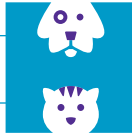


SAN ANTONIO HUMANE SOCIETY

WHISKERS

FALL



2015

Giant Commitment
for a Giant Breed

Remembering Oz

Paws on the Patio

Finding Rover App

Humane Heroes

El Rey Fido XIV

Changing Lives:
SAHS Internship

Success Story: Molly!



CONNECTING FRIENDS FOR LIFE

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

Nancy F. Najim

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that we are already into October. While 2015 has been an incredible year we are not finished yet. We have Paws on the Patio right around the corner, and then it will be time for you to sign up your dog to compete to be El Rey Fido for 2016.

I was recently honored as a recipient of one of the San Antonio Business Journal's Women's Leadership Awards. While I was truly flattered, I have to take this opportunity to explain that my ability to lead is a reflection of the organization. I firmly believe the San Antonio Humane Society is a leader in the animal welfare industry in San Antonio and in the San Antonio nonprofit world. We would not be such a strong organization if it were not for the hard work of our staff, volunteers, and board.



To add to it, our organization is primarily made up of strong, compassionate women. While we are fortunate to have the men we do on our staff, the San Antonio Business Journal revisited an important conversation. Over the course of my professional life, women have had an increasingly impactful role in the workforce. The San Antonio Humane Society is truly a reflection of that growth. The contributions and dedication of the excellent women at our shelter allow us to be one of the best nonprofits in town, as we truly protect and improve the lives of dogs and cats in our area. I could not do my job without the commitment of **everyone** in our organization.

On behalf of the SAHS, I would also like to congratulate the City of San Antonio's Animal Care Services for their announcement of nearing a no-kill status. While this is a reflection of their hard work and the contributions across the entire city, we now need to put more effort into the stray dogs and cats in San Antonio. With well over 100,000 strays roaming the streets of San Antonio, we still have a lot of work to do.

We take pride in our ability to not only serve the dogs and cats of our community, but also in our ability to serve the people of our community. The people of San Antonio keep us running with generous donations, we are glad to be able to give back.

Warm Regards,

Nancy F. Najim

P.S. Don't forget, we do not receive funding from the Humane Society of the United States. Giving locally means your dollars help a local problem.

CATCHING UP WITH CHIEF VETERINARIAN

Dr. Courtney H. Bridgeman



COMMITTING TO GIANT BREED DOGS

The remarkable variety of dog shapes and sizes means that finding the perfect fido physique to fit each individual taste is relatively easy! The hard part is making sure that you understand what you are getting yourself into. Giant breed ownership is a topic that is near and dear to my heart having owned two Great Danes, an Irish Wolfhound mix, and now a Mastiff mix. "Giant breed" is defined differently depending on who you talk to, but my rule of thumb is that a dog who weighs 75 pounds or more as an adult is a giant breed.

What I never understood before taking these gentle giants home was why young adult Great Danes would end up in a shelter with the label "they got too big." You know they will get big, why are you surprised? Is that not why you took them home in the first place, because you wanted a BIG dog?

In reality, it was not the actual size of the dog that made surrendering them to a shelter necessary; it was the size of their upkeep. That's not to say that giant breed ownership is any more difficult than teacup ownership, just different in design. Here are some tips:

- Be prepared for giant sized messes. It seems elementary that big dogs make a big mess, but it's true and something to consider if you are an apartment dweller. Giant sized poo, pee, and drool come with the territory.
- Giant sized kennels. Kennel training takes a HUGE amount of space, but is probably as important if not MORE important than with smaller dogs. Big puppies eat BIG things, not just slippers and your homework, but recliners and doors!
- Giant breeds can come with giant vet bills. Big bodies can bring big issues with everything from arthritis and hip dysplasia, to bloat, and more. It is very important to look up what ailments are common in any breed you plan to take home.
- Giant breeds do NOT come with giant life spans. The bigger they are, the shorter their life expectancy. This is a big reason most enthusiasts of the giant breeds choose not to take them home. Whereas a 45-60 lb average dog can expect 12-15 years, the giant breeds will do well to reach between 10-12 years, and 8-10 years is largely considered the norm for Mastiffs and Irish Wolfhounds. Be prepared to love them large for the short time you have them.

