



BIDEAWEE FACT SHEET

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Bideawee (which means “stay awhile” in Scottish) is one of the oldest and largest humane organizations in the country with three separate sites. Founded in 1903 by Mrs. Flora Kibbe, Bideawee has been providing shelter, care and compassion to homeless animals for over 100 years.

Our mission is to promote and support safe, loving, long-term relationships between people and companion animals by providing a continuum of services and programs that are innovative, personalized and of high quality. Our primary responsibility is to help each and every person be a caring and knowledgeable pet parent.

Bideawee operates three locations in New York, Wantagh, and Westhampton. We are home to approximately 350 to 500 animals at any time and place thousands of dogs, cats, puppies and kittens in loving homes every year. Since its founding in 1903, Bideawee has placed dogs and cats in more than a million new adoptive homes.

At Bideawee, animals are given a complete medical work-up, spayed/neutered and micro-chipped before they are available for adoption. Dogs receive basic obedience training and all animals are given one-on-one attention while they are in our care. We do this so that the animals will be well-prepared to go into their new homes.

Bideawee’s two full-service veterinary practices are located in Westhampton and Manhattan and provide affordable, high quality care to Bideawee’s dogs and cats and to the public. Through our Veterinary Medical Assistance Found (VMAF), Bideawee is also able to provide medical care to homeless, abused, and injured animals.

Some of Bideawee’s other programs and services include:

The Golden Years Retirement Program provides quality geriatric care for older dogs and cats left behind by their owners’ death or illness. We also place these animals into new homes where they can be adopted by loving families.

Pet Memorial Parks in Wantagh and Westhampton, NY are the final resting places for Checkers, the Nixon family pet, and thousands of other cherished animals. In addition to burial and cremation services, Bideawee provides free bereavement counseling for those who have lost a beloved pet. Our Pet Memorial Parks are two of the largest and oldest in the country.

Pet Therapy is one of our most prominent programs. Launched in 1982, our program has grown to include dedicated two-legged pet therapy volunteers and their 168 dogs, 8 cats, 3 rabbits and one 230 lb. black pig. Almost every day, our therapy pets visit senior centers, AIDS facilities, schools and youth centers in New York.

Volunteer programs range from volunteers walking dogs to those who participate in on-site pet therapy visits. The volunteer supported public humane education programs reach over 5,000 students per year. Over 300 volunteers dedicate their time to Bideawee with over 20,000 hours of volunteer service each year.

The **Reading to Dogs** program expands our pet therapy program into the role of helping children improve their reading skills while fostering a love of reading. The basic premise of this program is that reading out loud to a dog creates a more relaxing atmosphere for children for whom reading is a challenge. In addition, reading to a dog creates an environment that is unique and fun for most children, and helps send the message that reading can be an enjoyable and worthwhile activity.

Humane Education is an important part of Bideawee's mission. We offer educational tours at our Bideawee sites and can send Bideawee representatives to schools, libraries, and club meetings. The material we present is tailored for any age group ranging in size from one class to a large assembly. Bideawee Learning Centers in all three Bideawee locations provide a wide range of educational programs and fun activities that help strengthen the bond between people and pets.

Training for dogs and cats is available through group training sessions or private training sessions. All of our training programs will include games that are fun for you and your pet. These games also serve an important behavior function. They will allow your pet to use their skills in a fun way - to give them a "job."

Bideawee is a not-for-profit 501 (c) 3 humane organizations and 100 % of Bideawee's funding comes from private sources.

