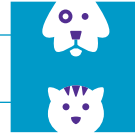


WHISKERS

WINTER



2015

Common Skin
Conditions

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CONNECTING FRIENDS FOR LIFE

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

Nancy F. Najim

Dear Friends,

I'd like to personally thank everyone who adopted, volunteered, and fostered pets at the SAHS in 2014! As a result of all you did:

- Nearly 4,500 kittens, puppies, cats, and dogs found their forever home.
- Our magnificent foster families welcomed and cared for 1,750 pets who needed their help.
- More than 2,400 kind volunteers dedicated close to 70,500 hours to socializing our adoptable pets and assisting our staff at the SAHS and various events.

In case you haven't heard, Fiesta® has gone to the dogs! That's right, our El Rey Fido Coronation is now an official Fiesta® event! We invite you to join us at the ERF Coronation, which will take place at the beautiful pet-friendly Grand Hyatt San Antonio on Saturday, April 18th. Our annual ERF fundraising competition is a fun way for individuals and their canine companions to gather funds for our SAHS pets by creating a fundraising page and, in some cases, participating in a variety of events. There is still time if you and yours would like to make a difference in the lives of pets at the SAHS in 2015! Please visit SAhumane.org/ERF for more details.

For all those who supported the SAHS this past year, we are very grateful for your generosity. Numerous pets completed their treatments for heartworms, some had sponsors known as Guardian Angels who helped decrease their adoption fee, and others received necessary medical attention. While it is our goal to accept and provide shelter and care for all pets that are brought to us, it is crucial to realize that as a non-profit, no-kill organization, we simply cannot do so at all times. This is why your contributions are vital in improving our community one pet at a time!

In May of 2014, San Antonio made history by kicking off The Big Give S.A. and as 1 of 400+ non-profit organizations that participated we were overwhelmed by the amount of supporters. With a total of 332 gifts designated to the SAHS, this 24-hour day of giving brought in \$14,270, which paid for a night's stay for 407 pets at the SAHS. This year The Big Give S.A. will take place on Tuesday, May 5, from midnight to midnight, and we hope that you will make a contribution of your choosing to help the San Antonio Humane Society care for the thousands of puppies, dogs, kittens, and cats that enter our doors in 2015!

Sincerely,

Nancy F. Najim





Mange is a skin condition caused by a microscopic parasite called a mite. There are 2 types of mites that are common in dogs, Demodex and Sarcoptes.

COMMON SKIN CONDITIONS

At the San Antonio Humane Society, a number of pets who come into our care experience various skin conditions, including Demodex, which appears mainly in dogs, and Sarcoptes, which can affect both dogs and cats. After evaluation, we seek out foster families interested in caring for these pets in their home and we provide them with everything needed to result in a speedy and healthy recovery. So now let's get into more details as to what these skin conditions mean:

Mange is a skin condition caused by a microscopic parasite called a mite. There are 2 types of mites that are common in dogs, Demodex and Sarcoptes. Both cause extreme itchiness, redness, irritation, and loss of hair. Left untreated, both can also cause a skin infection called pyoderma, which can cause scabbing and pus on the skin and is very painful.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DEMODEX AND SARCOPTES?

Demodex, sometimes called "Red Mange", is NOT contagious. While it's true that a puppy typically gets the initial bugs from their moms, it is also true that ALL animals, including people, already have their own colony of Demodex mites living in their hair and skin. Our bodies tend to be able to keep the population numbers down to a level where we don't even realize that they exist. In dogs, especially young dogs, when their bodies become stressed (due to the environment, hormones, and even shelter life) they fail to fight off the Demodex mites and the mites have a population explosion! The number of mites living near each hair root is what causes the irritation to begin. Demodex, in its beginning, does not appear itchy and usually shows up around the animal's face and eyes. Caught early, it's very easy to treat and doesn't appear to cause the pup any distress.

