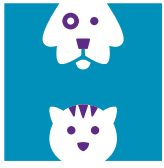


# WHISKERS



CONNECTING FRIENDS FOR LIFE

FALL 2014

## IN THIS ISSUE

PET OBESITY

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:  
BILL MERRILL

SUCCESS STORY: CORY

WHERE IS DELILAH NOW?

ACCC & SAHS

FROM SA TO SWITZERLAND:  
DIEGO'S STORY

FIESTA HAS GONE TO THE DOGS!

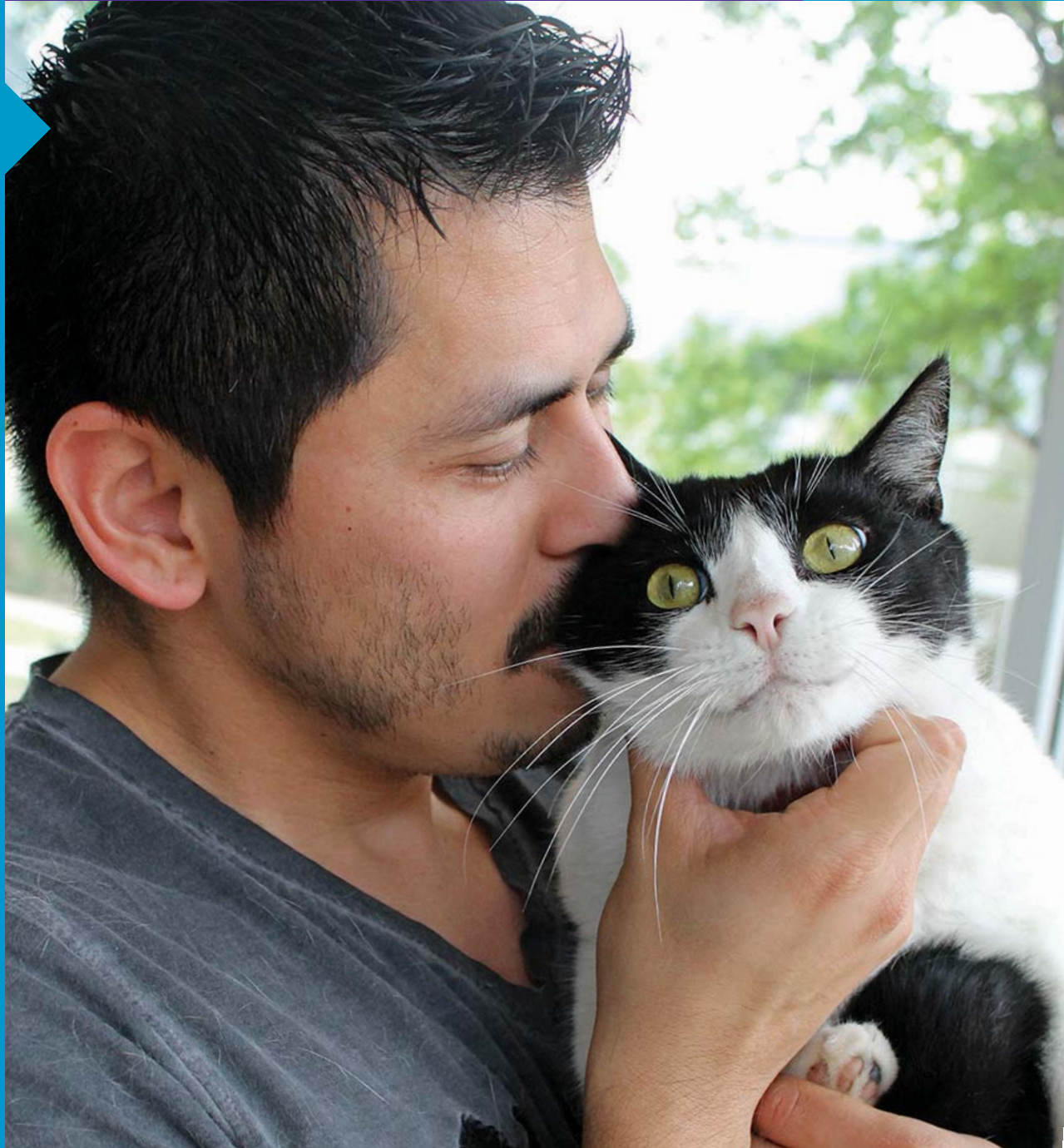
DOG TRAINING

REMEMBERING ROYAL DUNCAN

## PLUS:

ADOPTION, VOLUNTEER,  
& FOSTER INFO

UPCOMING EVENTS



TAKE A BRIEF LOOK INTO THE SAN ANTONIO HUMANE SOCIETY IN THIS EDITION OF OUR WHISKERS NEWSLETTER. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO HELP US IN CONNECTING FRIENDS FOR LIFE BY DONATING, VOLUNTEERING, OR FOSTERING! IF YOU'D LIKE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE SAHS, MAKE SURE TO VISIT SAHUMANE.ORG AND UNDER THE ABOUT US TAB, YOU WILL FIND OUR PAST AND MOST RECENT ANNUAL REPORT. ENJOY!



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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO NANCY F. MAY



Dear Friends,

I hope you are all having as great of a year as we are at the San Antonio Humane Society. As 2014 comes to an end, I am pleased to reflect below on some wonderful accomplishments we experienced at the SAHS in the recent months.

For the very first time in San Antonio, the SAHS and hundreds of non-profits participated in The Big Give S.A., a 24-hour day of giving. We would like to thank those who supported the SAHS on this historic day by donating a total of 332 gifts, resulting in \$14,270 raised for our pets. How amazing is that?!

Also, thanks to funding provided by PetSmart Charities®, we were able to spay/neuter 300 public pets for only \$20 each this past June and August through *Precious Not Parents* and *Primp Your Pit*. It is vital for us to offer these services to the San Antonio community in order to decrease the city's pet overpopulation problem.

One way of educating and informing our community of such issues is through Humane Education. This summer welcomed 5 sessions of Camp Humane at the SAHS, where we educated 188 individuals ranging from 5 to 16 years of age. Our Humane Educator and 13 presenters shared age appropriate information regarding pet responsibility, spay/neuter efforts and various wildlife matters. These camps are fundamental, as they are designed to foster a special appreciation for animals.

