

Annual Cat, Dog Adoption Marathon Homes 600 Pets

More than 2,000 shelters worldwide participated in North Shore Animal League's Pet Adoptathon 2008.

Posted: May 16, 2008, 5 a.m. EDT

Two male Poodles, Nitro and Glycerin, are among the hundreds of dogs who found new homes as part of North Shore Animal League's largest cooperative pet event – Pet Adoptathon 2008. The annual two-day adoption marathon aims to find homes for as many dogs and cats as possible.

For 36 hours straight, more than 2,000 animal shelters from around the world participated in this year's Pet Adoptathon, headquartered in Port Washington, N.Y., with a common goal: to adopt 700 dogs and cats into new homes. Families with children, singles, and couples were treated to an opening performance of "All That Jazz" performed by the cast of the Broadway musical, "Chicago."

Also in attendance was New York State Sen. Craig Johnson, who spoke about the importance of rescue groups that work to nurture and adopt homeless animals, and applauded the more than 60-year efforts of the NSAL. Other guest speakers included members of Rescue Ink, an animal rescue group made up of tattooed men who voluntarily help animals in distress.

Spokeswoman Dianne Zoppa said one of the event highlights was a special performance by the Animal League's Dog Agility Team, comprised of animals with physical disabilities. One team member is Abby, a three-legged dog who jumps hoops and performs stunts.

Every animal that was adopted out has a unique story, Zoppa said. In the case of Nitro and Glycerin, the 2-year-old Poodles, they first arrived at the Animal League through a program that takes in pets should an owner predecease them. Both dogs had special health needs, and after receiving medical treatment, they were put up for adoption.

"Dog and cat owners, who have an abiding love and concern for companion pets, should care about this event, and other adoption drives, because these programs save innocent lives," Zoppa said.

In the end, new homes were found for 392 dogs and 208 cats, for a total of 600 pets. The goal for next year's event again will be 700 animals.

"We are proud to have engaged over 2,000 shelters to join us in our 36-hour event that saves lives," she says.