Sarcoptes, which is most widely known as "Scabies" or just "Mange", is contagious. While this does mean that in the untreated form, people and their pets can contract it from an infected animal, the good news is that it is very, very easy to treat! Dogs and cats get Sarcoptes from sleeping in areas that are infected with the bugs. These homeless bugs are just waiting for a warm body to snuggle down and spend some time so they can set up a colony. These mites do not usually live on the body so the body recognizes them as an intruder immediately and begins the war. This causes the intense itching and redness that can usually first be spotted in the armpits and the back of the thighs. Caught early, the animal might not even lose its hair. Caught a bit later, the condition might take a little longer to treat but is still super easy.

While it is true that Sarcoptes is capable of being spread, healthy mites without a home have to be bedded down in earth, leaves, or sheets and then a second healthy animal must sleep or lie there to catch the infection. This means that casual contact, such as petting or playing is very unlikely to spread the condition. Sarcoptes mites also PREFER dog bodies rather than other types of mammals. This means, given the choice, even a healthy mite will choose to stay on the dog rather than relocate onto humans.

Now what's important to realize is that with GOOD CONSISTENT treatment, these skin conditions will begin clearing up almost immediately!

SAHS CFO, JEAN FLORES Recognized



We'd like to congratulate our Chief Financial Officer, Jean Flores, for being recognized in the San Antonio Business Journal's 5th Annual Best CFO Awards program for her efforts at the San Antonio Humane Society. For the past 5 years, Jean has overseen our accounting functions, coordinated risk management initiatives, and much more. We are exceptionally proud and thankful to have Jean on our team!



Duke & Darla at 10 weeks old

DUKE AND DARLA A Story About Fostering

"On August 15, 2014, I was contacted by the San Antonio Humane Society to see if I was interested in fostering two 8 week old puppies that had a severe skin condition. I quickly accepted and found out later, after they were examined by the clinical staff at HS, that the puppies had two types of mange, Demodex and Sarcoptic. I took them home and began taking care of them by providing them their medication, warm beds and lots of toys.

After three weeks of quarantine and treatment, the pups were ready to be let outside to enjoy some playtime in the sun. I enjoyed watching them run around the yard, playing, and getting to know them as their personalities began to surface. It wasn't long before I fell in love with them like I do with all the foster pets I take in. It didn't matter that the commitment to foster these two came with a daily routine of washing and disinfecting bedding, bowls, and toys; administering antibiotics for skin infection and upper respiratory infection twice a day; and giving medicated baths every three days. The hard work and commitment was worth seeing their skin clear and their fur grow back.

And on December 15, 2014, I found out that they were finally ready for their forever home. The goodbyes are never easy but the rewards are priceless.

I learned a lot caring for Duke and Darla. I will always and forever remember these babies. Thank You SA Humane Society for choosing me as one of your foster moms. I can't wait for the next adventure!"

-Cindy Vargas



Darla & Duke ready for adoption. Both adopted in December 2014.



Tips for Fundraising



Rey Feo LXVI, Jimmy Green, crowning El Rey Fido XII, Macy.

2015 is here and it is time to prove to the world how incredible your canine companion is! The 13th annual El Rey Fido (ERF) fundraising competition is on and we would love for you and yours to join in on the fun. This is such an exciting year, as our ERF Coronation, is an official Fiesta® event!

Want to join in on the competition, but you aren't sure how to raise money? Here are a few fundraising tips to get you started:

- On your new FirstGiving Fundraising Page, include information such as the Top 10 reasons your dog should be El Rey Fido XIII.
- Create a Facebook page for your candidate —“friends” can be notified and reminded to donate money. Reach more friends and potential donors by linking your fundraising page to your profile
- Send a personalized e-mail from your dog to all of your friends, relatives and co-workers, asking them to support him/her and listing humorous Royal Decrees if she/he is elected El Rey Fido XIII (i.e., “If I am crowned the next El Rey Fido, I will declare that all canine-owning villagers commit the act of belly rubs at sunrise and sunset!”).
- Have a “bake sale” with homemade or store-bought dog treats, wrapped in a photo of your dog with instructions of how to donate online.
- Have an “election” party for your dog, providing access to a computer where supporters can make online donations.
- Start a collection at work with an election/donation box with a colorful display of your dog's photos; distribute stickers emblazoned with your dog's photo and a phrase such as, “I voted for the next El Rey Fido.”
- Make T-shirts, buttons, yard signs or other “campaign” materials!