We also kicked off our annual giving campaign with our "Diamonds in the Ruff" luncheon, which brought in nearly \$150,000. This is essential to the San Antonio Humane Society because as we continue to grow and accept more pets into our care, our financial needs increase as well. The average cost per pet awaiting adoption at the SAHS is \$545; this includes adoption preparation and general pet care. Please consider us in your year-end giving, as your pledges and gifts will help us reach our goals for 2014. Your generosity towards our mission to shelter and care for thousands of pets each year is greatly appreciated!

A big thank you to our Board of Directors, donors, staff, volunteers, foster families, and others for continuing to support the San Antonio Humane Society!

Yours sincerely,

*Nancy F. May*

## THE SAHS IS ON SOCIAL MEDIA?!

Stay in the loop with the SAHS, our adoptable pets, upcoming events, success stories, etc. on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Pinterest! View our amazing and uplifting videos on YouTube and read our Connecting Friends For Life blog on Tumblr!



# CATCHING UP

## WITH DR. COURTNEY H. BRIDGEMAN



Obesity is as much a problem for the pets across America as it is for Americans themselves. According to the Association for Pet Obesity Prevention more than half of all dogs and cats in the United States are overweight with numbers approaching 20% considered truly obese. Obesity is defined as the buildup of adipose (fat) tissue within the body including interior body cavities. Most veterinarians measure your pet on a body condition score that uses either 5 or 9 points. On the 9 point system, 5 is considered ideal, 6-8 overweight, and 8+ obese.

### **Q: What's the appropriate amount to feed my pet?**

A: First, it's important to know that the biggest single factor for obesity is high calorie intake. Many owners unrealistically believe that their pet can self-feed (called free-feeding) reasonably. In general, this is simply not true. Most pets have as hard a time free-feeding as people do. Even pets who successfully "free-feed" are often a body condition score of 6 or 7 rather than the ideal 5. The reason for this is simple. As carnivores in the wild, canines and felines never know when their next meal will be caught. Therefore, their instincts tell them to eat as much as possible of what they do succeed in catching and gorge themselves. Even though our pets have existed with us for centuries, this instinct is still present within them. Abundance is just not part of their make-up.