REMEMBER ROYALTY

Oz May-Dennis

We are saddened to share that another member of our El Rey Fido family has passed away at the age of 16. Oz May-Dennis, a dashing Yorkshire Terrier mix, reigned as our Knight of the Royal Court during the 2010 El Rey Fido fundraising competition. Thank you Oz for the lasting impression you made on the homeless pets of San Antonio.



WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AWARD

Nancy F. Najim



Congratulations to our President/CEO, Nancy F. Najim, for receiving a very well deserved 2015 Women's Leadership Award from the San Antonio Business Journal. In August, she was recognized and featured in an issue of the Business Journal for her incredible passion and commitment to the SAHS.

PAWS ON THE PATIO



SAVE THE DATE
OCTOBER 26, 2015
4-8PM @ CANYON CAFE

All contest & doggie dinner proceeds go to the SAHS



NEW APP, FINDING ROVER

Lost Dogs Found

A runaway or missing pet can be one of the most distressing times experienced by a pet-owner. But San Antonio residents can now take advantage of an innovative new app, Finding Rover, to help find their missing pooches. After registering with the app, owners are able to submit their dog's photo with the help of a "bark button" to assist in taking front-facing portraits. With the picture saved to the app's database, neighbors and shelters are able to help reunite distraught owners to their missing family members. The app is currently utilized by the City of San Antonio Animal Care Services and was recently launched at the San Antonio Humane Society.

When a dog is found, app users take their own front-facing photo of the lost pet and the app is able to do a facial recognition search to find a match. Once a match is found, the owner's contact information appears on screen. Although the app does not serve as a substitute for microchipping, it can stand as another solution between a lost and found pet. The app is free to use and its website boasts a significant number of reunion stories across the nation. Although the current version of the app is specifically for lost dogs, Finding Rover is currently in the process of developing a version for our feline friends.

HUMANE HEROES

The Value of Our Volunteers



Volunteers make up a powerful force — one with the potential to make the world a better place by creating healthier, happier, and more connected communities. They are conduits to the community at large. Volunteers can be spokespeople, serve as community focus groups, or liaisons to other organizations with which they volunteer or work.

When it comes to fundraising efforts, sometimes this aspect of an organization can take on a life of its own, and agencies may move to hire additional staff to spearhead it. However, instead of hiring, we have turned to our volunteers for help. Without these folks, we would need to hire a huge development staff, driving up the cost of fundraising and forcing us to cut back on the very reason for our existence – our mission! Volunteers, working alongside staff, can bring immeasurable momentum to any fundraising effort and they are the lifeblood of our development operation – after all, they are our best advocates! Their involvement in fundraising not only provides the community's endorsement of our cause, but also signals others to follow their lead – and that creates ripple effects.

They have the ability to influence retention and the upward movement of donors more than anyone else and they are also in a unique position to ask others to donate for several reasons:

1. They aren't paid to participate
2. They have a real commitment to our mission
3. They have already made a significant contribution themselves
4. They are dedicated to taking time from their everyday lives to contribute

Thank you to our dedicated and hardworking volunteer fundraisers for all you do - your support means the world to us and EVERYTHING to the abandoned, injured, and homeless pets we are able to save because of you!

If you would like to join the SAHS in our fundraising efforts or to become a Development Committee or Board Member, contact our Director of Development, Traci Gomez at tbgomez@sahumane.org.

EL REY FIDO XIV

Is Your Dog Royal?

