A CAUTION, AND A LIST OF SUFFOLK COUNTY SHELTERS

There are many more cats in need of homes than there are people who are flocking to adopt. So the no-kill shelters are overrun and typically can't take in more cats, and the shelters that euthanize non-adopted cats do a lot of just that.

It's wonderful that you're playing the role of advocate for someone who is helpless to do it for themselves, but you should be prepared for the possibility that you won't find room in any no-kill shelters, and that you might have to do the legwork for finding a new owner yourself. Putting up posters might bring some luck, but it often doesn't. A more concentrated effort, in the form of being willing to ask lots of friends (and being willing to hear "no" a lot) may be required. Be prepared to ask a lot of people and to get a lot of almost-yesses ("I would if my landlord let me," or "My husband is allergic," or "My other cats hate animals"). You may need to branch out to people you don't feel comfortable asking. And you may need to get a friend to agree to provide a foster home so that you can buy some time and keep looking for a permanent one.

Unfortunately, the SBU Cat Network isn't a shelter. We're only a group of people at the university who are committed to easing the suffering of the homeless cats on Stony Brook's campus. We're not in a position to help directly, but we're hoping you'll find a way to do it on your own. Even the no-kill shelters should be considered as a last resort.

"No kill" designation: The shelter does not euthanize its animals. Be prepared to have to wait until one of these shelters can find room for your animal. And be prepared for a requested (possibly large) donation; if they'll be feeding and caring for your cat for the long-term, it will cost them (and thus you) money.

"Kill" designation: It does euthanize if the animal is not adopted within a pre-determined window of time. Because the shelters are often overrun, we strongly caution against sending a pet to a Kill shelter. The odds for finding a new family may be much lower than you expect.

No-Kill Shelters:

These are some of the larger no-kill shelters in the area. Please check with them on their policies when you call them. If you would like a more exhaustive or up-to-date list, you might try running a shelter search at http://www.petfinder.com/.

Bide-A-Wee Animal Shelters and Veterinarian Clinics
118 Old Country Rd., Westhampton; 631-325-0200

Buddy Project for Animal Rescue, 6 Leslie Ln., Smithtown; 631-724-3740.

Kent Animal Shelter
2259 River Rd., Calverton; 631-727-5731
Last Hope Animal Rescue
597 West Jericho Tpk, Huntington; 631-425-1884

League for Animal Protection of Huntington/Grateful Paw
[Can accept animals from Huntington residents only]
104 Deposit Rd., East Northport; 631-757-4517

Little Shelter Animal Rescue
33 Warner Rd., Huntington; 631-368-8770

Save-A-Pet
Rte 112, ¼ mile north of Rte 347, Port Jefferson, NY; 631-473-6333

Some area Shelters That *DO* Kill Unclaimed Animals:

Smittown Animal Shelter and Adoption Center
410 E. Main St., 631-360-7575
Smittown Animal Shelter does euthanize animals, but they have been known to wait a long time before doing so.

Huntington Animal Shelter
106 Deposit Rd.,
East Northport; 631-754-8746

Brookhaven Town Animal Shelter
300 Horseblock Rd., Brookhaven; 631-286-4940

Islip Town Animal Shelter
210 S. Denver Ave.,
Bay Shore; 631-224-5660