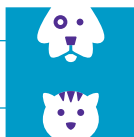


SAN ANTONIO HUMANE SOCIETY

WHISKERS

SUMMER



2015

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

Nancy F. Najim

Dear Friends,

With 2015 in full swing, we are seeing great things both in the present and as we look into the future. With the continued support of our community, we are positioning ourselves for some tremendous success not only for 2015, but for years to come.

El Rey Fido was such a grand way to kick off the year. 2015 marked the first year the El Rey Fido Coronation was recognized as an official Fiesta® event. We had a wonderful turnout along with excellent performances by the dancers of the Danzavida De San Antonio Dance Company. We appreciate the Grand Hyatt San Antonio for hosting us again. The assistance of our wonderful volunteers made the event possible. I would be remiss if I did not thank our contestants. Together they raised more than \$88,000! The funds go directly to the pets we care for here in San Antonio.



To keep our first official Fiesta® experience a running success, Suburban Spaces selected the San Antonio Humane Society to be the beneficiary of their annual event, Project Fiesta. The event raised more than \$12,000! In addition to the event contributing so much to the dogs and cats at our shelter, it was a lot of fun, with food, drinks, a parade, and a silent auction.

Our Big Give S.A. experience also made quite a splash this year. We set our sights on raising \$15,000 and closed out with more than \$38,500! We are always happy to exceed our goals, but this was quite impressive. I am truly touched by the San Antonio community. You made a statement, loud and clear, that you have the pets of San Antonio in your hearts.

With the community supporting us so strongly, we are in an exciting position to look at capacity expansion. As we speak, I am working with my team to begin conversations with architects. We have a lot of possibilities to consider, but they all end in the same result: protecting and improving the lives of dogs and cats.

Stay in touch to learn more about upcoming events and further developments as we continue through this exciting year. The only way we can continue connecting friends for life is with your support. We are a local organization counting on the local community to be able to do our work. We do not send money to the Humane Society of the United States, nor do they send us any money. When your donations come here, they stay here.

Thank you always,

Nancy F. Najim

CATCHING UP WITH CHIEF VETERINARIAN

Dr. Courtney H. Bridgeman



AYE CHIHUAHUA!

Depending on your area of the country, your idea of “the average dog” changes. In some places, dogs like Labs and German Shepherds are the most popular. This will color the dogs in the local shelter with lots of crosses whose heritage resemble those breeds. One of San Antonio’s most popular dog breeds is tiny in stature, the Chihuahua. This is easily supported by visiting any of the city’s many shelters and private rescues.

Due to their diminutive size, the Chihuahua has a singular medical issue worth mentioning that makes them susceptible to a problem that is very easily preventable. That issue is a medical condition called dystocia. Dystocia occurs when a puppy becomes trapped in the birth canal during the birthing process. This can happen even when the father is also a Chihuahua, but it’s even more frequent when the father is another larger breed. Dystocia, if not recognized or taken care of quickly, can lead to illness and or death, of not only the puppies, but also the mom herself. Pregnancy in any small breeds, but especially the Chihuahua, is particularly scary for this reason. Because dogs rarely choose the convenience of daytime to give birth, the sizable fee of a C-section is compounded by the necessity of taking the mother to an emergency room.

So what is the answer? We already noted above that the condition is readily preventable, but how? The only sure way to prevent dystocia is by preventing the pregnancy in the first place. Spaying or neutering Chihuahuas at or before puberty not only prevents the possibility of losing your beloved dog to the trauma of dystocia, but also prevents the addition of puppies to San Antonio’s pet overpopulation issues. This June, the San Antonio Humane Society is offering the Cherish Your Chihuahua campaign, in which Chihuahuas can be spayed or neutered for only \$20 (see below).



Get Your Chihuahua Fixed for only \$20

INCLUDES FREE NAIL TRIM!
AUGUST ONLY

In collaboration with
PETSMART
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petsmartcharities.org

LIMITED AVAILABILITY
Call (210) 424-7595

DO THE HEALTHY THING FOR YOUR CHIHUAHUA



THE BIG GIVE S.A. Thank You!



