



TOWN OF RIVERHEAD NEWS

Office of the Supervisor
SEAN M. WALTER

200 Howell Avenue
Riverhead, NY 11901
(631)727-3200

www.townofriverheadny.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 18, 2012

SUPERVISOR ANNOUNCES PRIVATIZATION OF ANIMAL SHELTER **Declares A "New Day" For The Care Of Animals In Riverhead**

Riverhead, NY – Riverhead Supervisor Sean M. Walter today announced the successful completion of an agreement with North Fork Animal Welfare League to privatize operations at the town's animal shelter. Supervisor Walter said, "Today, Riverhead puts behind us an issue that has divided our community, as we begin a new chapter in the care of animals within our town." Supervisor Walter continued, "Riverhead makes good on its promise to provide high quality, humane, adoption and care services to the canines within our borders."

North Fork Animal Welfare League, who has run the Town of Southold Animal Shelter since 1980, will extend their operations and begin management of the Riverhead facility on March 1, 2013. President of the North Fork Animal Welfare League Richard Radoccia said, "We could not be more excited. We look forward to bringing the same nurturing care to Riverhead that we have extended to the animal community in Southold." North Fork Animal Welfare League was formed in 1963 and is a not-for-profit organization committed to the prevention of cruelty to animals and to extend humane education.

Councilman James Wooten, the Riverhead Town Board's shelter liaison and a long time animal activist, said, "We have worked at this long and hard and it feels so good to finally turn the corner and begin a new era in providing the proper care for the animals in our charge." Councilman Wooten continued, "This is a great day for Riverhead."

Mr. Radoccia said, "We are ready and raring to go... the New Year will bring a new level of care for the animals of Riverhead."

As of March 1, 2013, all handling of animals, facility operations, responsibility for the care, feeding and treatment of canines at the facility will be the responsibility of North Fork Animal Welfare League.

Supervisor Walter said, "Our shelter has long been the source of controversy and good people have argued for many years about what its future should look like. Our first responsibility has always been to provide animals with the best care we can and I am convinced that this agreement will do that. Today, we turn the page and make a fresh start and this is happy news for animal lovers everywhere," he concluded.

-XX-