An average sized dog should be eating between 1 ½-2 cups of food per day. An average sized cat should be eating around ½ cup of food per day. Even so, all pets are unique and you should always get your vet's opinion on what amount of food is good for your pet and stick to it!

### **Q: Is it ok to feed my pet scraps and treats?**

A: No. Not only is this a dramatic increase in calorie intake but also a good way to cause stomach upset, diarrhea, or even a potentially fatal gastroenteritis (called Garbage Gut in the ER circle). There are plenty of people who pride themselves on the fact that they don't give table scraps of any kind, feed a well-rationed meal and yet their pet is still overweight. Why? Treats may be to blame!

Suggestion: If you have a routine of training and treating your dog and weight is a concern, use your dog's food as its treat! Instead of putting the food in a bowl, carry the food around with you in a baggie. Anytime you would give the dog a treat, give them a piece of their food instead!

### **Q: How much exercise does my pet need?**

A: Finding exercise that a cat will do can be a real herculean challenge! Cats are cats and once they decide they aren't "in the mood", it's almost impossible to convince them otherwise. Laser pointers, feather flicks, and other such active toys are great ways to teach young cats how to exercise and keep them fit longer. An animal who spends all its time behind the same four walls (whether those walls are a home or a fence) is NOT successfully exercising its mind nor, in most cases, its body. Get your dog, regardless of size, out of its four walls and into the world for at LEAST 30 minutes a day. An hour would be better. Consider it a GREAT excuse to get your exercise as well!

For more information about all things pet, visit [SAhumane.org](http://SAhumane.org)!

# Volunteer Spotlight:

## Bill Merrill



Bill Merrill became a volunteer at the San Antonio Humane Society in early 2012. He is semi-retired and wanted to do something useful with his available time, so he decided to volunteer. Since he loves dogs, the SAHS was a natural fit. While Bill usually assists in cleaning the adult dog kennels, he has also helped our staff by walking hundreds of dogs and bathing several dozen. Bill has made an amazing impression on the SAHS, which is why we approached him about assisting with our Volunteer For A Day program. He takes on this role with integrity and a ton of passion towards the SAHS pets.

When asked what he finds rewarding about volunteering, Bill replied, *The staff and rescued animals are wonderful, and it's a great feeling knowing I'm part of a very worthwhile cause that's giving a forever home to these fabulous four-legged companions! It's also great meeting and working with other volunteers. When people find out that I volunteer at the SAHS, they often tell me they could never do it, that it would be too hard seeing all the animals--'I'd want to adopt every one of them!' Well, I did end up adopting one amazing pooch, Cory, but I could easily have adopted several more that I really came to love as I got to know them. It's enough for me to know that the dogs and cats are so much better off at the shelter than they were before (usually as strays or surrendered by owners), and I know the SAHS does such a fantastic job matching thousands of dogs and cats with the right humans for them.*

With more than 1,000 hours logged, Bill has impacted so many human and dog lives since becoming a volunteer and we are forever grateful for his support.

## SUCCESS STORY: CORY

"Cory is an 8 year old German Shepherd mix. He adopted me when he was 6 years old, after we got to know each other at the San Antonio Humane Society over a few weeks while I was volunteering. I took him for several walks, and each time he was very friendly and let me know in every way but words that he would love to go home with me! Since then we have had two super-swell years together, and he has become good pals with my other dog, Waffles the Yellow Lab (also a rescue dog). He is so nice, and also a very handsome fellow, with the softest fur coat.

From Cory, I have learned a bunch of things, and here are two of them. First, it helps to visit with a dog more than once before you make the decision to adopt. While Cory was friendly right from the very beginning, as I got to know him better, I knew that adopting him was going to work out great! Second, adopting an older dog is a really good thing. Cory was already housebroken, socialized, and remains active while still being pretty laid-back. He likes to play with humans and with Waffles, but he's also content to just hang out. A relaxed older dog like Cory would be an excellent match for a single person who works all day and doesn't want to worry about what the dog is up to while they're away."