A sneak peak at our 2015 ERF Fiesta medal, available to purchase at the SAHS & Fiesta® Store soon!

The 2015 El Rey Fido fundraising deadline is Thursday, March 19th (cash donations must be turned in to the SAHS by 6pm and FirstGiving donations must be complete by 10pm). Find out more and review our El Rey Fido rules at SAhumane.org/ERF.

CANS FOR PETS

YOU AND YOUR PET CAN HELP SAHS PETS!

Bring your clean aluminum pet food cans to the SAHS and ALCOA Foundation will donate 5 cents for every pet food can recycled.



INSIDE THE WORLD OF DOG TRAINING WITH THE SAHS'

Kevin Glowski



Kevin, who has spent his whole life around dogs, knows how essential dog training is, not only in general, but for those awaiting adoption at the San Antonio Humane Society. Many come into the shelter with very little or no training and it is our goal to help them along the way to adoption. When individuals or families come to the SAHS in search of a new canine companion, they will likely be more inclined to visit with and adopt a dog who has training experience. Whether they can sit on command, leave it, roll over, etc. - their intelligence and eagerness to please are desirable traits.

As of this past January, dog training classes and private consultations are available at the SAHS. Our training philosophy focuses on building a strong, healthy bond between a dog and his/her person through positive reinforcement. We do not promote the use of fear or intimidation-based tactics. SAHS trainers believe that reward-based techniques and education on canine behavior is the best way to promote a trusting and respectful relationship between individuals and their dogs. For available dates, times, and pricing options (discounts offered for SAHS alumni), please visit SAhumane.org/dogtraining!

Here are a few training points that Kevin would like to share:

WHAT ARE SOME BENEFITS OF TRAINING?

The dog has fewer restrictions, and is most likely welcome in all settings of any family routine that will allow him. A well-mannered, obedient dog is always welcome.

HOW DOES TRAINING HELP THE DOGS?

Training provides a mental outlet for dogs; that would otherwise display destructive behavior. This behavior is a natural behavior in dogs but with proper training your dog would have balance. You can save a dog's life in certain situations. By teaching a dog "leave it" or "drop" you can prevent potentially hazardous encounters.

ARE THERE CERTAIN BREEDS, AGES, GENDERS, ETC. THAT TAKE TO TRAINING MORE THAN OTHERS?

I believe all dogs can be taught and some dogs take to training just fine in the hands of a good trainer. Then there is always that one special dog that comes along that takes to almost everything. My experience takes me back to "Dennis" the purebred German Shepherd that ended up at the SAHS. Awesome dog; great breed and easily trainable! I always feel the working breed dogs are easily trainable. I personally enjoy training female dogs and seem to create a bond quicker with them, but male dogs definitely take well to training too. As for age, I believe you can always teach an old dog new tricks.

MYTHS ABOUT TRAINING?

Dominance and dog training – Dominance has become a misused word in the dog training world. Far too often owners, and even some trainers, think a dog is trying to dominate them when they exhibit undesirable behaviors. The word dominance seems to be used to describe every unsuitable behavior an owner feels their dog is displaying, but these behaviors do not equal dominance. One example of this misconception is a dog that pulls on the leash. The dog is thought to be dominant because he is trying to lead, when in fact he has not been taught to properly walk beside his owner. Trust me; dogs aren't vying for world dominance. We must replace the inappropriate behaviors with more suitable ones.



