

WHISKERS



CONNECTING FRIENDS FOR LIFE

SPRING 2012

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LUCY, ACS TRANSFER, ADOPTED AUGUST 8, 2011

THE SAN ANTONIO HUMANE SOCIETY & ANIMAL CARE SERVICES HIGH-VOLUME PET PARTNERSHIP WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY MAYOR CASTRO AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL ON JANUARY 19, 2012. THROUGH THIS PARTNERSHIP, THE SAHS HAS AGREED TO TAKE IN AT LEAST 2,000 ANIMALS TO HELP THE CITY REACH THEIR ULTIMATE GOAL OF MAKING SAN ANTONIO A NO-KILL CITY. WE ARE VERY EXCITED TO CONTINUE WORKING WITH ACS AND KNOW THAT THIS PARTNERSHIP IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF GREAT THINGS TO COME FOR THE HOMELESS PETS OF SAN ANTONIO.



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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR NANCY F. MAY



Dear Friends,

I have so much great news to share I don't know where to begin! First and foremost, I am pleased to announce that the San Antonio Humane Society is now an official high-volume transfer partner of Animal Care Services. Since the beginning of our pilot program with ACS back in October, we have taken in hundreds of animals from our onsite receiving facility at ACS. We love being onsite at ACS and are thankful to be able to take in so many animals and keep them from uncertain fates. With our help, ACS now has a save rate of more than 50%, compared to last year's average save rate of approximately 32%. With our 97% save rate and the continuing rise in ACS' save rate, we're confident San Antonio will reach the status of a no-kill city sooner rather than later. We're saving more lives... together.

This past January, we also participated in a block walk with ACS to promote free spay/neuter surgeries for residents within zip codes with the highest reported stray populations. We also educated the public on the importance of spaying/neutering and responsible pet care. In addition, we handed out door knockers promoting our free spay/neuter surgeries for all Pit Bulls and Pit Bull mixes, made possible by a grant from PetSmart Charities®. We had more than 40 SAHS volunteers attend the block walk, along with SAHS directors and staff. Seeing the community come together in support of our organization makes me believe anything is possible.

Back at the shelter, our adoption and spay/neuter numbers are sky rocketing! We love connecting more friends for life and making sure that every dog and cat born has a home waiting for them. This year we are also looking forward to growing our foster and volunteer programs to make them better than ever. If you want to get involved, I encourage you to consider being a foster parent and/or volunteer. Our fosters and volunteers are at the heart of our organization; because of them, we are able to save dogs and cats with all sorts of medical and emotional needs and make sure that they too have the second chance they deserve.

As always, thank you for your continued support and dedication to the wellbeing of our animals. We appreciate you keeping your contributions local to better our city and the lives of our San Antonio strays. We have been there in the past, we are here now, and we will be here in the future, always doing our best to help the homeless pets of San Antonio.

Many kind thanks,
Nancy F. May

HUMANE FRIENDS GIVING CIRCLE

Our Giving Circle is a way for donors to make a five year pledge starting at \$1,000 a year for 5 years. Pledges such as these make it possible for us to help homeless animals find homes where they can share their unconditional love and companionship with families who will cherish them. We are eager to continue this important work and are grateful for your sustainable partnership. As a Giving Circle member, you will be invited to various functions throughout the year where you can see firsthand how your generous gift is being put to work and benefiting the many dogs and cats that make their way to our doors.

If you are interested in joining our Giving Circle, contact Pat Good, Director of Development at pgood@sahumane.org or (210) 424-7604.



SAHS HUMANE EDUCATION AROUND TOWN

Our Humane Education program is expanding to help us educate more San Antonio youth about responsible animal care and pet ownership. This year we are looking forward to taking our education programs out into the community and into our local schools. Our Humane Education Coordinator, Shannon Ruiz, will be visiting elementary, middle, and high school campuses to give educational presentations centered on our animals and shelter for a small donation fee. To learn more about school speaking engagements, contact Shannon at education@sahumane.org.



CATCHING UP WITH DR. BRIDGEMAN



So, you got a puppy for the holidays. By now you, like most new puppy owners, are probably wondering, am I doing this right? Here are some of the most common new puppy questions answered by our in-house expert of all things animals and our shelter medicine veterinarian, Dr. Courtney Bridgeman.