We appreciate all who donated, matched, and helped spread the word about supporting the SAHS during The Big Give S.A. on Tuesday, May 5. This year the 24-hour day of giving expanded to nearly 900 non-profit organizations and as a result of everyone's generosity, more than \$38,500 was raised for our pets! Thank you all so much!

PROJECT FIESTA Backyard BBQ



This Fiesta® was definitely not one to forget for the SAHS! We celebrated our 13th annual El Rey Fido Coronation becoming an official Fiesta® event on Saturday, April 18 and we were honored to be the beneficiary for Project Fiesta on Sunday, April 19. This event was definitely a party with a purpose, as tons of individuals welcomed us and supported our mission, by donating and purchasing "Be Calm & Fiesta On" t-shirts to help our SAHS pets. We had an amazing time and would like to thank everyone involved!



THE TRUTH ABOUT DONATING Locally vs. Nationally

True or false? My local humane society is directly supported by a larger "parent" national entity.

False.

In fact, local humane societies and SPCAs, like the San Antonio Humane Society (SAHS), are independent entities and are not run by organizations like the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) and the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).

Just a few lines of Sarah McLachlan's "In the Arms of An Angel" is likely enough to prompt images in your mind of the now iconic video showing heartbreaking images of abused and neglected animals in cages. The commercial utilizes a compelling backdrop as a plea for donations and positions the ASPCA as one of the nation's largest animal advocacy groups, but does not reveal that the ASPCA is not directly affiliated with any of the thousands of local shelters across the country. These national organizations primarily serve as legislative advocacy groups and as resources for training, evaluations, publications, and other professional services.

How can I make sure that I am helping San Antonio animals in need? Local animal shelters, like the San Antonio Humane Society, are huge assets to the communities in which they serve – to human residents and, of course, to the animals. Many donors intending to support pets in their hometown are misguided by national advertising and their donations do not stay rooted at home.

San Antonio consistently ranks head and shoulders over other cities in the nation when it comes to charitable giving. San Antonio also has one of the country's largest stray dog and cat populations, with more than 100,000 homeless pets roaming our streets today. Therefore, with financial support from our local community, we can continue to fight to reduce incidences of neglect, abandonment, homelessness, and death for thousands of pets in our city.

GET TO KNOW El Rey Fido XIII & the Royal Court



El Rey Fido XIII, Ruby



Princess of the Perpetual Food Bowl, Ethel



Duke of the Indestructible Chew Toy, Bellin



Duchess of the Ever Present Fire Hydrant, Arleigh



Knight of the Royal Court, Dakota

Photographs by
Renee & Spade
PHOTOGRAPHY

The 2015 El Rey Fido fundraising competition was a spectacular success. Raising more than \$88,000, the fourteen dogs entered did a fantastic job at promoting the rescue efforts of the San Antonio Humane Society. The top 5, Ruby, Ethel, Bellin, Arleigh, and Dakota, shined as they were celebrated at this year's El Rey Fido Coronation, which, for the first time, was an official Fiesta® event.

This year's Royal Court is made up of 5 very different faces of rescue. Each with a very different story to tell of a life gone wrong and a second chance fulfilled. Individually they are incredible; together they are truly royal. The Court and their wonderful owners became instant friends and shared in countless memories during their "El Rey Fido In The City" tour around San Antonio.

In one of the cutest displays of affection towards each other, on the night of the Texas Cavalier's River Parade, each of the dogs could readily be found snuggling in the lap of another owner. Causing laughter and cheer, as they all became one extended rescue family. The San Antonio Humane Society is proud to present the self-styled "Royal Court of Second Chances":

EL REY FIDO XIII – QUEEN RUBY

Ruby was rescued off of death row by Tommy Kinder and was his constant companion until Tommy passed away from Lou Gehrig's disease. Ruby was then taken in by Tommy's sister, Dina Cole, and together they keep Tommy's love alive.

