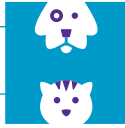


SAN ANTONIO HUMANE SOCIETY

# WHISKERS

SUMMER



2016

Introducing Dr. Sanders

El Rey Fido XIV

Where is David Now?

Your  
Contribution Matters

Humane Education

Managing  
Separation Anxiety



**CONNECTING FRIENDS FOR LIFE**

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

# Nancy F. Najim

Dear Friends,

We are already halfway into another incredible and productive year and I am pleased to say that it has been an especially great start for our long-term residents. Long-term residents are those pets, usually composed of our adult or senior dogs, who have resided at the shelter for 100 days or more. Although the year began with twelve long-term residential dogs, with the start of each new month that number has consistently decreased. Thanks to the combined efforts of our kennel and adoption staff, as of May 1st, we had zero dogs in our care who had been waiting over 100 days for a home.

El Rey Fido (ERF) has come and gone once more this past April and it's thanks to our volunteers, staff, and supporters that it was again another successful year. Despite the rainy weather, we received a wonderful turnout at our El Rey Fido Coronation (an official Fiesta® event) as we continued festivities indoors. I'd like to extend my appreciation to our masters of ceremonies, Magic 105.3's Adam and Jenny, who presented our 2016 El Rey Fido Royal Court to the crowd and also to Rey Feo LXVIII for graciously crowning our regal El Rey Fido XIV, Scout. I'd also like to recognize our Mistress of the Grr-robies, Cheryl Trevor, and the official ERF photographer, Renee Spade, for continuing this wonderful and festive tradition with us each year. It is due to them that the attire and presentation of our Royal Court always matches their kingly dispositions. I am pleased to share that between 12 participating contestants, \$35,657.21 was raised for our pets. In addition, contributions from participating sponsors, including Vet Access, boasted that fundraising number up to \$39,657.21.

Another successful fundraising event this year was The Big Give S.A. This annual fundraising event is a 24-hour giving challenge that connects the community with local nonprofits. Although a technical glitch halted donations for much of the day, our supporters stuck with us as The Big Give S.A. extended their "day of giving" into the following day. Thanks to our thoughtful donors and the kind matching donations made by Dina Cole, Raising Canes and other anonymous donors, a grand total of \$32,909.35 was raised for our pets.

This past April, in continuing our mission to improve the lives of dogs and cats within our community, we successfully completed 200 spay/neuter surgeries as a part of PetSmart Charities® spay/neuter campaign Community Cats. We look forward to continuing this success with PetSmart Charities® Precious...Not Parents (for puppies and kittens less than six months of age) in June and Cherish Your Chihuahua in August.

Lastly, I hope you will join us this coming October 11 for our 2016 Friends for Life Luncheon at The Mays Family Center at the Witte, generously sponsored by VCA Animal Hospitals. More information, including ticket prices and sponsorship opportunities, will be available online at SAhumane.org.

Warm Regards

*Nancy F. Najim*



## INTRODUCING CHIEF VETERINARIAN: Dr. Teresa Sanders

Greetings fellow animal welfare advocates. I am honored and excited to be the new Chief Veterinarian at the San Antonio Humane Society (SAHS). Allow me to introduce myself and share my goals and commitment to my profession and our organization.

I'm a hometown girl, raised in San Antonio since age four after my parents moved here from Denver, Colorado. I attended public and private schools, including Incarnate Word High School ('90), the University of The Incarnate Word ('95, BS/Biology), and UTHSCSA ('99-Post Baccalaureate Certificate, Clinical Chemistry). It was back to Colorado for veterinary school where I attended Colorado State University ('04), and met my husband Rob, a Pediatrician. Rob and I have two daughters (Natalie, 10 and Emily, 5), and share our home with 3 dogs, 3 cats, and the occasional foster pet.

One of my favorite school externships was at the Boulder Humane Society where I first discovered my love for shelter medicine. Being a shelter veterinarian requires knowledge in many areas, including infectious and zoonotic disease, parasites endemic to the area you serve, and disease transmission prevention. It's also important to be well versed in animal behavior, surgery, nutrition, neonatal care, and disease outbreak management and prevention. Shelter veterinarians need a "dual-vision" perspective, simultaneously viewing each animal's welfare along with the welfare of the entire shelter population when making decisions. This multi-dimensional job is exactly the right amount of challenge and reward for me.