REMEMBERING EL REY FIDO IX

Lucy Golman

We are saddened to share that Lucy, our El Rey Fido IX, has passed away at 18 years of age. In 2011, Lucy was crowned ERF and held her title with so much dignity, as she was thrilled to be an ambassador for the pets at the SAHS. Many also knew Lucy, from Lucy's Doggy Day Care and Spa, which has offered great services to dogs since 2005. Before being rescued by her wonderful owner, Max, Lucy lived at a local animal hospital for over a year. It is for this reason that helping others pets in need of a loving home, seemed completely appropriate. This year, Lucy's sister and snuggle buddy, Ethel Golman, is continuing Lucy's legacy by running for El Rey Fido 2015. We were blessed to have Lucy as an SAHS Ambassador and will truly miss her!



WHERE IS HE NOW?

Our old friend, Sammy

We first met Sammy as a puppy in 2007. He was quickly adopted and we were so excited that Sammy had found his forever home. Unfortunately, in the summer of 2012, Sammy made his way back to the shelter. At this point he tested positive for heartworms, but he didn't let his condition get him down. Sammy was a happy-go-lucky guy who quickly won our hearts, but it took a long time for him to find the perfect family. He patiently waited here at the shelter for his forever family for more than a year. During that time, Sammy underwent treatment for his heartworms and became heartworm free! We were all happy to have Sammy at the shelter, but knew that he needed to find his forever home, so we gathered some of his fans and made a "Why We Love Sammy" video to post on social media. Shortly thereafter, in June of 2013, Sammy was connected with his forever family and finally had a home to call his own.

Now, Sammy has been with his family for more than a year and is doing very well. Sammy's family, the Paredes family, says that Sammy is known in their house as "the man," as his 3 canine siblings, a Schipperke, Dachshund, and rescue Terrier, are all females who he absolutely adores. They all get along great! He loves to run around in the family's large backyard and burns off so much energy during playtime. Sometimes this handsome Australian Cattle Dog mix has more energy than those around him, so it's safe to say that Sammy is always up for playtime. One of his favorite things to do outdoors is retrieve a large knot toy that his family will toss in the air for him and, if he's good (which is always) he is rewarded with yummy treats. Sammy will celebrate his 8th birthday soon and we cannot be happier for him and his family. They say that they fell in love with him because of his soulful eyes and they knew that he just needed a chance.

Thank you to the Paredes family for giving Sammy the chance he deserved and Happy Birthday Sammy!



Sammy playing at his forever home



Sammy while at the SAHS

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!



The SAHS feeds our pets
Science Diet pet foods.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BEAT THE HEAT

When: Month of February

Where: San Antonio Humane Society, 4804 Fredericksburg Rd.

What: \$20 spay surgery for all female cats (appointment required).

PAW OUT MS!

When: March 7 @ 8am

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

What: SAHS pet adoptions and Paw Out MS 1 mile and 5k walks.

SPRING CAMP HUMANE

When: March 9-13

Where: San Antonio Humane Society, 4804 Fredericksburg Rd.

What: A week long day camp for kids ages 9-12 who are wild about animals!

EL REY FIDO FUNDRAISING DEADLINE

When: March 19

Where: San Antonio Humane Society, 4804 Fredericksburg Rd.

What: All cash donations must be turned in to the SAHS by 6pm and all FirstGiving donations must be complete by 10pm.

COMMUNITY CATS

When: Month of April

Where: San Antonio Humane Society, 4804 Fredericksburg Rd.

What: Free spay/neuter surgery for all community cats (appointment required).

EASTER

April 5th, the San Antonio Humane Society will be closed to the public.

EL REY FIDO CORONATION

When: April 18 @ 10am

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

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

BIG GIVE SA

When: May 5, Midnight to Midnight

What: A community-wide day of online giving.

Visit biggivesa.org and find the San Antonio Humane Society under the leader board to make a donation.