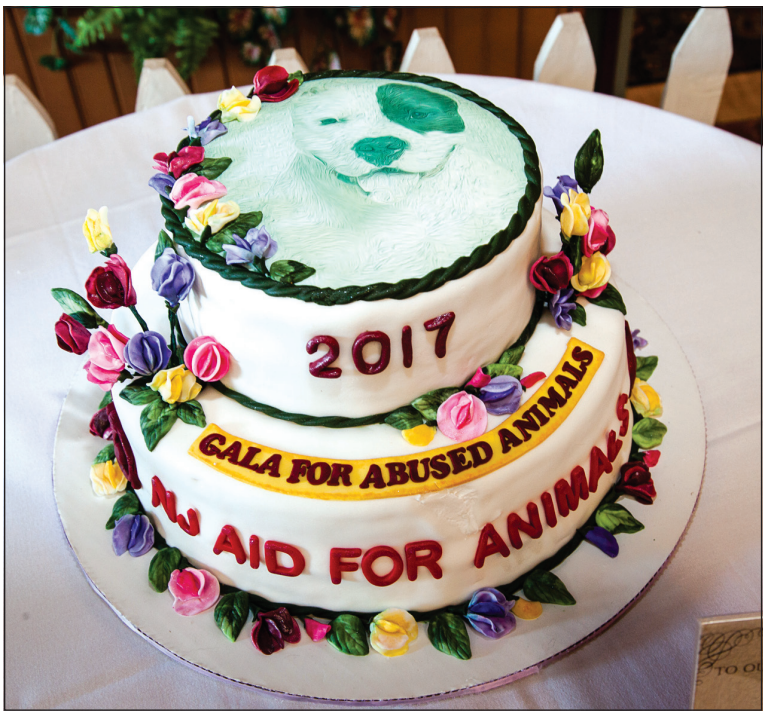


COMMUNITY



PHOTOS BY JOHN MCGILL

A poster featuring Sweet Pea, the former bait dog for whom the Sweet Pea Fund for Abused Animals is named, welcomes visits to the Just in Time Gala at the Barclay Haines Estate in Hainesport. A cake, made and donated by Cindy Tharp-Newlin, features the image of Sweet Pea.



Dogged fundraising

Hainesport gala raises funds for abused animals

Animal lovers partied along the Rancocas last month as the second annual Just in Time Gala was held at the Barclay Haines Estate in Hainesport.

The gala, which featured dining, dancing and live music, as well as high-end auctions, raised funds for the Sweet Pea Fund for Abused Animals, an off-shoot of NJ Aid for Animals, a rescue and animal advocacy group.

The fund is named for a former bait dog that was found badly injured and near death in Camden, and rescued by NJAFA. It provides funds for treatment for animals in similar situations.

The event also helped raised money for what NJAFA founder and president Kathy McGuire calls its “signature event,” which brings vaccines and low-cost spay and neuter surgeries to the pets of Camden.



Attending the event are (from left) Dr. Robert Mankowski, co-owner of Mount Laurel Animal Hospital; Jennifer Guli, hospital marketing director; Dr. Christopher Torre, co-owner of Mount Laurel Animal Hospital; and Jillian Craig Irwin, the hospital's rescue coordinator. The hospital was a sponsor of the event. Guests (from left) Marjorie Austin, Arline Spangler and Eileen Kwis arrive at the event.



Animal communicator Emerald DuCoeur (right), who provided readings for pet owners at the event, is seen with NJ Aid for Animals founder and president Kathy McGuire and vice president Gary McGuire in a gazebo overlooking the Rancocas Creek.