PRINCESS OF THE PERPETUAL FOOD BOWL – ETHEL

Ethel was rescued off the streets by Max Golman in 2005. The adoptive sister of Lucy (El Rey Fido IX), Ethel continues the amazing "give-back" legacy of Lucy's Doggy Day Care & Spa to the local animals in need of a second chance.

DUKE OF THE INDESTRUCTIBLE CHEW TOY – BELLIN

Bellin came from a cruelty seizure in May of 2011. Rescued by Kassia Kubena, M.D., from a lifetime of horrible physical abuse, Bellin rebounded to become a registered Pet Partners therapy dog. He now works with the unfortunate children of the San Antonio Children's Shelter and Methodist Children's Hospital.

DUCHESS OF THE EVER PRESENT FIRE HYDRANT – ARLEIGH

Adopted by Heather Green in 2008, Arleigh is a proud alumna of the San Antonio Humane Society and is returning to support those who helped her achieve her second chance. With a lovely singing voice, Arleigh charms everyone she meets.

KNIGHT OF THE ROYAL COURT – DAKOTA

Found on the streets as a 4 month old puppy by Leroy Alloway, Dakota's life was in peril before it ever got started. Dubbed as the social coordinator of the court, Dakota can always be found having fun and being in the center of attention.

Written by Bellin's dad, Steve Fontenot

DOG TRAINING WITH ANIMAL BEHAVIOR PROGRAM SUPERVISOR

Joe Gonzalez



Jumping, pulling, chewing, barking, these are some of the most common dog behaviors that we all are no doubt familiar with. Although at times these behaviors can be portrayed as cute, playful, and funny. More times than not, they're usually uncalled for, stressful, and uninvited. Perhaps you have found yourself commanding your own dog many times to "sit," "down," "off," and "stay." With very little to no response. Do you find yourself wondering why your dog doesn't listen to you or why they seem to misbehave more times than not? Or, more importantly, have you ever wondered how you can teach your dog to become more obedient, calm, and well-behaved whether at home or around other people?

The San Antonio Humane Society offers a training program that can help you train your dog to be more obedient, calm, and well-mannered at home, as well as out in public. We offer a variety of training courses to help you successfully train your dog no matter their age!

Our Little Learners course addresses the most common unwanted puppy issues such as biting, chewing, and potty training and gives your puppy an introduction into obedience training. Our Obedience Level 1 course focuses on teaching your dog basic manners and guides you in establishing a solid foundation in obedience training with your pet. In Obedience Level 2 we will begin building on that foundation by refining your pet's training and enhancing their response to commands despite distractions. Finally, Advanced Obedience is designed to complete your dog's training by developing their immediate response to commands in practical situations without using treats; in order to ensure that they're reliable in public, as well as, private. For more information on our group and private classes or to sign up today, please visit SAhumane.org/dogtraining!





Baxx & Will

FORMER CANINE IN TRAINING, MAXX Where is he now?

You may recognize Maxx – he was featured on numerous occasions while at the SAHS and he even made his TV debut to promote our Canine In Training program, which he was a member of. This fun loving Chihuahua mix was not shy on camera, nor did he shy away from making himself known when possible adoptive prospects were around. Maxx had been at the SAHS for 6 months when he was assigned to one of our volunteer dog trainers, Will, a recent retiree looking for a way to make a difference. Having read a lot of dog training literature and after a great deal of first-hand experience with his canine companion, Baxter, Will thought that becoming a SAHS volunteer dog trainer would help him reach his goal. Little did Will know that he would help transform Maxx's life.

These two spent many months together and as Will says, "Maxx was such a good looking dog and so easy to train that I couldn't believe no one would take him home." Maxx quickly learned to sit, down, wait, watch me, drop it, and much more! Even with his charming personality and these amazing skills, he patiently waited for a family to sweep off their feet. Little did Maxx know that it was going to be Will and his wife Annette's feet that would be swept.

