



Alexis Fasseas with Kit



Ramblin' Ray Stevens and Gina Meier



Michelle Alegria, left, and Meredith Marks



Co-Chairs Erica Kelly and Katie Edwards with GIGI



Ryan Soto holding Angelo and Eddie Colatorti holding Gino

CANDID **CANDACE**

BY CANDACE JORDAN



Pups and their people celebrate PAWS party

PAWS Chicago, the city's largest no-kill humane shelter, hosted its 17th annual Beach Party July 18 at Castaways on North Avenue Beach. Despite the heat and early showers, the event was a sellout with more than 500 guests and 100 dogs in attendance. Nearly \$300,000 was raised to fund life-saving programs for homeless dogs and cats.

Emceeding for her 10th year, country radio Hall of Famer Lisa Dent (BIG 95.5 FM), presided over a program that opened with a toast to PAWS and included a live auction conducted by David Goodman (which raised \$67,000), a paddle raise and an adoptable dogs showcase.

The adorable adoptable dogs included Kit, a 3-year-old Australian cattle dog; Raleigh, a 6-year-old terrier mix; Rhonda, a 1-year-old beagle mix; Shelby, a 4-year-old Shih Tzu; and Porkchop, a 1-year-old terrier mix.

PAWS founder Paula Fasseas welcomed supporters and acknowledged event co-chairs Katie Edwards and Erica Kelly and the 100 volunteers in attendance.

"We've become a national leader because of this amazing Chicago community. When we started PAWS Chicago, the city pound was bringing in 29,000 animals a year and euthanizing 27,000. Last year, they euthanized 2,000. That's incredible progress," Fasseas said.

She said PAWS' adoption program found homes for nearly 5,600 animals last year. She also mentioned the PAWS for Life program that works in under-served communities providing free spay/neuter, behavior advice, medical care and pet supplies, the expanding medical center and the nonprofit's disaster response rescues. This year, PAWS Chicago assisted in rescuing 27 dogs and cats from four Louisiana shelters, and 58 animals from Oklahoma were brought to Chicago.

Since its founding in 1997, PAWS has helped reduce the number of homeless pets killed in the city by 91%.

Freelance writer Candace Jordan is involved in many local organizations, including some whose events she covers.

MORE ONLINE: Find more photos and video of this event at www.chicagotribune.com/candidcandace

JAMES C. SVEHLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS



Frances Henkel holding Rhonda, from left, Heather Yeager and Nancy Timmers



Laura Dantuma with Lulu Belle



Wayne Gailis and Renata Block holding GIGI



Marissa Parrott, Julie Harron, Frances Renk and Nanci Moore