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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR KATHRYN BICE



Dear Friends,

As a community, we are beginning to really direct our resources to solving some major issues with our local population of companion animals. Thank you for supporting us – your local, independent, Humane Society.

One of the special privileges of being a No Kill shelter is being able to make a commitment to each animal and its rehabilitation needs. In this issue of our newsletter, we offer an update on Winston, a badly injured Shepherd-Akita mix who was dumped near Loop 410 and Old Pearsall Road. Winston is now holding his head high – and he is up for adoption. Traditional shelters and government shelters, especially in Texas, are stretched beyond capacity due to the high volume of stray animals and the practice of taking in every one, only to turn around and have no space.

The San Antonio Humane Society, your local charity, is different.

Being No Kill creates a change in perception. We invest in the dogs and cats that are in our care. We do not euthanize for space. Dogs and cats are received by appointment as space is available. Fortunately, we have about 100 appointment spaces a week.

When we say we will not kill a pet to make room for another, we are sharing our belief that it is necessary to commit to those we do have, until they are placed. Each adoption makes room for the next orphan. When you adopt a pet from our shelter, you essentially transform two lives: that of your new companion, and that of the dog or cat who now has a safe place to rest. We share our available space with good Samaritans and pet guardians. We also receive dogs and cats from traditional and government shelters to help save more lives.

It is our vision to double our rescue/adoption capacity, double our spay/neuter capacity and more than quadruple our education capacity. Each department has a vision for its long-range goals. With your belief, support, and friendship, we will look back one day and say, “Remember the days when we could only save 100 pets a week ... Remember the days when we could only spay/neuter 160 pets a week! ... Remember when we committed to help with the community NO KILL plan.”

We look forward to one day finally being able to say, “The community as a whole can save every adoptable and treatable dog and cat – which means No Kill.”

Hope to see you visiting one day soon at the San Antonio Humane Society.

HUMANE SOCIETY PARTNERS WITH TIME WARNER CABLE TO SUPPORT PET ADOPTION WITH PAWS ON DEMAND

Every dog has its day, and Time Warner Cable is hoping to make the day of many dogs (and cats) at the San Antonio Humane Society in the coming months. Through a unique partnership with the Humane Society, Time Warner Cable will showcase adoptable dogs and cats on its newest on demand feature, Paws on Demand, exclusively on Time Warner Cable's San Antonio On Demand, Channel 988.

Paws on Demand features short video clips of the playful pooches and frisky felines available for adoption at the Humane Society. From the comfort of your own home, you can watch videos of the pets interacting with shelter volunteers, get a feel for the animal's likes and dislikes and find out detailed information on adopting animals from the Humane Society.

Time Warner Cable's digital subscribers can watch the clips for FREE by tuning in to San Antonio on Demand Channel 988 and scrolling to the “Community” category.



OUR SPAY/NEUTER CAMPAIGN



To confront our community's severe dog and cat overpopulation problem, the San Antonio Humane Society is marking the first anniversary of our new spay/neuter clinic by kicking off a publicity campaign and lowering prices for anyone who brings in a pet for sterilization. In just the first year, we have performed more than 5,500 spay/neuter surgeries on dogs and cats from the Humane Society, other animals shelters, and the general public.

With new Web pages, brochures, and an online video featuring retired San Antonio Spurs star Sean Elliott and his wife, journalist Claudia Zapata Elliott, the San Antonio Humane Society is drawing attention to the importance of sterilizing the city's dogs and cats. The campaign is raising awareness about the benefits of spay/neuter surgery, which helps protect a pet's health, can improve temperament and can prevent a pet from roaming in search of a mate.

At the John C. & Dorothy R. Wilson Spay Neuter Surgical Suite, appointments are available to the public on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Pets must be at least 8 weeks old and weigh at least 2 pounds. For any pet at least 4 months old, proof of rabies vaccine is required; otherwise, rabies vaccine is administered at an additional cost.

The new lower prices range from \$35 for male cats up to \$100 for 75-plus-pound female dogs. For more information, contact 210-226-7461, extension 127.



CATCHING UP WITH DR. HURST BRIDGEMAN

The San Antonio Humane Society's Dr. Courtney Hurst Bridgeman, D.V.M., answers frequently asked questions about spay/neuter surgery. For more FAQs, go to www.sahumane.org.

Q: Will the surgery hurt my pet?