*-Bill Merrill*





Delilah at the SAHS in December 2013

# DELILAH

## WHERE IS SHE NOW?

Delilah was transferred to the San Antonio Humane Society from Animal Care Services last November. This beautiful Retriever mix entered the shelter with many open wounds and appeared to have sustained some trauma to her right abdomen, right hind limb, right forelimb, and forehead. After receiving treatment for her wounds at the SAHS, Delilah was as good as new! During her time at the shelter, many members of the SAHS fell in love with this canine cutie. We were curious to see how Delilah has been doing since being adopted. So we contacted her loving owner, Lora, to see how Delilah has adjusted to life in her forever home!



Delilah and Lora

We are so happy to hear that Delilah has been nothing but happy since being adopted. Delilah's past struggles are far behind her and this sweet girl is doing very well with her new family. Lora was excited to let us know that "Delilah is affectionate and sweet, and she loves us as much as we love her! She gets along well with our new kitten, and sleeps with me at night. Delilah's wounds have healed completely, and she has a complete range of motion, enjoying walks on a leash, and running and jumping freely in the yard. Delilah is a delight in every way except for when she digs in the garden! From the moment we saw Delilah's face on your web-page, my child knew intuitively that she was the right dog for our family, and that instinct was absolutely correct! We couldn't be more pleased with her and we enjoy her cuddly company every day."

We loved hearing Delilah described as the "perfect match" for Lora's family! Thank you so much for sharing Delilah's story with us!

# ACCC & SAHS

The SAHS was beyond excited to partner with the Alamo City Comic Con this past September! Leading up to the ACCC, we found homes for more than 40 pets during our "Be Their Hero!" adoption special where those dressed in a costume would receive half off their adoption fee. The following weekend, the SAHS staff, volunteers, and our SUPER dog mascot, Eddie, met tons of animal lovers at the ACCC and passed out "\$5 off adoption fee" vouchers to those interested in adopting a new companion. Thank you to the ACCC for letting us participate!





Diego before



Diego after 3 weeks  
in foster care

# From San Antonio to Switzerland Diego Impacts the World!

In mid-August, Diego, a 2 ½ year old Airedale Terrier and Rottweiler mix, was found in front of the SAHS covered in motor oil. Since then, he has spent his time in a foster home where he has received several medicated baths to treat Sarcoptic Mange. In September, Diego had his right eye removed, due to pre-existing ailments, and he received his neuter surgery. He continues to improve every day and his foster family cannot brag enough about how smart, active, and funny he is.

We have been astounded by the amount of people worldwide who were truly touched by Diego's story. Such individuals, including those from Hong Kong, South Africa, and many other nations, felt inclined to comment and share his story on social media, some donated supplies to help care for him, and others took another approach by donating more than \$3,000 in his honor. The SAHS appreciates everyone's gratitude and we ask you to keep visiting SAhumane.org for continued updates on sweet Diego!

# FIESTA *has gone to the dogs!*

We are proud to announce that the San Antonio Humane Society's El Rey Fido fundraising competition is an official Fiesta® event!

What is Fiesta® and why is it important to the SAHS? Fiesta® began in 1891 and is an annual celebration of the diverse heritage, culture and spirit of San Antonio. The SAHS is honored to be a part of Fiesta® as it is known as the "Party With a Purpose". By offering numerous fun and educational events, Fiesta® impacts our city with more than \$284 million.

If you think your canine companion is the king or queen of your castle, starting on October 27th, you can enter your pooch into the El Rey Fido 2015 competition, where all of the funds raised benefit the SAHS pets. The winners will reign as ambassadors for the SAHS throughout the year at numerous media appearances and events. They will also have their very own personalized Grr-robos thanks to Cheryl Trevor, and professional photos taken by Renee Spade Photography. Visit SAhumane.org for more details to come.

Keep a lookout for our 2015 ERF t-shirts and medals and mark your calendars for the ERF Coronation at the Grand Hyatt San Antonio on Saturday, April 18, 2015, as we will crown El Rey Fido XIII and announce his/her Royal Court.  
Viva El Rey Fido! Viva Fiesta®!



Renee Spade Photography



## Meet our Animal Behavior Program Supervisor, **Kevin “Big Dawg” Glowski**

### **Training Tip:**

When joining a group class, you should look for how many dogs are in the class. Large classes of 9 or more dogs make it very hard for you to get individualized help. Checking the class curriculum is vital to ensure your issues will be addressed. Be sure the class covers the commands you are looking for; always get at least 2 vet references for a dog trainer.