Q. Should my puppy still be having separation anxiety?

Separation anxiety is a condition in which the pup/dog becomes fearful and either destructive/loud when left alone. The easiest way to approach this problem is crate training! Crate training gives the puppy a “safe environment” to call their own. The hardest part is the crying in the beginning! Remember, if you have been giving in and letting them out because they are screaming, you are hindering your progress. Be strong!

Q. When should I start training my puppy?

You should start training your puppy the moment you get them home! Crate training, potty training, and good habits can be instilled day one with a 6wk old pup. You can even start working on sit and come as young as 6-8wks. Two “musts” for puppy training: 1) Remember that any habit that looks cute in a puppy but can develop into a bad habit in an adult, like chewing on shoes, should be discouraged from the beginning. 2) Always be consistent! When you ask your pup to sit make sure you can enforce it. Each time you use the command and then give them permission to ignore it by not making them do it, you lessen the effectiveness of ALL your commands.

Having a new puppy is fun and exciting, but laying the ground work for a good lifelong relationship can also be a lot of work! These are important times for you and your puppy; keep trying and ask the experts for help when you get stuck, you’ll be glad you did!

For answers to the popular questions “Should my puppy be potty trained by now?” and “When will my puppy need his next round of shots?” visit our website at sahumane.org.



THE TIME HAS COME FOR...



This is your chance to show the whole city of San Antonio how regal your dog or cat is! The contest is on for El Rey Fido 2012, and, back by popular request, one cat will also rise above the rest to join the 2012 El Rey Fido Royal Court!

This year we are also introducing a new spot on the El Rey Fido Royal Court, the Canine Executive Officer, better known as the CEO of the Royal Court. This title will be bestowed upon the one business or organization sponsored canine who raises the most money for the orphaned pets of the San Antonio Humane Society. Instead of adorning robes like the other court members, the CEO will be outfitted in a court-worthy suit to make sure he or she stands out among the rest. Don't miss this chance to sponsor the dog who will claim the coveted title of the first CEO of the El Rey Fido Royal Court!

Visit our website at sahumane.org to enter your dog or cat in the El Rey Fido 2012 competition, for instructions on how to create a fundraising webpage for your El Rey Fido candidate, or for more info, rules, and fundraising ideas.



LUCY, EL REY FIDO IX, IS WATCHING TO SEE WHO WILL BE CROWNED NEXT

SAVING LIVES...TOGETHER



OLIVER, ACS TRANSFER, ADOPTED OCTOBER 22, 2011



AVERY, ACS TRANSFER, ADOPTED JANUARY 14, 2012

On October 10, 2011, the San Antonio Humane Society took yet another step to reducing the number of homeless animals in our city by setting up a receiving facility at Animal Care Services. Three days a week we have SAHS staff and volunteers at our receiving facility at ACS to take in animals that will then be available for adoption at the SAHS. In the first 3 months of operating the receiving facility, the SAHS took in 552 animals, quadrupling the number of dogs and cats previously transferred from ACS.

As our ACS intake numbers increased, other shelters began to take notice and stepped up to offer more help for our San Antonio strays. By working together, we helped raise the live release rate at ACS from 44% to 52% in just the first month we were present at ACS. For the first time in ACS history, their live release rate was above 50%.

At our receiving facility at ACS we are currently taking all sorts of dogs and cats. While we always hope to see healthy, adoption ready animals, we have also taken animals that have heartworms, have treatable infections, need to be fostered, need FHO surgeries, or animals with limps or back problems who need x-rays to determine further treatments. In addition to our receiving facility at ACS, we have also begun going back into the ACS kennels and taking dogs and cats to bring back to the SAHS for adoption. With these two transfer strategies, we have high hopes for 2012 as we continue working together to save more lives and keep raising the ACS live release rate.



