

# WHISKERS



# 2019

Miss-Bliss, adopted Spring 2019

## Two-Week-Old Puppy Trapped and Left to Die

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**Had she been discovered even an hour later, she likely would not have survived.** Found pale and only a couple of weeks old, little Miss-Bliss' rescuer did not expect to find an abandoned puppy when he opened the insulated lunchbox she was left in.

"It's one thing to abandon a pet, but why in a lunchbox? It didn't just keep her trapped, it kept her cold," said Christina Salinas, Foster Program Supervisor.

Able to fit in the palm of a hand, Miss-Bliss was severely dehydrated, underweight and near death. She was so weak, she couldn't even muster the strength to open her eyes. She was cold to the touch and our clinic staff struggled to keep her warm.

It wouldn't be until after an emergency blood transfusion and two days of around-the-clock forced feedings that her eyes finally began to open.

Although shocking, these types of stories are not uncommon in our community. With a stray pet population of over 150,000, our city is still struggling to ensure every dog and cat has a forever home.

Thanks to your donations, Miss-Bliss is just one example of a pet who was able to get the immediate care that she needed to survive such extreme neglect.

Today, Miss-Bliss is living a pampered life with home-cooked pet meals and according to her adopted mom, "She's the typical Chihuahua."



San Antonio Humane Society  
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## 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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# Humane Education Teaches Compassion

**The goal of our Humane Education program is to assist in solving pet overpopulation.** We have to teach our next generation what it means to live thoughtful, compassionate lives and to treat animals with kindness.

“These lessons are especially important for kids because they’re the future of our community — and if they’re already in the mindset of making compassionate choices, they will continue to make those choices when they’re the decision-makers,” said Nicole Dearstine, Humane Educator.

We’re already starting to see these choices being made firsthand. Many of our students go on to conduct donation drives to help the pets in our care.

“It’s really amazing to see these lessons being put into action through

philanthropy,” said Traci B. Gomez, Chief of Community Engagement. “We can’t wait to see what our next generation can do!”



Sisters Jadyn and Justyce requested donations for pets at the SAHS in lieu of birthday gifts.

# From Our President/CEO

Hello Friends,

Meeting Sinatra, you would never know what this sweet boy had been through. This gentle 4-year-old Pit Bull Terrier mix currently lives for long naps and endless belly rubs. However, his life has not always been so easy; when he first came to us, he was in constant discomfort from a broken leg that had never healed properly. Our staff immediately got to work, providing rehabilitation and tons of ear scratches to help him recover. Through the whole process, Sinatra’s sweet and loving nature never wavered.

We treat countless pets like Sinatra every year with heartbreaking ailments — but what never ceases to amaze us are the unbreakable spirits of these animals who have suffered so much. We are inspired daily by the resiliency of the pets in our care — and by donors like YOU who provide us with the tools we need to give these pets another chance at life. Thank you for saving Sinatra, and for your loyal support of the thousands of homeless pets in San Antonio waiting for their second chance.

For the Pets,

Nancy F. May, President/CEO

# A Leg to Stand On

Whether due to a change in family, health or housing, nearly 30% of pets surrendered to the San Antonio Humane Society are surrendered by pet owners. Bailey was one of them.

When she came into the shelter, her front paw appeared twisted and painful, but there was no sign of recent trauma. Her owner revealed that she had, in fact, broken her leg some time ago, was treated for it, but chewed through her cast as she was healing. She also had a history of digging under the fence to escape her yard and was not spayed.

Bailey is a 2-year-old Vizsla and, like her breed, is very active. She requires a high level of physical activity to keep her occupied and prevent destructive behavior such as chewing and digging. Vizslas typically don't make good kennel dogs and they prefer being with their owners.

**“She showed us some really encouraging signs, and that made us want to fight for her and give her the chance to recover.”**



So, while it's anyone's guess why Bailey's leg healed incorrectly, the likely culprit may have been restlessness and the need to expunge her puppy-like energy.

Injured dogs like Bailey don't always stand a chance when they're given up to open-admission shelters and, unfortunately, no-kill shelters such as the SAHS are only able to take in medical cases when funds are available.

Thankfully, with your help, we were able to give Bailey the surgery she needed to straighten her leg and improve her life. With proper supervision, socialization and rehabilitation, Bailey made a quick comeback. Although she's taking it slow, every day Bailey places more and more weight on her once deformed paw. As this article was going to press, Bailey moved into a loving foster home where she would be able to stretch her legs and play 'til her heart's content.

# LITTLE PAWS FOR A BIG CAUSE!

## Help Homeless Pets at the SAHS and Join the Fundraising: [SAhumane.org/ERF](http://SAhumane.org/ERF)

When Hazel, a 2-year-old French Bulldog, and her mom, Sara Morgan, set out to begin their El Rey Fido fundraising journey, they knew they had a mountain to conquer. The fundraising competition raises tens of thousands of dollars each year for the pets at the San Antonio Humane Society. “I’ve never fundraised. I’ve never asked people for money. It is the hardest thing,” Sara admitted.

Hazel, a registered therapy dog, is a regular visitor at the Children’s Bereavement Center of South Texas and the Ronald McDonald House. She and her mom are accustomed to the giving side of charity, not the asking. It was definitely a new experience, but one they took head-on.

From flyers, letters and a social media campaign to fiesta medals, cold-calls and donation boxes, all of their time was dedicated to raising funds. “We reached out to anybody who loved pets . . . and we showed them where their donations went.” They were overwhelmed with support, “We got donations everywhere from 25 cents to as much as \$5,000!” In total, Sara and Hazel were able to raise over \$86,000 for the dogs and cats at the SAHS, earning Hazel the title of El Rey Fido XVII and her crown at the El Rey Fido Coronation during Fiesta San Antonio 2019.

From the biggest check to the smallest cent, they knew every dollar would make a difference. “It’s not just about getting this beautiful Grr-robe,” said Sara, referring to the sequined robe with which El Rey Fido is annually fitted. “It’s about saving animals. It’s my passion. We believe all animals deserve a second chance, and we have to give back as a society.”



## Attention: Construction Ahead



Every day, pets arrive at the SAHS in desperate need of our free and/or low-cost services. As a no-kill shelter, we try to care for as many of these pets as possible, but we are restricted by a lack of space and limited resources.

With this in mind, we are embarking on our \$10 million Picture the PAWsibilities Capital Campaign to build a state-of-the-art medical building and renovate existing facilities at the SAHS on Fredericksburg Road.

Would you like to lend a paw to our efforts? Visit [SAhumane.org/Capital](http://SAhumane.org/Capital) to make your contribution!