

## WHISKERS



Bunny, adopted 4.24.18

2018

## Seconds to Death to Second Chance at Life



**When Petunia first came to the San Antonio Humane Society, she was suffering from a medical emergency that could have ended her short life.**

At only ten months old, she was a clear victim of neglect. Her leg was broken and had been for some time, open wounds covered her paws, and every breath shook her broken body as though it would be her last.

“She was likely involved in a car accident,” says Surgical Services Supervisor, Samantha Delicati, “and it caused severe injuries to her abdomen, including a tear in her diaphragm.”

Although our staff moved quickly to get Petunia the surgery needed to save her life, her chances of survival were low.

She responded poorly to her procedure and required overnight monitoring at a pet emergency clinic. Being left

untreated for so long, her abdomen was incredibly shrunken, and she continued to have difficulty eating and breathing. A second emergency surgery was done, but Petunia’s health deteriorated to a point of uncertainty. SAHS staff was forced to consider humane euthanasia to end her suffering.

But Petunia is a fighter. After weeks of healing and rehabilitation, she no longer resembles the dying puppy who came through our doors in early January.

“She rolls over, asks for belly rubs...” says Natasha Hernandez, Animal Health Supervisor, “We’re incredibly grateful that our team’s hard work was not in vain. Petunia can finally be a happy puppy.”

Though her intense medical care lasted for only thirty days, Petunia underwent multiple surgeries, emergency room visits, and daily monitoring — a cost to our Medical Rescue Fund that totaled in the thousands. Thankfully, due to the consistent support of compassionate donors like you, Petunia and other animals in need receive the treatment and second chance they deserve.



San Antonio Humane Society  
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[www.SAhumane.org](http://www.SAhumane.org)

## OUR MISSION

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

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# Dogs Honored and Donors Recognized



El Rey Fido XVI, Jerry Rosenthal, is crowned by Rey Feo LXX, Ken Flores.

Though Fiesta has come and gone in a receding wave of glittery medals and flower crowns, the impact from the fundraising efforts of El Rey Fido XVI and the 2018 Royal Court will be felt throughout their reigning year. With over \$50k raised, their claim to royalty is well deserved, and we were happy to recognize and celebrate their efforts during the 16th annual El Rey Fido Coronation at the Sheraton Gunter Hotel. More information can be found at [SAhumane.org/ERF](http://SAhumane.org/ERF).

Please welcome El Rey Fido XVI, Jerry; Princess of the Food Bowl, Alexandra; Duchess of the Chew Toy, Ellie; Duke of the Fire Hydrant, Sam; Knight of the Royal Court, Squish the Pup.

# From Our President/CEO

Hello Friends,

Summertime in San Antonio typically means paletas, barbecuing, and tubing the river. For homeless dogs and cats in our city, however, it isn't so fun. At the SAHS, as the temperature rises, we ready ourselves for increasing numbers of pets brought to our care suffering from dehydration, heartworm disease, and flea and tick infestations.

Because of donors like you, we are able to help as many of these needy animals as possible. It costs about \$35/day to provide basic care for each of our pets, but expenses skyrocket as we receive more dogs and cats who need extensive medical care.

Your kindness ensures that even with the growing number of medical issues, we can continue to provide the best possible care for our shelter pets.

Thank you for your support! With your help, we can continue saving hundreds of dogs and cats from the Texas heat this summer.

Thank You and Best Wishes,

Nancy F. May, President & CEO

# Helping Hedge-Hog Home

**Stolen, returned, and adopted. It happened in under seventy-two hours. Hedge-Hog, the nine-month-old Alaskan Husky, had already suffered through abandonment when, on a busy Saturday in April, he was kidnapped by a couple posing as typical adopters.**

The couple entered our front doors like any other visitor. They expressed their interest in meeting with Hedge-Hog, and after a chat with kennel staff and volunteers, they were allowed to socialize out in the courtyard. With leash in hand, they casually strolled out the lobby door. They did this without adoption papers, without an interview, and without our knowledge.

Our shelter surveillance footage captured clear shots of the couple, and the media was immediately alerted. Due to the quick action of staff, Hedge-Hog's kidnapping was shared far and wide on TV, radio, and online media. Thanks to this coverage, which reached millions, Hedge-Hog's kidnappers ultimately returned him to our front doors less than twenty-four hours later.

According to staff at the shelter that Sunday morning, a woman resembling one of his kidnappers walked up to the front doors with Hedge-Hog and claimed to have found him on the side of the road. Upon further questioning from staff, the woman immediately walked away and

got into a waiting vehicle.

Hedge-Hog was hungry and thirsty, but thrilled to see our staff, and thankfully unharmed. And twenty-four hours later, he was adopted.

Since Hedge-Hog's safe return, our staff continues to remain vigilant. SAHS staff is limited and primarily focused on tending to each pet in our care, a number that can range from 100 to 150 pets daily. Security remains in the lobby for the safety of front desk staff, who work with the public coordinating animal surrenders, accepting adoption applications, and fielding numerous inquiries regarding services offered.

Like many nonprofit organizations, we could always use more resources and hands on deck. It's for this reason that we are grateful for the regular contributions made by you to help us continue operating smoothly. It was thanks to all of our supporters that Hedge-Hog was brought safely back into our care.



## You Help Us Save Lives Every Day

**Kayla, a 15-year-old calico beauty, was brought to our shelter after being found wandering the streets of San Antonio in search of comfort.** She has been with us for over 100 days, and while it's harder to find adopters for our older pets, we're determined to find Kayla her perfect forever home. Her cost of care has reached nearly \$4,000 and counting, but we will continue to provide her with food, shelter, and lots of love for as long as it takes!

**Join our Giving Circle of friends and set up an automatic contribution each month, quarter, or year at [SAhumane.org/Donate](https://SAhumane.org/Donate) to help pets like Kayla every day.**



# Save the Date for the 2018 Friends for Life Luncheon!



Aiden & Gunner Miller, two SAHS alumni and 2017 Friends for Life Luncheon guests of honor.

Join us on Thursday, October 11, 2018, at the Mays Center at the Witte Museum as we celebrate connecting friends for life! Please note that this date has been rescheduled from the previously published "Save the Date" in our February newsletter.

The 2018 Friends for Life Luncheon is a fundraising event honoring the lifelong connections made between people and pets. This event brings community members together to rally around our mission of giving homeless, neglected, and abused dogs and cats a second chance at life. Join us for lunch, a silent auction, and plenty of puppy snuggles!

Visit [SAhumane.org/Luncheon](http://SAhumane.org/Luncheon) for more information.



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## Your Dollars at Work

977



Cat Surgeries  
Subsidized To  
Date

1,066



Dog Surgeries  
Subsidized To  
Date

2,043



Total Spay/  
Neuter Surgeries  
Subsidized To  
Date

In 2017, the SAHS opened the Brooks Spay/Neuter Clinic on the Southside of San Antonio to provide an additional location for low-cost spay/neuter surgeries and services. With your help, in 2018, we have subsidized many of these vital surgeries at the Brooks Clinic for families who otherwise would not be able to afford to spay/neuter their pet. Before the end of the year, your generosity will help support thousands more opportunities for free or reduced-cost surgeries to help fight pet homelessness in San Antonio.