My husband's pediatric residency took us to Phoenix, Arizona. Though I started out as a new graduate in private practice, once I saw a shelter veterinarian opening at the Arizona Humane Society (AHS) I took it immediately. Working at the AHS was a truly great experience and the high-quality care we were able to provide for our animals was heart-warming. I knew I had finally found my calling as a shelter veterinarian, and still keep in touch with AHS friends and coworkers.

After my husband's residency ended, we moved back to Colorado where I worked part-time relief for private practices, shelters, and rescue organizations such as: Denver Dumb Friends League, The Feline Fix, The Max Fund, and the Aurora animal shelter. Though we loved life in Colorado, in 2012 the call to move home to be near family was strong. I worked briefly in emergency and private practice, but ultimately felt that something was missing in my career path.

Dr. Courtney Bridgeman, from the SAHS, hired me for occasional contract work, mostly helping with weekend wellness clinics. I thought the part-time shelter work would fill the void in my heart, but I eventually told my family the only way I would feel truly happy would be to work shelter medicine full time. Obviously, things worked out and here I am! When Dr. Bridgeman decided to embark on a career path change and offered me the opportunity to apply to take over as Chief Veterinarian at the SAHS, I jumped at the chance to continue the legacy she started. Protecting and improving the lives of our shelter animals is a key part of who I will be as Chief Veterinarian. I treat every animal in our care with the same love and respect that I treat my own pets. I am excited to continue hosting externships from veterinary schools around the country, bringing the enthusiasm and energy of hopeful soon-to-be veterinarians into our shelter. My main goals for the shelter include continuing the progression of the medical and surgical care provided to our shelter animals and the publicly-owned animals served through our quality low-cost, high-volume spay/neuter programs and wellness clinics. By offering these programs to pet-owners from low-income areas that would otherwise not have access to veterinary care, I feel strongly that we are a big part of the solution to pet overpopulation and homelessness in our community.

Thank you for allowing me to share my story, philosophy, and vision. I feel truly blessed to be a part of the wonderful group of people (volunteers and staff) who are committed to the health, safety, and welfare of every animal that comes through our doors. I am thrilled to finally be a part of the San Antonio Humane Society and I look forward to seeing you around the shelter.



## SCULPTURE GARDEN UNVEILING

Donated generously, these sculpted tributes were welcomed as a new addition to our courtyard this past May in formal fashion. Sculptures created by Aartvarks Studios.

# EL REY FIDO XIV

## Scout, 2016 El Rey Fido XIV

While hanging out with the other pups at doggy daycare, Scout learned from his old friend, Lucy (El Rey Fido X), the importance of giving back to the community. Scout's gratitude for a great life and his desire to give back is why he ran for El Rey Fido. When not on the campaign trail shaking paws and kissing babies, Scout loves a good feeding, long walks, swimming, and riding in the car with his head out the window. Although he is 10 years old, he's still a young-at-heart pup and enjoys showing the world over that *seniors matter*.



## THE ROYAL COURT



### Sheila, Princess of the Food Bowl

Before finding her forever home, Sheila was abandoned and left to fend for herself on the city streets. After being picked up and taken to a shelter, Sheila's story was shared prolifically online where her picture caught the eye of her pet parent, Rechelle. 3-year-old Sheila has been in Rechelle's life for over a year now and it's safe to say that it was the best decision for both of them! Sheila hopes her participation and contribution to the El Rey Fido fundraising competition will create more happy endings for the pets at the San Antonio Humane Society.

### Snow White, Duchess of the Chew Toy

Six years ago, Snow White was born in the midst of a snow storm—hence her name. When it was discovered that she suffered from Patent Ductus Arteriosus the hole in her heart meant her life-expectancy looked bleak. Thanks to the innovation of her veterinarians, Snowy hasn't missed a beat—pun intended. In spite of this, Snow White lives a full life. She never misses her daily runs, she's trilingual, and she's traveled all across the country. Snow White hopes that all the homeless canines she's helped support may one day know the true love received from a forever family.