NEW DEPARTMENT FOR VOLUNTEERS & FOSTERS

For the New Year, we have created a new Volunteer Department. The Volunteer Department will now consist of our new Director of Volunteer & Foster Services Sara Phippen (center), Volunteer Coordinator Felicia Niño (right), and Foster Coordinator Sarah Rihn (left). We look forward to better serving our volunteers and fosters and growing both of these essential programs.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES *for Volunteers*

While our receiving facility at Animal Care Services has allowed us to take in more animals than we were previously transferring, being present at ACS has also really brought out the best in our volunteers. “We’ve had wonderful volunteers step up to assist in bathing dogs, cleaning, working at the help desk to direct foot traffic, and educating the public about alternatives to placing animals in shelters,” said Sara Phippen, Director of Volunteer & Foster Services. “We typically have 5-6 volunteers working at our receiving facility, but we are always looking for more.”

In the future, we hope to further train volunteers so they can provide support at higher levels. “I’m excited to begin teaching our regular receiving facility volunteers how to safely perform basic clinic duties,” Sara said. “I want our volunteers to know how important they are to us and enable them to benefit from their volunteer experience in new ways.”

Of all the things our volunteers do for us, one thing that is irreplaceable is their positive energy. Our volunteers are always optimistic and do a great job of reminding us about the positive steps we’re all taking to make San Antonio a no-kill city. If you’re interested in volunteering at our receiving facility at ACS or at our shelter, visit our website at sahumane.org to learn more.



BUSTER, NATHAN GINA, AND HIS 2ND COUSIN ASHLYN

BUSTER: **FROM FOSTER PUPPY TO PERFECT PET**

To foster is to love, to love is to give, and to give is to enrich. Every year our foster families enrich the lives of hundreds of animals that, without their help, may not be with us today. Just when we thought nothing could make us happier than fostering an animal in need, we hear an update from a former foster pet and his/her new family.

Zeus, now named Buster, was one of those dogs you couldn't help but love from the moment you met him. Despite arriving at the shelter malnourished and dehydrated with a staph infection, ringworm, and sarcoptic mange, he was still as cute as could be with a personality to make you weak at the knees.

After being fostered for nearly 2 months, Buster was put up for adoption. It was in our puppy room, where hearts melt and being immune to puppy eyes is impossible, that Buster met Gina & Nathan Bain. They spent some time with Buster, and consequently were forced to spend some time with some of our staff members who couldn't keep away, but still weren't sure if they were ready to adopt a new puppy into their home. However, after spending a night thinking things through, Gina & Nathan were back the next day, filling out adoption papers, picking out name tags, and telling us that they didn't want to spend another night without their dog.

Fast forward 8 months to February and you can see Buster has come a long way from his malnourished little body and ringworm covered belly. He is now 45 pounds, healthy as can be, and more perfect than ever. "He is so well behaved, but he's also so funny. He makes us laugh all the time," Gina said. "He loves to be really close to us; he'll even lie in between my feet when I'm getting ready for the day. Buster just loves to love. Nathan and I really believe he is a gift from God because he is our perfect dog."

Gina said Buster's average day now consists of taking walks around the creek and watching the deer, playing outside fetching sticks and rope toys, and showing off his favorite tricks: shake, roll over, and speak. "One thing we didn't expect from Buster is that he would have the cutest howl in the world," Gina said. "He only howls when he feels like it, but when he does it's just adorable!"

Without his foster family, Buster may not have had the opportunity to meet the family that was destined to be his. Our foster families not only give an animal in need a second chance at finding their perfect home, but they also give our animals the opportunity to enrich the lives of their new families. Because of Buster, Gina and Nathan's family has been changed forever, and they wouldn't have it any other way.

PAWS ON THE PATIO

2011

OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL FRIEND-RAISER TO DATE!

We want to thank Canyon Café for hosting our 9th annual Paws on the Patio Halloween event this past October! More than 800 people and 400 dogs turned out for our annual dinner and costume contest. All doggie dinner and photo contest proceeds went towards the care and shelter of our San Antonio Humane Society animals.

In addition to Canyon Café, a hearty THANK YOU to all of our sponsors: American Opportunity for Housing, Girls Inc. of San Antonio, Petango.com, Pet Works, Elite Lighting Designs, Brigman Enterprises Inc., Cover That Up! Linen, The Prop Room, B3 Entertainment, Audio Visual Aids, & our 2011 Paws on the Patio Committee!



