



SAN ANTONIO HUMANE SOCIETY

WHISKERS

CONNECTING FRIENDS FOR LIFE



FALL
2016

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

Hello Friends,

Thanks to the involvement and support of generous donors such as you, we had a very busy and successful summer here at the San Antonio Humane Society, and it has meant only great things for our resident pets and community dogs and cats.

You are helping us build a more humane future for our city by continuing our ability to offer low-cost spay/neuter surgeries to the public and by furthering our opportunities to host humane summer camps for our community youth. Furthermore, thanks to our continued participation in city-wide adoption events, we are able to ensure a solid foundation in our mission to improve the lives of dogs and cats.

The summer began with a successful Precious...Not Parents spay/neuter campaign in June and was followed by a similarly successful Cherish Your Chihuahua spay/neuter campaign in August. Thanks to funding from PetSmart Charities®, over 400 surgeries were performed for our community's public pets! While this does bring an end to this year's PetSmart Charities® spay/neuter campaigns, thanks to your continued support, we are still able to offer low-cost sterilization surgeries to public pets throughout the remainder of the year.

More successes this summer included six Camp Humane sessions where over 170 children and teens left brimming with new knowledge about the humane treatment and care of both wild and domestic animals. We also participated in the city-wide Super Hero Pet and Clear the Shelter adoption events. Through our partnerships with Animal Care Services and other shelters in and around our community, both events were successful in finding homes for hundreds of adoptable dogs and cats.

Though we are fortunate to already have accomplished so much, we are still rounding out the end of this year with more upcoming and exciting events and fundraising opportunities. I hope to see you all join and support us during our upcoming Friends for Life Luncheon (Oct. 11) and our first ever fall Pawchella event (Nov. 5). Those of you already looking ahead toward Fiesta® San Antonio will be excited to know that fundraising for the annual El Rey Fido competition has begun! El Rey Fido is a festive and fun way to help raise funds for pets at the San Antonio Humane Society and it is truly wonderful to see so many of you joining in on the festivities. Those interested in learning how to join, contribute, or watch the fundraising competition unfold can visit SAhumane.org/ERF and follow us on social media. We are very grateful for all the countless ways you help us to realize our mission for the pets of San Antonio.

YOU
are helping us
BUILD
a more
HUMANE
FUTURE
for our city

Best Wishes,

Nancy F. Najim



YOUR CONTRIBUTION MATTERS

THANKS to YOU, [our] mission becomes ACTION

"What can I do to help the animals?" It's a question commonly asked to our staff and volunteers, and our answer is that there are many ways to help: foster, volunteer, educate, spread our message to protect and improve the lives of dogs and cats--but your greatest impact comes as a result of monetary gifts. Donating monetary gifts directly to the San Antonio Humane Society supports our annual campaign, which helps pay for the cost of each animal that comes through our doors. In short, it ensures that our pets have the proper care they need for as long as they stay in our shelter. A stay that can last as little as one day to a recently long-case scenario of six months.

During their stay, every dog and cat receives food, shelter, medical care, baths, and other necessities to ensure they are happy and healthy. After the average two-week stay, even once intake and adoption fees have been collected, each pet costs the shelter approximately \$300-\$500 to care for until they find their forever home. For the cost of about \$35 a day, our donors make it possible for us to adopt out approximately 5,000 pets each year.

Your monetary donation helps cover this gap and ensures that we continue to have the ability to care for every pet in our shelter. Without your support, we would be nothing but a mission. Thanks to you, that mission becomes action and helps save the lives of over 5,000 pets annually.

Hello! My name is Fiji the cat, here with my canine companions Stewie and Tarzan. We are only three of the thousands of lucky pets adopted from the San Antonio Humane Society each year, and because of you we each had a second chance at happiness.



Thanks to your generosity, I was able to patiently await my fur-ever family in the warmth and comfort of the SAHS for 183 days. This means it required around \$6,405 to ensure I was well taken care of!

My friend Stewie (left) called the SAHS home for 54 days and required over \$1,890 of care, which included neuter surgery, heartworm treatment, and exams for head wounds that he had sustained prior to being transferred from Animal Care Services.

Tarzan (right), received the same basic required medical services that all the pets at the SAHS receive upon arrival including vaccinations, heartworm prevention, dewormer, and a heartworm test. After a little over two weeks at the shelter, Tarzan was adopted, and although he didn't require further medical care and his stay was just 18 days, \$630 of your support still went toward keeping Tarzan healthy and comfortable.

