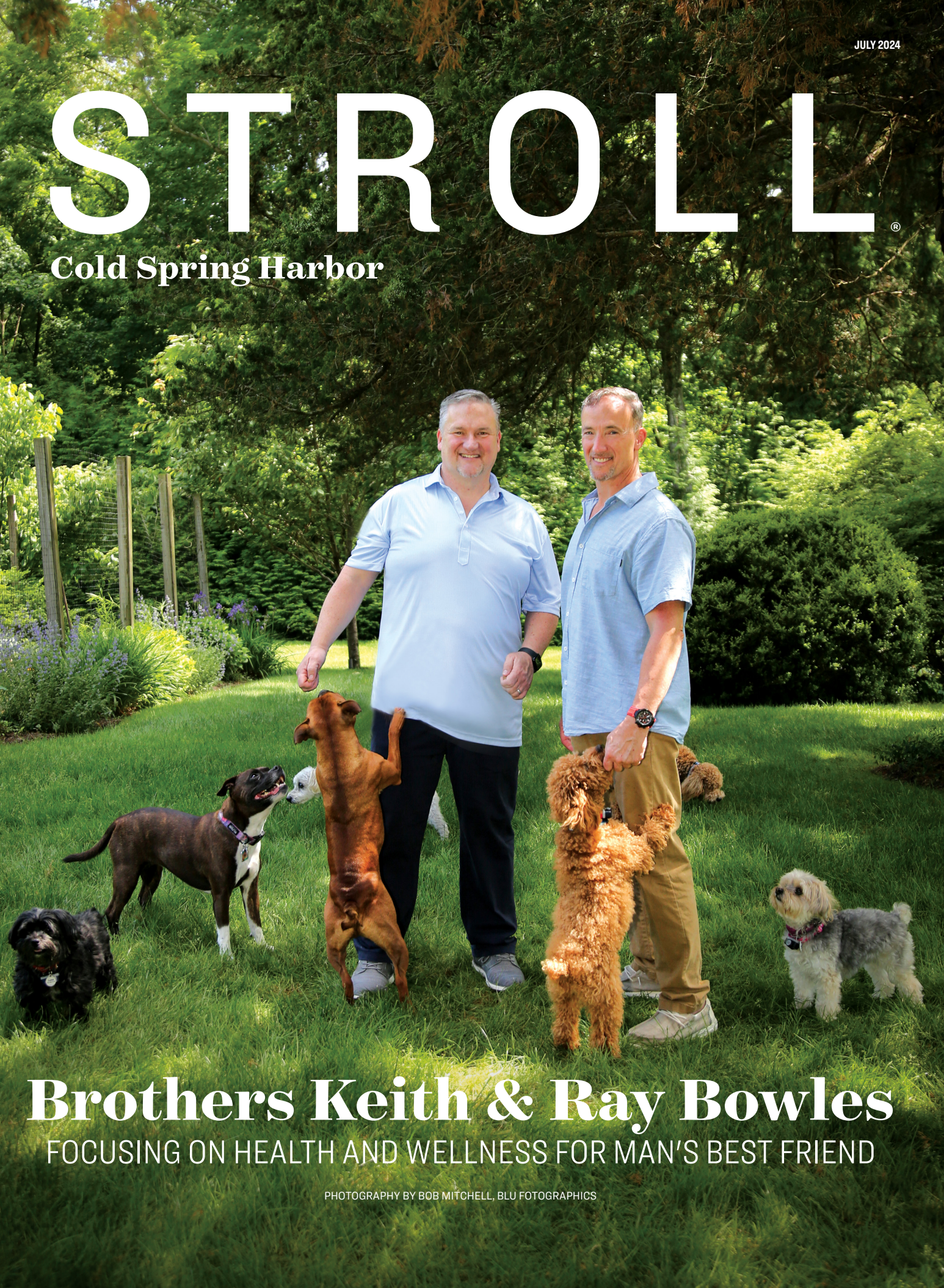


# STROLL®

Cold Spring Harbor



## Brothers Keith & Ray Bowles

FOCUSING ON HEALTH AND WELLNESS FOR MAN'S BEST FRIEND

# Brothers Keith and Ray Bowles *Celebrate* MAN'S BEST FRIEND

SUBMITTED BY ELLEN MOORE WITH KEITH BOWLES



“Man’s best friend” is a common phrase used to describe domestic dogs, referring to their multi-millennia history of close relations, loyalty, friendship and companionship with humans (Wikipedia). Pablo Neruda, the renowned Chilean poet penned it best, “Wherever I went, he followed me. He moved away from the firelight like a shadow, I sat and leaned against him and he loved me.”