At the San Antonio Humane Society, our goal is to find loving homes for all of our adoptable pets. Not knowing exactly what their backgrounds entail, it is imperative for us to learn about their personalities and temperaments, in order to place them in the best home possible. When it comes to our adult dogs, this is where Kevin “Big Dawg” Glowski, will continue making an impact at the SAHS. He has not only committed several years to dog training but he has also spent many hours as a SAHS volunteer. Kevin is now taking on the role as our new Animal Behavior Program Supervisor and has recently stated, “Training is important for several reasons and should not be taken lightly. By training your dog you establish communication and respect between dog and owner. Training helps to mentally stimulate them; combined with daily exercise, your dog will be well-adjusted and a much happier dog!”

To help our staff improve their skills on assisting our adoptable dogs, Kevin is showing them handling and obedience techniques. He is also working with our volunteers by creating an enrichment team that helps them teach our pups better manners by using positive reward methods. Kevin is pleased to share, “To date we have worked with several dogs; helping a few get adopted much quicker by teaching them polite leash walking and basic commands that help with [impulsive] issues.” We are looking forward to what’s to come!

## *Duke of the Ever-Present Fire Hydrant* **DUNCAN HAVELKA**

We are saddened to share that Duncan, our reigning Duke of the Ever-Present Fire Hydrant, passed away in September. He was not only a big, handsome, and loving Great Dane, but also a goofy guy with a heart of gold. Named after Tim Duncan from the San Antonio Spurs, Duncan was known as a gentle giant who played a vital role in helping to raise more than \$16,000 for the San Antonio Humane Society’s pets. We’d like to thank the Havelka family for giving us the opportunity to know the Royal Duncan.



# ADOPTIONS

- Open from noon to 7pm every day except major holidays.
- Regular adoption fees range from \$30 to \$99.
- All pets adopted from the San Antonio Humane Society have been spayed or neutered and received their first set of vaccinations, de-wormer, and flea prevention. Cats are tested for FIV/FELV and dogs receive heartworm prevention. Both dogs and cats come with a microchip, 14 days free vet care for VCA hospitals, 30 days of free pet insurance\*, a bag of Hill's Science Diet food, and a collar with a personalized tag. (\*some restrictions apply)

# VOLUNTEER

- Visit SAhumane.org/volunteer for orientation dates.
- Email orientation@SAhumane.org to reserve your spot for orientation.
- A volunteer orientation and follow up meeting are mandatory for each individual prior to volunteering.
- An orientation fee is required (per person) which covers a volunteer T-shirt or apron, badge, and insurance coverage while volunteering.
- Individuals 12-15 years of age are referred to as Junior Volunteers and must have a parent/adult (18 years of age or older) volunteer with them at all times and those 16 years of age and older can volunteer on their own.
- Volunteer hours are 8am-7pm, every day except major holidays.

# FOSTER

- Think you're ready to be a foster parent? Contact our Foster Care Coordinator at 210.226.7461 ext. 120 or foster@SAhumane.org
- Visit SAhumane.org/foster to download a foster application.
- We provide everything you will need to foster our dogs or cats; all you need to provide is a loving, temporary home, until they are ready to be adopted!



The SAHS feeds our pets Science Diet pet foods.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## PAWS ON THE PATIO

**When:** October 27, 4-8pm

**Where:** Canyon Cafe, 255 E. Basse Rd. - Alamo Quarry Market

**What:** Dine with your dog on the Canyon Cafe patio and enter your pup in the most prestigious costume contest of the season! All doggie dinner and photo contest proceeds benefit the SAHS pets.

## THANKSGIVING

**November 27, the San Antonio Humane Society will be closed to the public.**

## DOG DAYS OF WINTER

**When:** December 6-7, 9am-5pm

**Where:** San Antonio Botanical Gardens

**What:** Stroll the garden with your four-legged friend! Regular admission plus \$5 donation per dog benefit participating SA shelters.

## CHRISTMAS EVE

**December 24, the San Antonio Humane Society will close at 4pm.**

## CHRISTMAS DAY

**December 25, the San Antonio Humane Society will be closed to the public.**

## NEW YEARS EVE

**December 31, the San Antonio Humane Society will close at 4pm.**

## NEW YEARS DAY

**January 1, the San Antonio Humane Society will be closed to the public.**

**Visit SAhumane.org for info on all of our upcoming events.**

