

# WHISKERS



CONNECTING FRIENDS FOR LIFE

SUMMER 2013

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GABE, AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION

MEET OUR COVER CAT, GABE! GABE IS A FRIENDLY AND ENERGETIC GUY WHO LOVES TO BE THE CENTER OF ATTENTION. HE LOVES TO PLAY AND GO EXPLORING, AS LONG AS A FRIEND IS CLOSE BY HIS SIDE. GABE IS ALSO ONE OF THE MANY SAHS SHELTER PETS FEATURED IN OUR 2012 ANNUAL REPORT, SO YOU COULD SAY HE'S KIND OF A STAR! A COPY OF THE 2012 SAHS ANNUAL REPORT IS NOW AVAILABLE AT OUR SHELTER OR ONLINE AT SAHUMANE.ORG. WE ARE VERY PROUD OF OUR MANY SUCCESSES IN 2012 AND ARE EXCITED TO SHARE THEM WITH YOU.





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



Dear Friends,

In our second quarter, we've had many of new developments around the shelter that I'm very excited about: our partnership with Texas Dogs & Cats Magazine, the 'Did You Know' Campaign sponsored by PetSmart Charities®, new partnerships with Valero and Southwest Airlines, and the list goes on and on! As you've probably noticed over the years, there is never a dull moment here at the San Antonio Humane Society and we wouldn't have it any other way!

On May 7th we had a blast celebrating the launch of San Antonio's newest magazine, Texas Dogs & Cats. Available for free at most HEBs, Walgreens, Whole Foods, and many other pet friendly places, this is a great monthly publication for San Antonians who are crazy about their pets. We also have an exclusive partnership with Texas Dogs & Cats magazine, so you'll see a lot of friendly SAHS faces popping up as contributing writers.

In June, we ran a 'Did You Know' campaign funded by PetSmart Charities®. We spread the word that puppies and kittens can become pregnant with their first litter at as early as 4 months old and encouraged pet owners to spay/neuter their pets early. We offered \$20 spay/neuter surgeries to puppies and kittens under 6 months old and helped many families care for their pets and prevent unwanted litters. Thank you PetSmart Charities® for enabling us to do more for our community!

This quarter we also developed new friendships and partnerships with two great companies, Valero and Southwest Airlines. We had a great time with both groups who came out to the shelter to volunteer for a day. It is amazing to be part of something that is bigger than ourselves and having such wonderful partners reminds us that we are not alone in helping San Antonio's homeless pets.

Finally, I would like to announce that our 2012 Annual Report is now available! You can pick up a copy at our shelter or view the report in its entirety at SAhumane.org. As always, thank you for your continued support of the San Antonio Humane Society and all of the homeless pets we serve; it is because of people like you that we are able to continue our mission.

Yours sincerely,  
**Nancy F. May**

# HUMANE FRIENDS 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 animals 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 Pat Good at [pgood@SAhumane.org](mailto:pgood@SAhumane.org) or 210.424.7604.*



# WHAT'S NEW WITH CAMP HUMANE

This summer our campers have had opportunities to meet some really amazing animals, from dogs and cats to snakes and porcupines, and learn all about them. To enrich each camp experience, we've invited animal organizations from across the city, like Sea World and Zoomagination, to join us and teach about their field of expertise. Each camp presents its own unique opportunity for animal interaction, community service, fun games, and tons of active learning for our young animal enthusiasts. We hope your future campers are excited to learn about the animal world with us!



## CATCHING UP

WITH DR. COURTNEY H. BRIDGEMAN



As every dedicated pet owner knows, when you choose to bring a pet into your family that decision is a lifelong commitment. In the cases of dogs and cats, our pets have far shorter life spans than our own, so at some point you will probably find yourself taking care of an aging or elderly pet. Dogs and cats have different needs in their youth than they do in their twilight years, so what are some considerations you may need to make for your pet as he/she ages? Dr. Courtney H. Bridgeman has the answers!

**Q: How will my pet's mobility be affected as he/she ages?**

A: Arthritis, hip dysplasia, knee and joint issues, as well as major nerve issues can all impair your pet's ability to get around as he/she ages. Cats may not be able to jump into places they once loved to perch and dogs may be unable to get on the bed, walk the block, or get in and out of the car. Assisting your pet by gently lifting their hind quarters or bodies is a blessing you can provide. Remember, never lift or assist a pet by the skin, collar, or tail.

**Q: How will my pet's diet and exercise routine change with age?**

A: It can be very hard to get your older pet up and moving. Excess weight can begin to creep up on them as they age. Exercise and a good diet are important in maintaining their health as obesity can be a contributing factor to metabolic and organ disease and joint pain. Talk to your veterinarian about what is safe for your pet.