It is safe to say that there are not many people who understand the sentiment or the relationship between people and dogs better than brothers Keith and Ray Bowles.

Keith Bowles grew up in Farmingdale, the youngest of three

children, with brother Ray, and sister Lisa. They always had a dog in the family. Keith and his wife Jen were friends for many years before they started dating and they married in 1997.

After living in Huntington for 10 years, the Bowles family moved to Cold Spring Harbor in 2008 so their first born, Liam, could start kindergarten. Liam is now 21, Colin is 18, and their youngest, Jack, is 15. They have enjoyed living in Cold Spring Harbor ever since.

Living on a picturesque parcel on Goose Hill Road, you can find Keith enjoying the company of his family, including six furry, four-legged members: Lucy, Teddy, Luna, Mocha,

Igor, Tony, and remembering their beloved Stella, their first fur-baby who started it all, and sadly passed away last fall. Among his extended family, Keith is not a lone lover of dogs. Ray and his family have one dog, Peach, and two grand-dogs, Bailey and Axel, who spend a great deal of time at their “grandparents” house. The Bowles’ parents live nearby in Huntington with their dog, Oliver, and Keith’s and Ray’s sister who lives in North Carolina, has two dogs, Rocky and Hank. Keith added delightedly, “we might be described as dog crazy!”

Ray, who lives with his family in his childhood hometown of Farmingdale,

## COVER STORY



is a Doctor of Chiropractic in practice for over 30 years. Always with an eye on health and well being for all, Ray is a firm believer in raw or minimally

processed food for dogs to live a long and healthy life. After putting his Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Peach, on a raw diet over 5 years ago, Ray saw immediate changes, such as her shinier coat, improved muscle tone, reduced allergies, more energy, and just overall improvement in health and vitality.

With a canine lineage such as this, it is not surprising that Keith and Ray developed a vision to open a dog-focused business in Cold Spring Harbor Village. In June, their vision came to fruition with the opening of Raw by Design, located at 117 Main St, Lower Level.

The focus of Raw by Design is centered around dogs' health and well-being. Keith explained, "we believe dogs were meant to eat raw." He further expanded, "Dogs are carnivores and should eat a diet of predominantly meat because their bodies crave protein and they need to eat raw

muscle, organs, fatty tissue, and bones. Research shows that the typical dried kibble is mass produced and is cooked at high temperatures, which destroys the vitamin, mineral, and enzyme content that a dog needs for maximum health and therefore, provides little nutritional value for dogs."

Keith went on to say, "our family has been feeding our dogs raw food for many years and have seen first-hand the health benefits, and with zero or minimal processing, a raw food diet provides all the nutritional benefits and none of the byproducts that are harmful to your dog's health."

The benefits include a healthier, shinier coat, pearly white teeth, lean muscle mass, improved weight management and digestion with less waste; everything you would expect from a species-appropriate diet without fillers and highly processed ingredients. Keith stated, "at Raw by Design, we want to share this information with all the dog lovers in Cold Spring Harbor and beyond."

Keith and Ray decided on Cold Spring Harbor Village for their business location because they know firsthand that the Village is a vibrant, walkable community that is extremely dog friendly. They feel

the decision was an easy one based on the many friendly and welcoming opportunities the Village has to offer. Besides stocking varieties of natural dog food, natural dog treats, and dog paraphernalia, the brothers plan to include a beautiful and safe courtyard where people can bring their dogs and browse the store. They also plan to incorporate several events using the outdoor space. They see the area as a perfect place for organizing and supporting adoption events for shelter and rescue groups, hosting birthday parties to remember for pups and their friends, and scheduling group training sessions with a certified dog trainer, which they know from experience will be a well-attended feature.

Displaying such hands-on experience and knowledge, it is easy to understand why the mission of Raw by Design is the belief that every dog should eat a species-appropriate diet. Ultimately, healthy dogs are happy dogs!



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Siblings Ray, Keith, and Lisa, circa 1976.



Jen and Keith (center), with Ray and his wife Janine (right), and the Bowles brothers parents, Cathy and Ray (left)



Jen, Keith, Ray, and Janine Bowles