### Abby, Duchess of the Fire Hydrant

Abby was adopted from the Helotes Humane Society and is an affectionate 1-year-old "Chiweenie" who strives to make a best friend out of everyone. Abby is very caring and in tune to her family's emotions and well-being, never leaving their side when they are feeling down or under the weather; she definitely knows the value of having a forever family. This is why it became her initiative to join the 2016 El Rey Fido fundraising campaign. She hopes to give as many sheltered pets as possible the same chance she had to find a loving home.



### Braille, Knight of the Royal Court

Born blind and deaf, Braille was abandoned at 3 months old. He was picked up and surrendered to Guadalupe County Animal Control where he was thereafter introduced and adopted. Now 6 years old, Braille has thrived since his adoption and is currently a proud registered therapy dog and a member of The American Kennel Club. He's a consistent participant in fundraising events for needy animals and is happy meeting new people and traveling. Braille is proof that a special needs animal can achieve anything with a little help from his family, friends, and community!



## WHERE IS HE NOW:



## DAVID

Although we may grow attached to the pets in our care, we are always eager for them to find their forever homes. David called the San Antonio Humane Society “home” for 366 tender-filled days. That’s a year longer than most puppies, and 11 months longer than most of our adult dogs; however, as we know, senior dogs usually have a bit more trouble finding their home.



We were fond of 10-year-old David, but the push to find him his new family was strong. He spent plenty of time with our Animal Behavior Program Supervisor, Joe, was featured on media, and had his face and bio plastered all over our Facebook page. Finally, exactly one year after his intake date in February of 2015, David’s friendly face was spotted online by his new family. The following day, Rosalie came into the shelter to meet and adopt her new furry family member.

“He was so cute,” she recalls, “I saw that he had been [at the shelter] for a while and I just knew he was the one.”

The family kept David’s name the same after they brought him home, “I didn’t want to change something he was already used to,” and he’s been a positive and wonderful addition to their home: “Words can’t describe how he has changed our lives. He’s very sweet and loving. My kids leave in the morning and as they walk out, he waits by the door as they tell him bye for a few hours. David gives them each a goodbye lick. It’s a daily ritual.”

David now spends his days playing hide and seek with his new family (popping out behind doors and hopping along to another room) and “singing” along with them when they put on their favorite music.

## YOUR CONTRIBUTION MATTERS

Summertime is upon us and the San Antonio Humane Society sees a significant amount of homeless animals brought in during the hot summer months suffering from heat-related illnesses. When possible, these animals are treated and taken into the shelter; however, damage and injury from dehydration and heatstroke can sometimes cause extended care. This can mean fostering, surgery, or a lengthy extended stay in our clinic.

The residents of San Antonio and its surrounding areas are all too familiar with heat and the heat-related illnesses the season brings to the community. However, many are unfamiliar with the problems this season can bring for animals. Heat exhaustion and heat stroke, although commonly recognized as human illnesses, can affect dogs and cats too. Although a simple bowl of water and a generous amount of shade are usually enough to prevent illness, not every pet has an owner to look out for them.

For these animals in need, contributions to Michaels Medical Rescue Fund are essential. This fund helps provide resources for those injured or ill animals treated at the San Antonio Humane Society, allowing them the opportunity to live healthy and happy lives with their forever family. Those interested in learning more or contributing to the fund may do so at [SAhumane.org/donate](http://SAhumane.org/donate).



A great BIG thank-you to all who donated, matched, and spread the word during The Big Give S.A. on May 3! And another BIG thank-you to everyone who stayed tuned after a technical snafu brought The Big Give S.A. website to a halt. As a result of everyone’s generosity, more than \$32,900 was raised for the pets of the San Antonio Humane Society. Thank you all so much!



Triscuit



Hamlet

# CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our President/CEO, Nancy F. Najim, for receiving the Hope Award during Ford Motor Company and the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce's 2016 Tribute to Women Business Leaders. Last month, Nancy was recognized for her life-long achievements, her perseverance, and her giving and committed spirit.



## HUMANE EDUCATION

We are already half way through 2016 and we have had hundreds of kids and teens through our doors learning what it means to be humane to animals, the environment, and to each other. We are expected to get at least 150 more students through our doors by the end of summer with Camp Humane beginning again this month and carrying into August!