BECAUSE

FROM ABANDONED TO ADOPTED

"Thanks to your donations to Michaels Medical Rescue Fund ... we were able to build a clearer picture of Mickey's future."

When Mickey was transferred to the San Antonio Humane Society (SAHS) from Animal Care Services (ACS), it was unknown that he was suffering from a serious medical condition. However, during an initial medical exam, it appeared something was amiss with Mickey's heart. Thanks to your donations to Michaels Medical Rescue Fund, Mickey was able to receive a visit from SonoVet, a mobile ultrasound company headed by Dr. Marty Henderson. With Mickey's echocardiogram results in hand, we were able to build a clearer picture of Mickey's future. Despite Mickey's terminal condition, we were determined to find him a permanent retirement home.

Being able to pay for these tests, says Chief Veterinarian, Teresa Sanders, "gives his adopters a head start. It gives them as much information as we could give them so their vet can then take over and be able to medically manage him."

His results allowed us to determine the severity of his condition (mild to moderate), the meds he needed to start (which he started immediately), and whether or not he had any underlying lung conditions related to his heart (he didn't).



Dr. Henderson conducts ultrasound screening paid for by donations from Michaels Medical Rescue Fund.

With our questions answered, we placed Mickey up for adoption and pushed his story on social media. Mickey was adopted the same day his photo appeared online. Because of you, his family was able to go home with a better understanding of his condition and with the knowledge to ensure Mickey lives out the remainder of his life in love and comfort.

Your continued donation to Michaels Medical Rescue Fund helps ensure these happy endings for our pets. It isn't uncommon for us to intake and rescue injured or sick pets.

"There are a lot of animals that we wouldn't be able to help if we didn't have this fund," stressed Dr. Sanders, "It's great that we can use it for special things like Mickey's ultrasound of the heart. In private practice it's—you know—it's expensive to be able to do this."

The same month that Mickey's ultrasound was performed, there were four other cases requiring assistance from Michaels Medical Rescue Fund, all orthopedic (deformed or broken bone) cases totaling in thousands of dollars of care. According to Dr. Sanders, the fund is greatly used for orthopedic surgeries: "Thanks to donors, we can fix a lot of 'broken' dogs, which is great! These are dogs that wouldn't have received that medical care otherwise."

One of these dogs, Mushu, came to us in January of this year with two critically broken legs. And because of you, he successfully made the long trek from tragic accident to happy home.



OF YOU

FROM WHEELCHAIR TO WELCOME HOME

Mushu came to the SAHS when he was just under two months old. A good samaritan brought him to us after finding him lying in the street, possibly after being struck by a car. He had two severely broken legs, and as our previous Chief Veterinarian, Dr. Bridgeman, put it, "He had more fractures in one leg than [she] could count on both hands."

It was determined medically necessary to amputate his left leg and his slightly less-fractured right leg was fitted in a cast to heal. Despite the severity of his injuries, Mushu behaved much like any ordinary puppy: very excited and very playful. Although his positive attitude was infectious, our veterinarian believed that his excitability was likely to lengthen his recovery time. With the help of staff, volunteers, and a previously donated wheel-chair, Mushu continued to mend and strengthen his remaining leg. It wasn't until almost six months later that he was finally deemed ready for adoption.



Mushu spent almost two months in his wheelchair strengthening his fractured leg.

"because of generous donors like you, he walked again and right into the path of his new pet parents."

Mushu almost didn't have a chance at a fulfilling life and family. But because of generous donors like you, he walked again and right into the path of his new pet parents.

Having already adopted two dogs from the SAHS, Renee was no stranger to the love and joy a rescued pet can bring into one's home. When she first saw Mushu at the shelter, he was out for a walk with one of our volunteers: "I thought he was perfect," she says as she recalls first seeing Mushu, "My heart was set on him. I didn't want to do anything impulsively, so I waited a couple weeks and he was still there! I told my husband about him, and he immediately agreed that we should adopt him."

Mushu, now named Mack, fits in perfectly with his forever family, including his pet siblings, Connor and Landon. "No matter how bad my day is," says Renee, "or my husband's day, we get to come home and see the unconditional love that they give us. Mack and Landon and Connor have all been such blessings in our lives."



Since his adoption, Mack can now successfully walk up a full flight of stairs—a feat he was not yet able to accomplish here at the shelter. He still enjoys playing with his food bowl, a quirk our staff came to both loath and love; however, his new parents have gotten Mack a food bowl with a heavy base to avoid any tip overs.