**Q: I've heard house soiling can be an issue for older pets, what can I do?**

A: Unfortunately issues like senility and incontinence may make a pet who has been perfectly potty trained for years begin soiling the home. Accidents outside of litter boxes, at the front door, or in their bed can become more frequent as the pet ages. The best thing you can do is be patient; your pet simply may not be able to hold it as long as he/she used to. In many cases, the pet is as embarrassed by these issues as the owner is frustrated.

For answers to additional questions about vet visits, medications, and end of life decisions, visit [SAhumane.org](http://SAhumane.org).



# CONGRATULATIONS MILLIE, EL REY FIDO XI!

In our annual El Rey Fido fundraiser, an owner and their dog companion team up to raise money for the care and shelter of our San Antonio Humane Society pets. Congratulations to El Rey Fido XI, Millie; Prince of the Perpetual Food Bowl, Ziggy; Duchess of the Indestructible Chew Toy, Amara; Duke of the Ever-Present Fire Hydrant, Skylar and Knight of the Royal Court, Blue. Thank you all for your valiant fundraising efforts for our San Antonio Humane Society pets!

A special thank you to our 2012 El Rey Fido sponsors and contributors: Grand Hyatt San Antonio, Renee Spade Photography, our official Mistress of the Grr-Robes Cheryl Trevor, Danzavida de San Antonio Dance Company, PSAV Audio, Science Diet, and VCA Animal Hospitals.



## SAN ANTONIO'S PREMIER PET MAGAZINE TEXAS DOGS & CATS

The San Antonio Humane Society and the new Texas Dogs & Cats magazine have teamed up to bring you a wonderful monthly publication that is all about pets! Pick up your free copy at your local HEB, Walgreens, or Whole Foods. Be sure to check out monthly articles by featured SAHS staff.

*SAHS shelter dog Juno was featured in the TD&C June wedding issue. Doesn't he look positively dashing in his bow tie?*

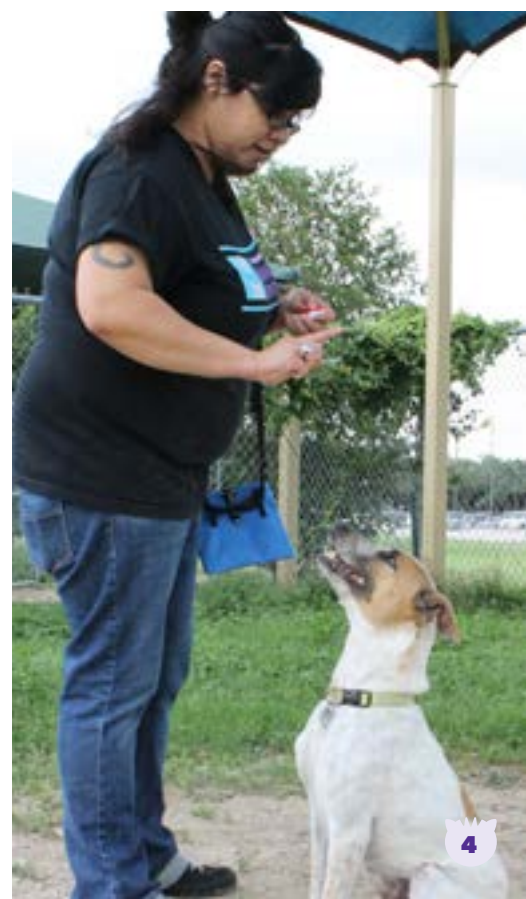
# Allow us to introduce our new **PET ENRICHMENT PROGRAM**

Dogs and cats have complex social lives and need entertainment and affection as much as human beings. This fact is often overlooked in a shelter environment. Every day, staff and volunteers work hard just to provide for pets' basic needs such as a clean place to sleep and fresh food and water. Though many enjoy this labor of love, they just don't have enough time for extended visits with the pets and what is often considered the "extras." The "extras" are things like long walks or sitting on a lap for half an hour.

The pets at the San Antonio Humane Society are extremely lucky because we have staff and volunteers dedicated to not only meeting their basic needs, but also to those extras. One thing they know better than most is that it is important to keep our furry friends engaged and entertained while they are in our care. These individuals make up the Pet Enrichment Team. Christina Salinas, Animal Health Technician and longtime SAHS employee, is the team leader. Every week she makes time around her normal duties to create and research new and innovative ways that we can engage with our orphaned pets. She uses the help of volunteers and staff to make pup-cicles (frozen beef broth with kibble inside, great for those long hot afternoons) or to take cats out and simply hold them in their laps. These are not the only activities that her team provides. They also give the pets time off leash in our shaded exercise pens, grooming, obedience training, and play groups where dogs get to spend time with other dogs. These activities engage the pets' minds and hearts, letting them know that they are truly cared for in their temporary home.