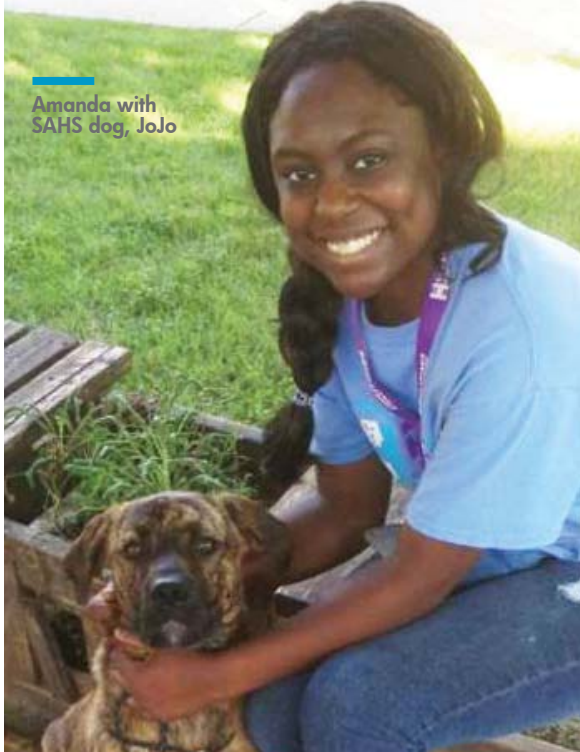
Is your family graced by a Royal canine? Well, beginning on Monday, October 26, 2015, your special pooch can join our 2016 El Rey Fido fundraising competition! What better way to demonstrate how magnificent and noble your companion is by raising funds for pets at the SA Humane Society. This competition also provides a chance to partake in the "El Rey Fido In The City Tour", which consists of our 14th annual El Rey Fido Coronation, an official Fiesta® event, and many other events, including media appearances.

Visit SAhumane.org/ERF for all the details!



ANIMAL BEHAVIOR PROGRAM INTERNSHIP

Changing Lives at the SAHS



Amanda with
SAHS dog, JoJo

This year the SAHS introduced a new internship program that will allow us to continue to further enrich the lives of the animals in our care. Over the years, we have offered countless internships through our Communication, Surgery, and Clinic departments. This summer, we were excited to offer a new program allowing interns to gain experience specifically pertaining to animal behavior, through our Animal Behavior department. We were delighted to have our first student participate in the program, Amanda Anderson.

Amanda was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. After graduating from Health Careers High School in 2015, she decided to attend the University of New England. She currently double majors in Neuroscience and Animal Behavior, in hopes of becoming a Veterinarian or Animal Behaviorist. Amanda had an interest in neuroscience at an early age; however it was an experience while volunteering at the SAHS earlier during high school that encouraged her to expand her studies to include animal behavior. Initially, one of Amanda's primary goals was to gain some insights that would enable her to establish a program back at college allowing students to bring their dogs into the dorms. To her delight, she received even more than that.

Over the summer, Amanda dedicated more than 200 internship hours where she enriched the lives of our animals and provided a helping hand to our staff. Her internship certainly produced great results. This summer, the SAHS was able to work extensively with nearly 50 dogs, many of whom had behavioral issues that significantly minimized their chances of getting adopted. Of which, more than half of these dogs have since been adopted! The experiences that Amanda has gained over the summer have proved invaluable. "This experience has taught me to be adaptable and has helped me to establish a good foundation for my future," says Amanda. "It has really helped me see the practical value of learning about animal behavior working directly with the animal's versus reading about it in a textbook."

Amanda's hard work has had significant impact on the lives of many animals at the SAHS and is greatly appreciated by our entire staff. We are grateful that Amanda decided to intern with us throughout the summer. She will be returning back to school for her junior year this fall and we wish her the best in her future endeavors.

If you are interested in an Animal Behavior Internship, contact Joe Gonzalez, our Animal Behavior Program Supervisor, at training@SAhumane.org for more information.

We are proud recipients of the
San Antonio Area Foundation

Pet Rock Award!

We will eagerly continue our efforts to
impact the San Antonio community.



WHERE IS SHE NOW? Oldie But Goodie, Molly



Molly at the SAHS

There is nothing better than to see our adoptable pets find their forever home, but for one precious girl, her story impacted a great deal of us. Molly, an 8 year old Shepherd mix, resided at the SAHS for 8 months and 2 days before she was adopted. During this time, we all got to know and love Miss Molly. Her kind soul and adorable face touched many and even landed her a few special features on a local TV station, KENS 5 – she even inspired a story that covered the benefits of adopting senior pets or as we like to call them Oldies But Goodies. Molly also had a social media following, as she was the star of her very own video. In fact, in late March, this video became the beginning of her new journey, as her mom, Elizabeth Torres, recalls:

“ I first saw Molly on the SAHS website. When I first opened the page I noticed she had a video and clicked on it. I was hooked on Molly after that video; I could see the kindness in her eyes. When my husband and I went to see her that same day, we looked into her window and she was asleep. When I said, “Oh look, there she is!” Molly quickly got up from her bed and went straight to the window for us to take her out. It was destiny!!!!