### AFTER SCHOOL READING PROGRAM

We received an educational visit from the kiddos of the Inner City Development After School Reading Program in March and May that was beneficial to both the students and our dogs and cats! After their shelter tour, the kids strengthened their reading skills and vocabulary by reading out loud to our adoptable animals. This program is a mutually beneficial project as it also encourages sociability and tranquility in our pets, increasing the likelihood of adoption.



### BOY SCOUTS SERVING OUR SHELTER COMMUNITY

An ongoing objective of Humane Education is emphasizing the importance of community service, and scout programs embrace this ideal! Boy Scout troop 285 made a generous and laborious contribution to the SAHS of roughly 200 hand-made leashes after they were notified that we were in dire need of new ones. Troop 285 was even resourceful enough to provide the leash-making supplies themselves through fundraising.

### SPRING CAMP HUMANE

Thirty kids, ages 9-12, spent their Spring Break learning about compassion, empathy, respect, and responsibility for the community and the natural world around them. Camp Humane isn't all about puppy play time—though we know it's a favorite! Campers participated in numerous projects that brought awareness to the natural world around them, including an aquatic environment project that highlighted the importance of working together, using creativity and ingenuity to solve environmental problems, and acknowledging the nearly impossible task of returning an environment to its natural state after damaging human intervention. Other projects included a shelter-wide scavenger hunt, creating pollution catchers, and recording animal ambassador adoption videos.



We are excited to welcome campers this Summer as we embark onto new (and old) projects, presentations, and learning experiences!



## DOG TRAINING WITH JOE GONZALEZ

# Managing Separation Anxiety

Does your dog get stressed when you leave home? Do they bark, howl, house-soil, or become destructive? These can be normal behaviors exhibited by dogs, but they can also be symptoms of a clinical term that has become increasingly common in the canine world: separation anxiety.

Dogs are inherently pack animals and prefer living in groups; because of this, it can be hard for them to adapt to our living conditions. Pet parents leaving their dogs home alone may return to find their doors clawed or chewed, their blinds torn, or their belongings destroyed. Although whining, barking, eliminating, and destructive behavior can be symptoms of separation anxiety, these behaviors don't immediately indicate that your dog is suffering from separation anxiety.

Separation anxiety is a term that's become frequently misapplied. House soiling can be an indicator of inadequate potty-training. Destructive behaviors can result from lack of exercise, normal puppy behavior, or as an outlet for excessive energy. Barking or howling can result from various stimuli in or outside the environment. Dogs may display stress-related behaviors when left home alone, but in most cases dogs suffer from a more moderate form of anxiety called isolation distress. Dogs with isolation distress—or what I call: "separation issues"—don't want to be left



alone, but are fine overall when left in the company of another human or animal companion.

In contrast, a dog that has separation anxiety has a very strong bond or attachment with one particular person and/or specific environment. Usually, the animal views the person as their primary care-giver. When the animal is separated from their focal attachment, the animal will experience increased levels of stress. This usually starts by the

dog panicking as a direct result of their care-giver's departure. This is followed by intensified stress-related behaviors that make it difficult for the dog to remain calm, relax their mind, or fall asleep. This can also result in barking, howling, pacing, redirected destruction and/or extreme measures to escape. All of these behaviors are displayed in excess, can get increasingly worse, and can last for the entire duration of the person's absence. Dogs who take extreme measures to escape may chew up blinds,

window sill baseboards, or scratch exit doors—sometimes without any regard to the harm they cause themselves. These intensive, self-sabotaging behaviors are not isolated incidents and must last longer than one month in order to be correctly diagnosed as "separation anxiety."