A STYLISH DOG POSING FOR PHOTOS



3 CHEERS FOR PAWS ON THE PATIO!



HARRY "PAWTER" BROUGHT A LITTLE MAGIC TO OUR EVENING

SUCCESS STORY

SIR CAPTAIN MEOWINGTON AKA CAPTAIN



CAPTAIN WITH HIS OWNER, SANDRA



We initially went to the SA Humane Society to adopt a young kitten, but once we spent time with Captain, we knew he was the right fit for our little family. During the adoption process, we learned that Captain was a rescued stray, but has adapted very well as an indoor-only cat. He is the sweetest, most loving cat we could have wished for. We are grateful that he is very playful and friendly, and not shy or skittish. When we have friends or family over, he never hides and always wants to be the center of attention. Even when the cable guy came over, Captain was there, supervising and watching his every move.

Captain is very energetic and loves all his kitty toys. His favorite toys include a mouse that squeaks, an oversized plush fish, and a red laser beam that mysteriously invades our home. When we get home from work, Captain will always, without fail, greet us at the front door. He has made our house a warm and humble home.

When we adopted Captain, his name at the SA Humane Society was Schezuan, but we decided he needed a much grander name, something big to live up to. We get a lot of good feedback and chuckles when we mention his full name.

-Sandra

ADOPTIONS

- Open from noon to 7pm every day except major holidays.
- Regular adoption fees range from \$30 to \$99.
- All animals adopted from the San Antonio Humane Society have been spayed or neutered and received their first set of vaccinations, de-wormer, and flea prevention. Dogs also receive heartworm prevention. Both dogs and cats come with a microchip, 14 days free vet care from VCA hospitals, 30 days of free pet insurance*, a starter bag of Hill's Science Diet food, and a collar with a personalized tag.
(*some restrictions apply)

RECEIVING

- Receiving is done by appointment only.
- Please call 210.226.7461 at 8:30 am to make a receiving appointment.
- Visit www.sahumane.org for more details.



UPCOMING EVENTS

THIRD-ANNUAL "MUST LOVE PETS" HAPPY HOUR

February 12, Grand Hyatt San Antonio, 600 E. Market St. 4:30-7:30pm

It's a case of puppy love at Bar Rojo in the Grand Hyatt San Antonio and pet lovers are invited to bring their furry friends to the hotel hot spot. Cuddle up to some cute pups from the SA Humane Society while enjoying a full cash bar and complimentary hors d'oeuvres. Complimentary parking is available to "Must Love Pets" Happy Hour guests and four-footed Valentine friends.

WALK MS – PAW OUT MS!

March 3, AT&T Center

Paw out MS on a 1-mile or 5k route. The event opens at 8am and walks begin at 9am. The San Antonio Humane Society will have puppies and dogs available for adoption from 8-11am. Free walk registration for dogs and owners at walkMSTexas.org.

SPRING CAMP HUMANE

March 13-15, San Antonio Humane Society, 4804 Fredericksburg Rd.

Camp Humane is a fun and fantastic learning experience for animal-loving kids! For more information or to register your child for Spring Camp Humane, visit sahumane.org.

FIESTA, FIDOS, & FASHION

March 25, North Star Mall, 7400 San Pedro

Join us for the fitting of the Royal Grr-robies at our second-annual Fiesta, Fidos, & Fashion event with Cheryl Trevor, Mistress of the Grr-Robies. Also participate in a competitive fiesta-themed costume contest to see if your dog has what it takes to strut his stuff and take home a prize!

EL REY FIDO CORONATION

April 14, Grand Hyatt San Antonio, 600 E. Market St.

Come witness the crowning of new canine and feline royalty in a coronation celebration fit for a king! The event begins at 10am and is free to the public and well-behaved dogs. Complimentary snacks will be provided for all of our two and four-legged friends!

SUMMER CAMP HUMANE

June – August, San Antonio Humane Society, 4804 Fredericksburg Rd.

It may seem like summer is far away, but we're already planning our spectacular Summer Camp Humane! Check out our website for upcoming camp dates.



The SAHS feeds our pets Science Diet pet foods.

TIME WARNER CABLE PAWS ON DEMAND



Want to meet some of the San Antonio Humane Society animals from the comfort of your couch? Check out Paws on Demand, found on the San Antonio On Demand Channel 988. Tune in today and you may just find your new friend for life!

You Can Find Us On

