

Animals are a big part of our lives and important family members. More than half of households in the U.S. own a pet. Statistics say that people with pets live longer healthier lives. Our pets keep us moving so we get more exercise by walking dogs. Pets help lower blood pressure and lift our moods. Animals are also used in hospitals for therapy to aid in healing from injury or illness. While everyone loves a puppy or a kitten, older animals make great companion pets for seniors that live alone and the disabled.

Our community is very fortunate to have a no kill animal shelter and a remarkably high adoption rate of dogs and cats. Sadly that is not the case in many other areas. With only a few local dogs coming into the facility on Meadowland Parkway, I am very pleased to say that the Secaucus Animal Shelter (www.sasnj.org) is participating in an outreach program to save dogs on Doggie Death Row in other parts of the country. Euthanization is not uncommon in animal shelters that are overloaded with unwanted dogs and cats. Healthy young adoptable animals are being put down to control populations.

Since reorganizing our shelter, we have rescued and adopted out several young Beagles and other breeds from neighboring states. This breed is known to be hunting dogs and are often abandoned by its owner and dumped at the shelter or on the streets. These animals are very friendly and it is heart breaking to see them destroyed. Holly Hansen, veterinarian and shelter manager has networked with shelters near and far to bring in more family friendly, adoptable dogs. The adoption process includes screening individuals who have an interest in adopting these beautiful dogs as family pets.

The Secaucus Shelter (www.sasnj.org) also has a new satellite location at the Community Center at 145 Front Street, which would be open on weekends to make it easier for working families to plan an adoption of a pet. We have many dedicated volunteers who spend time caring for these orphaned animals.

Secaucus is very fortunate to have strong partnerships with the corporate community when it comes to the food pantry, concerts in the park and special holiday events. Among them are two animal based companies that go above and beyond for the animal community. Hartz Industries Pet Division who has sponsored the local shelter. Hartz Pet also designed, constructed and funded the dog run at Mill Creek Point. Freshpet, is another Secaucus company that supports the community and its animals. Freshpet, bases its products on all natural ingredients for optimum pet health. The company has already donated 1,200 pounds of pet food for our furry friends.

We are in the process of forming a 501 C3 for animal activists interested in making donations to the shelter. The non-profit organization would enable going forward with fundraisers to raise money to expand the size of the shelter and acquire equipment and supplies.

I encourage you to visit the shelter on Meadowland Parkway (www.sasnj.org) or the Satellite location on Front Street. The shelter is open seven days a week from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. Visit the Satellite location on weekends from 11:00 am -2:00 pm.

Any way we can help to save a life is a good thing. Together we can make a difference in an orphaned animal's life.