Will states, "On March 23rd my wife, Annette, and I decided to adopt Maxx. That first night he whined and cried all night, but has never woken us again. He is adjusting very well to our home and to our other dog, Bandit. All of the names of the pets in our family begin with a B, so we changed Maxx to Baxx. Baxx loves to play with toys and with Bandit. They romp and play several times a day. They love to chase squirrels and run and play in the back yard. He loves to ride with Bandit in the basket on my bike; we usually do that twice a day. I take them both for a long walk every morning and they are always ready to go. He is still learning new tricks and loves to do his old ones. He loves his daily grooming and is learning to tolerate having his teeth brushed. We are happy to have Baxx as part of our family and we believe he is happy also!"

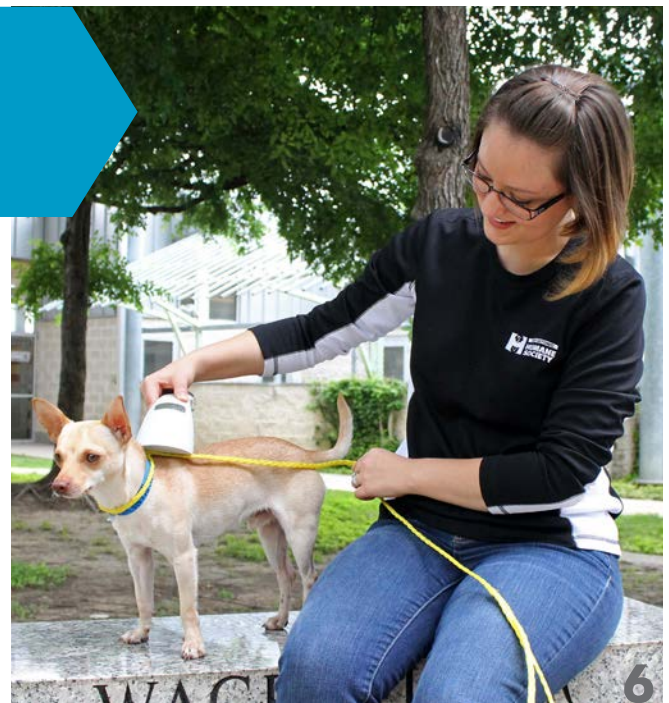


Baxx & new brother, Bandit, taking a bike ride

NEW CITY ORDINANCE Pet Microchips

While most people are familiar with purchasing a pet license every year for their furry companions, there is now another option. An ordinance was recently approved and goes into effect on Tuesday, June 30, 2015 to allow pet owners to utilize a microchip as a way to register their pet with the city. Microchips are often described as tiny, rice-size, instruments with unique identification numbers that are implanted above the shoulder blades of the pet. If the pet were to get lost or found, a microchip scanner can be used to verify the owner's contact information with the microchip company.

If your pet is in need of a microchip, you and your pet can visit the San Antonio Humane Society Monday-Sunday between 12pm-7pm. No appointment is needed!



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

INDEPENDENCE DAY

July 4th, the San Antonio Humane Society will be closed to the public.

CAMP HUMANE, AGES 8-9

When: July 6 - 10

Where: San Antonio Humane Society, 4804 Fredericksburg Rd.

What: A week long day camp for kids ages 8-9 who are wild about animals!

CAMP HUMANE, AGES 10-11

When: July 20 - 24

Where: San Antonio Humane Society, 4804 Fredericksburg Rd.

What: A week long day camp for kids ages 10-11 who are wild about animals!

CHERISH YOUR CHIHUAHUA

When: Month of August

Where: San Antonio Humane Society, 4804 Fredericksburg Rd.

What: \$20 spay/neuter surgeries for Chihuahuas and Chihuahua mixes (appointment required).

ITSY BITSY CAMP HUMANE, AGES 5-7

When: August 3 - 7

Where: San Antonio Humane Society, 4804 Fredericksburg Rd.

What: A week long day camp for kids ages 5-7 who are wild about animals!

ANNUAL FALL LUNCHEON

When: September 29 @ 12pm

Where: The Club at Sonterra, 901 Sonterra Blvd

What: The annual fundraising event benefiting the SAHS. Call (210)424-7597 for more information or to reserve your seat.



The SAHS feeds our pets
Science Diet pet foods.