

HOMELESS PUPPIES

Paws the cause

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They entered the United States with no passports, no visas and no hassles.

Twelve homeless puppies from the Bahamas that were set to be euthanized arrived at Save-A-Pet Animal Rescue in Port Jefferson Station Friday morning searching for a loving home.

"We really want to find great homes for them," said Dori Scofield, co-director of Save-A-Pet Animal Rescue. "These animals have really been through a lot and they deserve to be treated well, taken care of, and most of all, loved."

About 40 puppies are expected to arrive on Long Island during the next couple of weeks. They became homeless when their owners in Freeport, Bahamas, failed to take advantage of a free spay and neuter program that the Humane Society of Grand Bahama offered and abandoned the puppies, said Tip Johnston Burrows, the society's co-director. Because the shelter had reached its 60-dog maximum, it could not care for the puppies, which were then scheduled to be euthanized.

"It gets to be such a downer



NEWSDAY PHOTO/KAREN WILES STABILE

Manorville's Brianna Cullen, 7, cuddles her adopted puppy, Coconut, from the Bahamas.

to look at these beautiful puppies and not give them homes," Burrows said.

But when Charlie McGinley, director of the Town of Brookhaven Animal Shelter, found out about the puppies, he contacted Save-A-Pet Animal Rescue. Save-A-Pet, a nonprofit group that relies only on donations, agreed to take the pups and put them up for adoptions, McGinley

said.

The mixed-breed pups can be adopted for \$125, which includes free spay and neutering, Scofield said.

Lynn Cullen of Manorville and her family adopted Mango and Coconut, two of the Bahama puppies, after hearing about their misfortune.

"I think it is fantastic," Cullen said of Save-A-Pet's ef-

forts. "It's a way to save the animals rather than to be put to sleep unnecessarily."

Adopting puppies can be difficult because many people spay and neuter their dogs.

"It's just a humanitarian outreach to help the animals [of Freeport] and give them a little hope and a light at the end of the tunnel," said Gerda Silver, another co-director of Save-A-Pet.