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SUSHIMA, ADOPTED 10/1/13

MEET OUR COVER CAT, SUSHIMA! SUSHIMA IS GRACING OUR COVER AS AN ADVOCATE FOR SPAYING AND NEUTERING AS WE APPROACH THE SPRING TIME; A PARTICULARLY KITTEN-HEAVY TIME OF THE YEAR. PETSMART CHARITIES® IS SPONSORING A SPAY SURGERY SPECIAL FOR FEMALE CATS OF ALL AGES THIS FEBRUARY TO HELP CUT BACK ON THE UNEXPECTED LITTERS OF KITTENS. "BEAT THE HEAT" IS A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TO GET FEMALE CATS SPAYED FOR ONLY \$20. CALL 210.424.7595 OR VISIT SAHUMANE.ORG/SPAYNEUTER TO SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT AND FIND OUT ABOUT FUTURE SPAY AND NEUTER SPECIALS!

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO NANCY F. MAY



Dear Friends,

Wow, what a year! 2013 was full of excitement and continued success at the San Antonio Humane Society. One of the best ways to illustrate the year is through numbers. These statistics from 2013 give a snapshot of the hard work and dedication that goes into saving the homeless pets of the San Antonio community:

- 97.6% live release rate
- Collectively, over 9,000 spay and neuter surgeries
- Nearly 5,000 adoptions
- Over 600 pets cared for by our foster families
- 955 active volunteers performed nearly 18,000 hours of service
- Over 3,500 children participated in our education programs

These accomplishments would not have happened if it were not for some key people at this organization. Our **donors** make our operations possible. Caring for the homeless pets of San Antonio is an expensive task, and we rely heavily on our local donors. We want to thank each and every one of you. Our **volunteers** provide support year-round. From cleaning kennels to walking dogs, we could not do what we do without their valuable contributions. Our **foster families** essentially ushered those pets into their new forever homes. Finally, our **staff** are the backbone of our organization. Our staff works with the pets day in and day out; we are truly lucky to have each and every one of them!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Board of Directors. Their dedication to this organization has been amazing. We are sad to say goodbye to the following members who have concluded their service as board members: Lindsay Martin, Elizabeth Netting, and Natalie Rongonui. We appreciate everything you have done for the organization and wish you the best. We are excited to welcome the following new members: Richard Braune, Terry Brechtel, Jonathan Gurwitz, Jill Jackson-Chavis, and Deborah Jones. Get ready to work with a hard-charging group of board members and employees!

Be on the lookout. There are some exciting things ahead including adoption and surgery specials. Also, El Rey Fido is already up and running, but it is not too late to sign up. We are looking forward to our partnerships in 2014.

Yours sincerely,

Nancy F. May

GIVING CIRCLE

Our Giving Circle is a way for donors to make a five year pledge starting at \$1,000 per year for 5 years. Pledges such as these make it possible for us to help homeless pets find loving homes. As a Giving Circle Member, you will be invited to various functions throughout the year where you can see firsthand how your generous gift is being put to work and benefitting the many dogs and cats that make their way through our doors.

If you are interested in joining our Giving Circle, contact Lorena Rangel at lrangel@SAhumane.org or 210.424.7604.



CATCHING UP

WITH DR. COURTNEY H. BRIDGEMAN



This year, PetSmart Charities® has funded 4 spay/neuter initiatives. Be sure to mark your calendar if your pet needs to be fixed; this is a great opportunity to cut back on unwanted litters as well as benefit the health of your pet. There are many myths out in the world that talk about the many benefits of leaving your animals intact well into maturity. Here is what Dr. Bridgeman has to say about the benefits of early spay and neuter!

Myth: My pet needs/wants to experience motherhood.

Reality: While we as humans sometimes feel the ache to become a mother, there is no evidence that animals ever experience this desire. Motherhood is hard on the body and can even be deadly in a worst case scenario. There are no medical studies that show that any benefit comes from experiencing a pregnancy.

Myth: My pet needs its hormones to achieve their full height/growth potential.

Reality: While in males it is true that certain hormonal characteristics (large jaw, extreme muscling) require testosterone at levels achieved at maturity, no other physical characteristics require these hormones. Height and end size are genetic characteristics and are more fully influenced by nutrition.

Myth: There are no benefits to spaying/neutering early.

Reality: This is simply not true! There are many reasons why early spaying/neutering is beneficial to your pet. Here are just a few: no accidental litters while waiting for your pet to mature (pets can become pregnant as early as 4 months); less roaming or marking behaviors; helps prevent cancers such as prostate, mammary, and ovarian; and spaying/neutering your pet can enhance its lifespan by up to 2 years.

Mark your calendars! Here are the dates for the PetSmart Charities® spay/neuter initiatives:

January: "Happy Neuter Year" - neuter surgery for all male dogs and cats

February: "Beat the Heat" - spay surgery for all female cats

June: "Precious, Not Parents" - spay/neuter surgery for all puppies and kittens 2-6 months

August: "Pimp Your Pit" - spay/neuter surgery for all Pit Bulls

Each surgery is only \$20 and includes a rabies vaccine and nail trim.