"It has been a pleasure becoming Mack's new parents. We love him so much! We usually call him 'noodle' because of the way he sleeps... [it's as if] you were to drop a noodle on the ground."

While we miss Mack the 'noodle,' we are ecstatic to hear that he's found his way to a loving home.



For ways to donate visit SAhumane.org/donate.

HUMANE EDUCATION ASSISTANT

A Temporary Position with a Lasting Impression

Eryn Patterson is no stranger to the San Antonio Humane Society (SAHS); she's been familiar with the shelter since she began volunteering in 2011. From volunteer to staff member, Eryn's impact and value on the shelter may be difficult to measure, but it isn't hard to see. This summer, after graduating from University of the Incarnate Word with a Bachelors Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies and after receiving her Teaching Certification, she joined us as our new temporary Humane Education Assistant during this summer's Camp Humane.

For those unfamiliar with the program, the SAHS's Camp Humane is a week-long educational program for kids between 5 to 15 years of age. Campers learn about the humane treatment, care, and responsibility for wild and domesticated animals and for the environment in which they (and we) live. This summer we welcomed over 170 students spread over 6 camps, and with that many hungry minds coming in and out of our doors, Eryn's resourcefulness and proactivity were a welcomed addition.

"Eryn was a big help for me this summer," says Sara Phippen, SAHS Humane Educator, "I had the confidence knowing there was someone qualified to continue to run the camp program if I had to step out to do administrative work. She has a lot of enthusiasm for the shelter and our mission and she's good at imparting her knowledge of the shelter to the kids."

Eryn's enthusiasm for the position is apparent, "I love my job. When I'm here at the shelter, it's my happiest moments. I love going out to the schools and doing presentations. During the camps, I love doing the shelter activities. Having the kids come out and bathing the dogs, walking the dogs, socializing with the dogs—it was very good to see them interacting with animals. Animals they may have never interacted with before."

Eryn is committed to continuing her time at the shelter as a volunteer after the term of her seasonal position. We will miss her daily presence and we are confident her skills will be greatly valued in any future undertakings! She leaves us with a lasting impression on the importance of teamwork and possessing the passion and skills to impact our youth.

"I love my job.
When I'm here
at the shelter,
it's my happiest
moments."



Eryn has contributed to the SAHS in many ways since 2011. This year we welcomed Eryn as our new temporary Humane Education Assistant.



Eryn teaches campers the importance of collars and identification tags on pets.

El Rey Fido

15th Anniversary

Your Fido Can Become Fiesta Royalty



Scout Santos
2016 El Rey Fido

The El Rey Fido fundraising competition has begun!

This year's competition culminates in the 15th anniversary of the El Rey Fido Coronation, an official Fiesta® event, and it's sure to be the biggest one yet!

Fundraising ends Thursday, February 16, 2017.

Visit SAhumane.org/ERF for info on how to register, fundraise or donate. All funds raised go towards helping the pets at the SAHS.

Introducing

PA(HELLA

Bring your pups together for the dog-friendliest festival in the making! In partnership with Alpha Media, join us for the first ever Pawchella at the SAHS! The event takes place Saturday, November 5 between 11AM & 5PM, is family-friendly, and will include a fido fashion show, costume contest, doggie fun zone, dock jumping, items for raffle, music, and tasty eats for you and your furry-legged friends!

Visit SAhumane.org/events for more info. A portion of the proceeds benefit the pets at the SAHS.



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OUR MISSION

To protect and improve the lives of dogs and cats by providing shelter, care, adoption, rescue, spay and neuter programs, and community education.

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WISHLIST

Shelter Needs

- Interactive dog & cat toys
- Kitten/puppy milk replacement
- Stainless steel water/food bowls
- Crates (all sizes)
- Canned dog & cat food
- Dry dog & cat food
- Cleaning supplies
- Blankets/towels
- Cat Furniture
- Dog & cat treats/Kong stuffing & peanut butter
- Office supplies
- Clean pillows (no down please)
- Ice cube trays
- Tupperware containers
- Assorted grooming brushes
- Cat litter

Monetary Donations

- \$60 pays for one pre-adoption spay/neuter surgery
- \$300 helps one litter of five puppies receive spay/neuter surgeries
- \$15,000 supports one month of pre-adoption spay/neuter surgeries
- \$7 covers flea control for one orphaned dog/cat (\$42 for a litter of six)

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

