

# New rescues up for adoption in Port Jeff Station

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Fourteen dogs rescued from Midwest puppy mills joined the Save-A-Pet family Tuesday. They will soon be ready for adoption, said executive director Lynne Schoepfer.

The dogs — adults and puppies — were brought to the private animal shelter and adoption center in Port Jefferson Station from upstate Armonk. They were removed from the puppy mills by Best Friends Animal Society, a Utah organization that partners with Save-A-Pet, Schoepfer said.

Eventually the pups will be placed in permanent homes “to give them the right nurturing they need, to help them blossom into the great dogs we know they can be,” she said. Before that happens, Save-A-Pet will bathe the dogs, spay or neuter and vaccinate them. They will be tested for heartworm and fitted with microchips. Volunteers will cuddle and play with them, to get the animals accustomed to people. The rehabilitation process can take several months to a year, depending on the dog, Schoepfer said.

A volunteer staff of 50 animal lovers regularly walks dogs, plays with cats and cleans cages at Save-A-Pet. Ten of those volunteers were on hand Tuesday, to help transport the

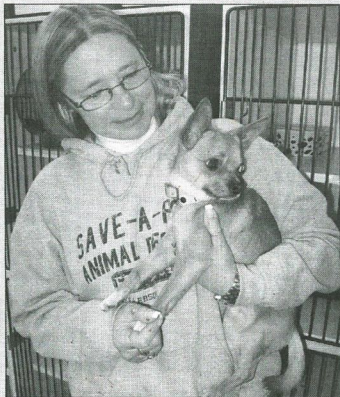


Photo by Susan Risoli

Save-A-Pet director Lynn Schoepfer with Lobo, a Chihuahua rescued from a puppy mill.

new dogs, put collars on them and soothe them after their journey.

Because of the new arrivals, Save-A-Pet's space is “maxed out” right now, Schoepfer said. It could take “about a week,” before other adoptions open up space.

Save-A-Pet adoption fees are \$200 to \$400 for dogs, \$100 for cats and \$120 for kittens. To make a contribution to defray the medical costs associated with the rescued puppies or for information on adoption, call Save-A-Pet at 473-6333 or visit the website at [www.savea-petli.org](http://www.savea-petli.org).