one of the first agencies on site to assist local shelters after hurricanes Katrina and Rita. League subsequently creates the Katrina Animal Rescue Fund.

2007
Launches Mill Dog Rescue.











2008
Emergency Rescue Team responds to hurricanes Gustav and Ike along the Gulf Coast. ♦ League brings more than 100 dogs to safety from a West Virginia puppy mill.

2009
Elisabeth Lewyt donates Babbette's Ark, first nurturing stop for rescued pets.

2010
The League's Pet Savers Foundation, in conjunction with Yale University's School of the 21st Century and Cesar Millan's foundation, introduces groundbreaking Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum.

2011
Creation of the Marvin M. Fried Dental Suite.

2012
Emergency Response Team tackles two major natural disasters: Hurricane Sandy, in our own backyard, and Colorado wildfires. ♦ Elisabeth Lewyt dies at age 99. ♦ League announces the Mutt-i-grees® Registry, world's first registry for shelter dogs and cats. Goal: to raise status of shelter pets, encourage adoption, and reinforce the fact that every Mutt-i-gree is unique and worthy of respect, care, and love.

2013
Emergency Response Team goes to Moore, Okla., following EF5 tornadoes, to work with local groups rescuing pets displaced by the storms. ♦ More than 2,000 schools use the Mutt-i-grees Curriculum in the U.S. and Canada. Also implemented in libraries, animal shelters, and afterschool programs. ♦ Gala 2013: Spokesperson Beth Stern announces a \$7 million fundraising campaign for Bianca's Furry Friends Feline Adoption & Wellness Center (BFF).

2014
The 2014 Tour for Life® travels more than 17,000 miles and helps place more than 2,500 pets into loving homes.

Pet Adoptathon 2014® places more than 30,000 animals in loving homes around the world.

Ribbon cutting for new mobile unit donated by Rachael Ray's rescue group, Rachael's Rescue, brings the number of rescue units to seven.

Puppy Mill Rescue efforts exceed 2,500 lives saved. ♦ League joins with Hallmark Channel to air first annual Kitten Bowl. ♦ League joins with PurinaOne® to host America's first Cat Café, leading to many "cat'achinos" and the adoption of 24 adult cats.

THE FUTURE

Bianca's Furry Friends Feline Adoption & Wellness Center

North Shore Animal League America Pet Wellness Center Facility Donated by Don and Karen LaRocca

Elizabeth Ann Freed Special Recovery Center