*Separation anxiety is not a behavior easily modified overnight, but there's hope for help with the symptoms. Here are some practical steps to take to help improve your dog's separation anxiety:*

- Regular adequate exercise. A dog that gets regular exercise will have less energy to be destructive and anxious on your departures. Exercising your dog 30-60 minutes prior to your departure helps your dog release excess energy.
- Do not make your departure and returns a celebration! This ritual can reinforce your dog's stress-induced behavior. Try not to acknowledge your dog 10-15 minutes before and after you return.
- Reenact your departure routine throughout the day. Even when you're not leaving, grab your keys with you when checking the mail. Put on your shoes when watching TV. Get dressed when cooking dinner.
- Avoid letting your dog cling to you throughout the day. Get creative in looking for opportunities to make separation between you and your dog while you're at home. This is critical because dogs with separation anxiety don't just get attached to their

owners, they get over attached. Train them to wait outside the kitchen while you cook or have them sleep in a crate just outside your bedroom.

- Practice short, down/stay exercises at short distances first. Start by training your dog to stay inside bedroom doorways, first at short distances. Then gradually work your way to the back door and eventually the exit door. As your dog's tolerance grows, this will develop an expectation in them that will help them to always expect your return.
- Seek the help of a professional. Before officially diagnosing your dog with separation anxiety, it's important to consult with a veterinarian first, especially if your dog's symptoms are severe and their destructive behavior is posing a threat to their health and wellbeing. Also, seek the guidance of a professional dog trainer. They can help you develop a training plan for modifying the behavior of your pet.

Interested in learning more about what it takes to successfully train a dog? Our shelter dogs can help you out! Visit [SAhumane.org/services/dogtraining](http://SAhumane.org/services/dogtraining) for more details on our Volunteer Dog Training Program.

## ADOPTIONS

- Open from noon to 7pm every day except most major holidays.
- Regular adoption fees range from \$30 to \$130.
- All pets adopted from the San Antonio Humane Society are spayed or neutered and receive their first set of vaccinations, dewormer, and flea prevention. Cats are tested for FIV/FELV and dogs receive heartworm prevention. Both dogs and cats come with a microchip, 14 day complimentary follow up care at any VCA animal hospital, 30 days 24PetWatch Pet Insurance, and a free (after mail-in-rebate sent by SAHS staff) bag of Purina Pro Plan pet food.

## VOLUNTEER

- Visit [SAhumane.org/volunteer](http://SAhumane.org/volunteer) for orientation dates.
- Email [orientation@SAhumane.org](mailto: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 [foster@SAhumane.org](mailto:foster@SAhumane.org)
- Visit [SAhumane.org/foster](http://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

### SUMMER CAMP HUMANE - Registration Closed

**When:** June - August

**Where:** SA Humane Society, 4804 Fredericksburg Rd.

**What:** An opportunity for 5-15 year-olds to receive a unique learning experience about the humane treatment and care of domestic and wild animals.

### INDEPENDENCE DAY

July 4th, the SAHS will be closed to the public.

### MISSION PAWSIBLE

**When:** July 8-10

**Where:** SA Humane Society, 4804 Fredericksburg Rd.

**What:** A city-wide adoption event - all pets 4 months and older will be available for \$35 (dogs/puppies) or \$15 (cats/kittens).

### PETSMART CHARITIES®: CHERISH YOUR CHIHUAHUA

**When:** Month of August

**Where:** SA Humane Society, 4804 Fredericksburg Rd.

**What:** \$20 spay/neuter surgeries for Chihuahuas & Chihuahua mixes (appointment required - [SAhumane.org/spayneuter](http://SAhumane.org/spayneuter)).

### DOG DAYS at the SA BOTANICAL GARDENS

**When:** August 6-7

**Where:** SA Botanical Gardens, 555 Funston Pl.

**What:** "A dog friendly weekend at the Garden. Doggie treats and pools of water will be available for your pup as you stroll and enjoy the sights and sounds of nature. \$5 donation per dog (on a leash, please) will go toward local animal friendly charities. SA Botanical Gardens". Regular admission.

### ANNUAL FRIENDS FOR LIFE LUNCHEON

**When:** October 11 @ 12pm

**Where:** Mays Family Center at the Witte, 3801 Broadway

**What:** Fundraising event benefiting the SAHS. Individual tickets start at \$125. Visit [SAhumane.org](http://SAhumane.org) or call (210) 424-7597 for table and ticket information.

**Visit [SAhumane.org/events](http://SAhumane.org/events) for info on all upcoming events.**



*The SAHS feeds our pets  
Purina Pro Plan pet foods.*