To learn more about the benefits of spaying and neutering, visit SAhumane.org/spayneuter.

SPRING CAMP HUMANE

What could be better than a week off from school? A week off from school AND spending time with our shelter pets, of course! This Spring Break, bring your kids to the SAHS for an exciting week-long camp devoted to learning all about animals.

During camp, kids will experience fascinating demonstrations from animal experts, spend hands-on quality time with our shelter pets, and learn about the importance of humane living and respecting all animals through fun crafts, games, and humane education lessons.

Spring Camp Humane is March 10-14 for all animal-loving 8-11 year-olds. The cost is \$150 per child. Camp is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; however, to accommodate working parents, we offer extended care from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for an additional \$50.

Registration is now open at SAhumane.org/education. Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, so don't delay - register today!





How YOU Make A Difference: **BRADLEY**

There are many ways to make a difference in the lives of the dogs and cats that we care for at the San Antonio Humane Society. The first thought that comes to mind is money. As much as we love (and need) the financial support, there are so many other ways to have an impact. We have a wish list on our website with lots of different items that we always use such as towels, blankets, and chew toys. We have people who volunteer their time here at the shelter or by fostering a pet in their own home. Sometimes we also need help spreading the word.

Bradley is the perfect example of how you can help the San Antonio Humane Society through social media. In mid-October, a dog was found in San Antonio with a badly mangled leg and tail. A Good Samaritan named Janice found Bradley and immediately took action. Anyone who has a vet knows that unexpected trips can be a bit pricey, especially when the visit is not even for your own pet. Janice went to social media to ask for help. This turned into a flurry of shares and tweets garnering support. There were tweets all over Texas, and the country. Social media talked about this dog as far away as Alaska! Eventually, word made it to the San Antonio Humane Society about Bradley and his condition. Like Janice, we took immediate action. As soon as Bradley arrived at the shelter, he was prepped for surgery. Bradley may have lost a leg in the process, but he gained a lot of fans and a new family. Brandon, a San Antonio area firefighter, helped Janice during Bradley's rescue and fell in love. Bradley loves his new life with Brandon, Nina, and his Pit Bull sister, Lola.

While we can only imagine the pain and suffering Bradley experienced, one thing we know for sure is that we probably would not have had the chance to meet this inspirational guy if it weren't for the help from people like you spreading the word.

Save the Date
**MUST
LOVE
PETS**

Looking For Love in the City?

Join us for mixing and mingling at Bar Rojo in the Grand Hyatt San Antonio on February 6 from 5-7 PM. You and your dog will enjoy a night with drink specials, trivia & prizes, a Valentine photo booth, and complimentary sushi and parking!

Behind the Scenes Tour

Join us the first Wednesday of every month at 12noon or the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 6pm for a behind the scenes tour of SA Humane.

You'll hear stories from our staff, learn the ins and outs of the shelter, and meet our many pets.

RSVP to Graziella Medina at 210.226.7461 ext. 103 or email gmedina@SAhumane.org.



Who
Will Be

KING?



It seems that everyone's dog is royalty in their own home, why not make them royalty of the entire city? The competition is pretty simple to win: the dog who raises the most money will be crowned El Rey Fido. The next four dogs will be named to the court as well. Visit SAhumane.org/ERF to register.

Some important things to remember about the competition:

- Your dog must be spayed or neutered
- Your dog must be current on his/her rabies vaccine
- Your dog must have a current license with the City of San Antonio
- Your dog must be 6 months of age or older by the fundraising deadline (March 13th)
- Visit SAhumane.org/ERF for a full set of rules

Also, this year we have an exciting new addition to the El Rey Fido competition. Patrick McDonnell, artist of the world-renowned Mutts comic, will be giving away a custom sketch of the winner of the ERF competition!

The Grand Hyatt will be graciously hosting the royal coronation on April 5th just in time to kick off Fiesta. We appreciate the generous support of the Grand Hyatt, Furry Tail Fashion, Renee Spade Photography, Patrick McDonnell, and VCA Hospitals.

So what are you waiting for? Go online and sign up your pooch!

Volunteer Spotlight:

Melinda the Great!

Melinda Chandler began volunteering in January of 2012 and after chatting with her, it is obvious how much her volunteer experiences have changed her life. Even from a young age, she was saving shelter pups, as her family adopted a number of wonderful companions over the years.

Melinda graciously helps at our events, in our ever so popular puppy room and has assisted in getting many puppies and dogs adopted! In fact, Melinda's heart was stolen on Super Bowl Sunday this past February when she adopted a sweet boy named Sunny from our puppy room. In her own words, "I just have to say that my decision to be a volunteer has been one of the best decisions of my life! I LOVE BEING THERE!!! The Puppy Palace is my favorite place to be!! Helping unite a new baby with a new home fills my soul with happiness."

Like many, Melinda began volunteering because of her love of animals. She looks forward to every weekend because she gets to spend time with our adoptable puppies and dogs and also with other people just like her, the wonderful animal loving SAHS staff. She feels very welcomed by our staff and loves the positive energy here at the shelter. In fact Melinda reflects back before she became a volunteer, "When I came in to visit the facility and considered volunteering, I felt like I was home."

