

# You, too, can 'save a pet' during March Madness

## At PJS adoption center it's raining cats and dogs

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March Madness isn't just for college basketball anymore.

The Save-A-Pet Animal Rescue and Adoption Center in Port Jefferson Station is hosting four weekends of events to "promote adoption of animals who have been here for a while or animals that are over a certain age," Executive Director Lynne Schoepfer said. Those interested in giving a home to one or more of roughly 120 animals still need to provide references to pass the adoption process but the shelter is "trying to make it easier for people to take these animals into their homes."

Coming up is the Tail Waggin' Weekend for free adoptions of dogs older than 4 years. The weekend of March 19 focuses on getting homes for black cats at the shelter, of which there are nine, and the final weekend of March is for dogs whose names begin with the letter A.

Schoepfer said in a rough economy like this one, there are fewer adoptions and more pets losing their homes due to tighter wallets or foreclosures.

"The economy hits everybody hard and unfortunately, the animals are normally the first ones to go," she said. "We get dozens and dozens of calls a day from

*'These guys need so much love.'*

— LYNNE SCHOEPFER  
SAVE-A-PET  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

people that are losing their homes" and are looking for a shelter for their pets. But Save-A-Pet is always filled to capacity and cannot house all of these animals.

Courtney Torre adopted a dog from Save-A-Pet three weeks ago. The Labrador-golden retriever mix, Ruby, is 5 months old. Originally, Torre, 38, said she did not want a puppy because "I just potty trained my last kid — I don't want to potty train my dog." But the Sea-tauket resident said the puppy "is just a love, she is just the sweetest dog." Torre has 9-year-old twins, a 4-year-old and a 3-year-old, and said Ruby "is the perfect dog for us. She tolerates my four kids extremely well."

A Port Jefferson Station mother, Eileen Reid, adopted a cat from the shelter recently, a 3-year-old orange tabby. Reid, who has two daughters ages 12 and 8, said the tabby, Red, gets along well with her other cat, Tiger, and is very social — even when a friend came over with a dog: "He is just a friendly guy, he is a laid-back

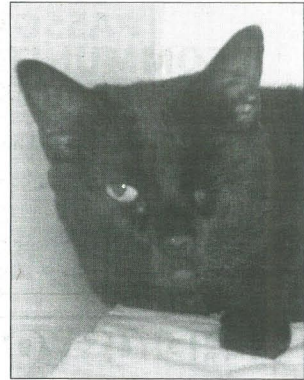
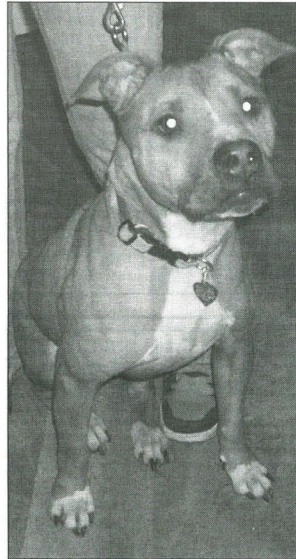


Photo from Lynne Schoepfer

Above: A special for the adoption of black cats is scheduled for the weekend of March 18-20 Save-A-Pet Animal Rescue and Adoption Center in Port Jefferson Station. At left: The last weekend of the month is dedicated to helping find a home for Alexis and other pets with names beginning with 'A.'

really care about the animals."

guy. Nothing rattles his cage — he is just calm." Reid added she was impressed by the Save-A-Pet personnel: "The people there are so helpful and friendly and they

focus on matching families to the rest of the shelter's dogs and cats. "These guys need love so much," Schoepfer said. Visit [www.saveapetli.net](http://www.saveapetli.net) or call 473-6333.