Christina works with Simba, one of our long-term residents.





*Sesame with his new mom, Teresa*

# UPDATE SESAME: THE SURGERY REPORTED 'ROUND THE WORLD

We're sure you've heard of him by now, the famous Sesame: a two-year old Shar-Pei mix who was transferred from Animal Care Services to the San Antonio Humane Society in February of 2013. Sesame became famous for a different kind of surgery, that's right, a doggie face lift. And, it wasn't long before his story was heard 'round the world. Sesame had little to no vision, as well as infections in his ears, all because of his excessive wrinkles.

After two months of surgery and treatments, Sesame was adopted by a woman who fell in love after seeing him on the evening news. Teresa, who had experience with the Shar-Pei breed, was immediately taken by Sesame and his story. She had rescued two Shar-Peis before Sesame, Emily and Lazarus, who had been her love, pride, and joy. Teresa says, "As hard as it was going through losing them, I still loved the breed, but could never buy one from a breeder." When Teresa called the SAHS, she was surprised he had not been adopted, but that just sealed the deal that they were meant to be together. It was a perfect match: Teresa says, "I fell in love with his sweet face the moment I saw him."



*Sesame before & after surgery*



Three months later Teresa was happy to report that Sesame is thriving. While his vision is still not great, given his circumstances, he is a lot better off than he was five months ago. Teresa says Sesame's limited vision seems to have no impact on his love for life, he is a "boisterous, fun, happy, and healthy guy." Teresa ended her update by noting that she and Sesame are as happy as can be and she hopes they have many, many wonderful years together to come.

# SUCCESS STORIES

On October 17, 2007, I went to the San Antonio Humane Society because I had heard about their 'Wacky Cat Wednesdays' promotion - an adoption promotion lowering the adoption fee for adult and senior cats - and wanted to check out the available cats. I immediately fell in love with a 7 year old snowshoe Siamese named Harley (we later renamed Harvey) and after filling out adoption paperwork, he was headed home with me!

Over the past several years Harvey has brought much joy and laughter into our home, but last September his behavior drastically changed. We knew something was wrong and immediately took him to our veterinarian who diagnosed him with diabetes. The vet broke the news to us, telling us treatment would be very expensive and time consuming. Harvey had given us so much that we were willing to make sacrifices to give him a fighting chance. Harvey pulled through and his blood sugar is now stable and maintained with daily insulin injections and prescription food. I am also proud to announce that Harvey celebrated his 13th birthday with us on February 18, 2013! Thank you for all that you do, giving wonderful, older pets like Harvey another chance at life!



## Tia

*Have a success story to share? Email your happy tale and a photo to [pgood@SAhumane.org](mailto:pgood@SAhumane.org)!*



When I first went to the San Antonio Humane Society, my roommate and I were looking for a puppy, but I had an instinct to go visit with the cats. When we got to the kitty cottage, they were almost all adopted, except Jean. They told me she was feeling a little cranky, but I still had to see her. When she first got in the room she went to the corner, but as soon as I picked her up she relaxed and started purring and I knew I had to have her! This kitty has brought so many good things to my life and improved my college life so much. She's just too cute! Nowadays she is really playful and nosy and is happy just to curl up in a ball next to us watching TV, but loves to sit on people's faces! I never thought I would love this little animal so much. Thank you for putting her in our lives!

## Jessica & Brenda

# 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 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 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!

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## MONDAY'S MUTTS

**When:** Every Monday in June, July, & August

**Where:** San Antonio Humane Society, 4804 Fredericksburg Rd

**What:** Every Monday this summer, all dogs over 25lbs are \$25!

## 4TH OF JULY

**The San Antonio Humane Society will be closed to the public.**

## DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

**When:** August 3-4

**Where:** SA Botanical Gardens, 555 Funston Place

**What:** In addition to Garden admission, a \$5 cash admission will be required per dog. Proceeds from this canine contribution will be donated to the co-partners of the Dog Days event, including the San Antonio Humane Society!

## LABOR DAY

**September 2, the San Antonio Humane Society will be closed to the public.**

## PAWS ON THE PATIO

**When:** October 28

**Where:** Canyon Cafe in the Quarry Market

**What:** It's time to start planning coordinating costumes for you and your pooch; our annual Paws on the Patio event is just around the corner! Stay tuned for more info on how you can dine with your dog and be part of the best canine costume contest in town!

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



The SAHS feeds our pets Science Diet pet foods.