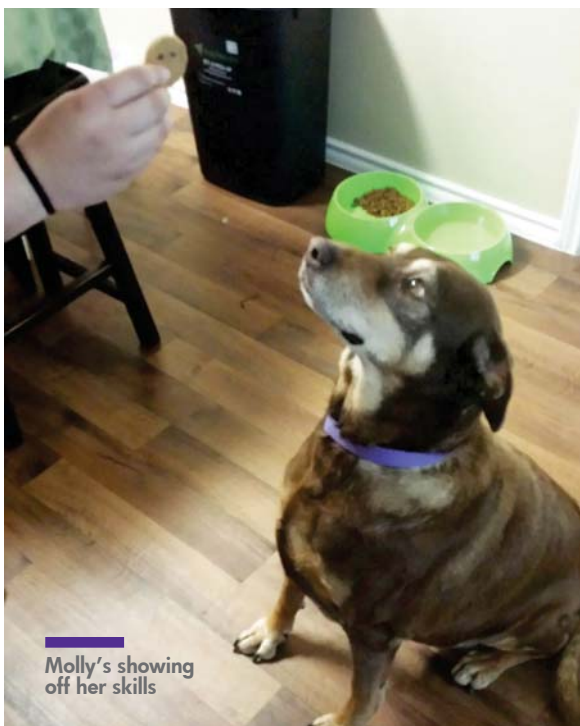
Molly has changed my life so much for the better. Molly has given me so much happiness. It seems as though Molly has been a part of my life since the beginning. I love the fact that Molly acts like a big sister to my Chihuahua Nani! Nani is a bit of a drama queen so when I tell Molly to get Nani to stop barking or behave, Molly will quickly go to Nani and nudge her on her behind or give a little howl at her!! It's so fun to watch!! Molly and Nani get along very well!! They share a bowl, go outside together, and sleep on each other's beds!!

One funny story about Molly is when we took her to Petco, we were going around the food section looking for her food and Molly was looking at all kinds of toys and bones and other animals that she got super excited to be there and every time we walked by something she would grab it and put it close to my hand for me to put in the basket!! When the employees saw this, they laughed and enjoyed it so much they gave Molly a BIG treat!! Molly was super happy she couldn't even stop shaking her tail!!

Since Molly is an older dog (9 years old) there are some things she can't do and having me help her is such a good feeling knowing that I am able to give her a comfortable life. Adopting animals at the shelter is something everyone should consider doing. There are so many beautiful loving animals there that need a home that, in my opinion, are some of the best dogs out there. My family has definitely grown since Molly has come into our lives and I honestly believe that we were meant to have each other. So people of San Antonio please visit the SAHS and change your lives for the better with a simple adoption of your new family member!! God Bless! Hugs and kisses from Molly & Nani!!”



Molly's car ride home



Molly's showing off her skills

ADOPTIONS

- Open from noon to 7pm every day except most 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 Program Supervisor 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!

UPCOMING EVENTS

BARK FOR LIFE

When: October 17, 10am - 1pm

Where: Madison Square Park, 400 Lexington Ave.

What: The American Cancer Society walk event for dogs and their owners. Meet SAHS staff and volunteers and see some of our adoptable dogs show off their tricks.

PAWS ON THE PATIO

When: October 26, 4-8pm

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

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

THANKSGIVING DAY

November 26, the SAHS will be closed to the public.

DOG DAYS OF WINTER

When: December 5-6

Where: San Antonio Botanical Gardens

What: Stroll the garden with your pup! Regular admission plus \$5 donation per dog benefiting participating SA shelters.

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, the SAHS will close at 4pm.

CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25, the SAHS will be closed to the public.

NEW YEARS EVE

December 31, the SAHS will close at 4pm.

NEW YEARS DAY

January 1, the SAHS will be closed to the public.

Visit SAhumane.org/events for info on all upcoming events.



The SAHS feeds our pets
Science Diet pet foods.