We are truly blessed to have Melinda on our Volunteer Team and we hope that her story and inspiring words will encourage many others to volunteer, adopt, or even donate to the SAHS in support of our mission!



PAWS ON THE PATIO

We would like to thank everyone for making this year's Paws on the Patio such a success! We had about 200 dogs dressed in some very impressive costumes at the event who enjoyed dining with their owners. We all enjoyed the live performances by Nathaniel Hughes, Frontage, Sandoz, Los Crazy Bats, and Festus & Mackenzie. In the end, we raised more than \$12,500, which we could not have done without the support of our sponsors: Canyon Cafe, Dahill, Mission Veterinary Specialists, Aetna, Petco, Pawsitively Sweet Bakery, Teacup Tutu Charm, Regal Cinemas, the San Antonio Botanical Gardens, Furkids Art, Starbucks, Amy's Ice Cream, Petango, Trader Joe's, James Avery, and Sports Clips.



SUCCESS STORIES

"This is Rori! My husband and I adopted her in May of this year. We were a bit worried bringing a physically handicapped dog into a home with 3 other dogs (Rori is missing one of her back legs), but Rori has fit in wonderfully! She is ALWAYS happy (I swear she has a smile on her face at all times) and she is full of so much love and energy!! I am amazed by how fast she runs and how well she maneuvers, even with "only" three legs. Rori has truly become a member of our family and we are so thankful that we decided to adopt her. Thank you for helping make our family complete."

- Stephanie



"One year ago, my husband and I adopted Inez. We had just moved into a rental property that would allow pets. FINALLY! We didn't have a couch yet but we knew we NEEDED a dog immediately.

We walk in, unbeknownst to us that 2012 Pawdoptahon was even going on, and started looking around. We stumbled upon Opal. She was just taking a nap while all the other dogs were barking. We asked if we could play with her and it felt like a match. We returned her and walked around a little more. We wanted to go back to her almost immediately. We walked her one more time. It was official. She was the one.

We renamed her Inez and when we brought her home, she was perfect minus a bit of separation anxiety. It didn't take long to reassure her that we would always come back.

Now we come home everyday to a smile and a high five. She's taken up a career as a professional shedder. Her side job is Director of Squeak Toys. She has a slight addiction to belly rubs but we enable it. I can easily say she's our best friend. Our daily ray of sunshine. We thank our lucky stars every night for finding her and being able to spend every day together! Thanks SA Humane Society for bringing us together!"

- Jennifer

**GET YOUR
FEMALE CAT
FIXED**

SPECIAL DEAL FOR FEBRUARY ONLY

In collaboration with
PETSMART
Charities.
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ADOPTIONS

- Open from noon to 7pm every day except major holidays.
- Regular adoption fees range from \$30 to \$99.
- All animals 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 from 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 volunteer@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

HAPPY NEUTER YEAR

When: Month of January

Where: San Antonio Humane Society, 4804 Fredericksburg Rd.

What: \$20 neuter surgery for all male dogs and cats

DOG ADOPTION SPECIAL

When: January 25 & 26, 12-7 PM

Where: San Antonio Humane Society, 4804 Fredericksburg Rd.

What: All dogs 26lbs and over will have a special adoption fee of \$25

BEAT THE HEAT

When: Month of February

Where: San Antonio Humane Society, 4804 Fredericksburg Rd.

What: \$20 spay surgery for all female cats

MUST LOVE PETS

When: February 6, 5-7 PM

Where: Grand Hyatt San Antonio, 600 E. Market St.

What: An evening of mixing and mingling with your pooch. Complete with trivia, a photo booth, drink specials, and complimentary sushi and parking!

PAW OUT MS!

When: March 1

Where: AT&T Center, 1 AT&T Center Parkway

What: SAHS Pet Adoption and Paw Out MS 1 mile and 5k walks.

SPRING CAMP HUMANE

When: March 10-14, 9 AM - 3 PM

Where: San Antonio Humane Society, 4804 Fredericksburg Rd.

What: A week long day camp for kids ages 8-11 who are wild about animals!

EL REY FIDO FUNDRAISING DEADLINE

When: March 13, 5 PM

Where: San Antonio Humane Society, 4804 Fredericksburg Rd.

What: All money raised needs to be submitted online or dropped off at the shelter no later than 5 PM.

EL REY FIDO CORONATION

When: April 5, 10 AM

Where: Grand Hyatt San Antonio, 600 E. Market St.

What: Party with El Rey Fido 2014 as he/she is crowned top dog of the city and enjoy a canine-friendly fiesta.

HEARTWORM POSITIVE DOG ADOPTION SPECIAL

When: April 12 & 13, 12-7 PM

Where: San Antonio Humane Society, 4804 Fredericksburg Rd.

What: All dogs who have been diagnosed as heartworm positive will have a special adoption fee of \$25.

EASTER

April 20, the San Antonio Humane Society will be closed to the public.

Want more info on any of our upcoming events? Visit SAhumane.org.