A: It is a surgical procedure, so some pain and inflammation is common. The surgery itself is done with the pet asleep under general anesthesia where they cannot feel a thing. Pain medicines are given prior to and after surgery that can give the pet pain relief for up to 36 hours after surgery.

Q: Will my pet gain weight after surgery?

A: It is common for a pet's metabolism to slow down a bit after surgery. It is possible, however, to maintain your pet at a healthy body weight by adjusting the pet's food intake. It is possible to keep your pet healthy regardless of their reproductive status.

Q: Will it change my pet's personality?

A: Surgery should not alter your pet's friendly or exuberant behavior. At most you should see a decrease in undesirable behaviors like house marking, aggression, escape/roaming and courting behaviors, especially in male dogs.





WINSTON WHEN WE FOUND HIM...



AFTER A FEW WEEKS IN OUR CARE



IGNACIO CONTRERAS, ANIMAL CARE TECH,
WITH WINSTON

WINSTON'S COURAGEOUS COMEBACK

When Sarah Rihn first spotted the older black-and-white dog near Loop 410 and Old Pearsall Road, he was exhausted from chasing a car that – with hazards flashing – left him and three other dogs in its wake. The Shepherd-Akita mix pooch, now known as Winston, had a massive infection in his neck that could have been caused by a bite, or by road rash. Rihn, who is the foster care coordinator at the San Antonio Humane Society, took Winston home, gave him water, and prepared to bring him to the shelter in the morning. “I didn’t really think he would make it,” she says.

Indeed, Winston was in bad shape. He was heartworm positive. He had scars and scrapes. He was depressed. [What a difference a few weeks, some antibiotics, and lots of tender loving care can make.](#) “Winston was at the end of the line,” says Cynthia Martinez, Director of Operations. “He had reached a point that most dogs don’t come back from. I shudder to think what would have happened to him if we had not been able to take him in and give him a second chance.”

After just a couple of days of medications and the benefit of a comfortable bed, Winston “stood up and was wiggling his tail,” says Clinic Supervisor Sara Phippen. And after just two weeks at the San Antonio Humane Society, Winston was ready to be put up for adoption. “He’s a relaxed and grateful guy,” says Rihn.

CAT PAJAMA PARTY YIELDS 65 ADOPTIONS

For many kids, Saturday morning in summer means getting to stay in PJs late. And for the San Antonio Humane Society, one special Saturday in July meant a pajama party with cats – an exciting morning for humans and felines alike.

The event was dreamed up in the middle of kitty season. The Feline Pavilion – which can house up to 74 cats – was completely full. What could be more fun than a Cat Pajama Party to bring out prospective adopters? Free ice cream was dished out, but the real treat was that adoption fees were waived for the day. A total of 65 spayed or neutered cats and kittens went to new homes, complete with up-to-date vaccinations, pet insurance, a starter supply of food, collar, tag, and microchip.

Every spring and summer, dozens of cats and kittens land in our shelter. Nationwide, only about one in four shelter cats is adopted into a loving home. The Cat Pajama Party generated a festive atmosphere, with 70 people in line for the hour-early opening at 11 a.m. and later, up to 200 people in line. “All the visitors were joyful and excited at the prospect of finding that perfect kitty companion and no one minded the wait,” says Cynthia Martinez, Director of Operations.



A GUEST AT THE CAT PAJAMA PARTY

CAMP HUMANE KIDS SEE EXOTICS AND LEARN THE BASICS



CAMPERS PETTED A SLOTH & WORKED SHOW DOGS



When 11-year-old Erin Lovell saw a Web posting for summer camp at the San Antonio Humane Society, she pleaded with her mom: “Can I go? Can I go? Can I go?” An animal lover who attends Connally Middle School, Erin won over her mom – just as the more unusual animals at Camp Humane would win over Erin. She especially liked touching a snake, and she took the camp’s lessons to heart. “I learned how to take care of animals,” says Erin. Erin was among more than 85 campers aged 8 to 13 who participated in three separate week-long camps at the Humane Society this summer. “She’s one of those kids that just love animals,” says her mom, Beth Lovell. “It was just perfect for her.”

Campers not only got to interact with puppies and kittens, but got up-close looks at an owl, raccoon, rattlesnake, and sloth, among others. As Zita Schlautmann, Humane Education Specialist, points out: “Where else can kids hold an 8-foot boa constrictor, pet a Flemish Giant rabbit, and take trained agility show dogs through their paces all on the same day?” Perhaps most meaningful, campers learned how best to take care of their own pets and keep them safe and happy. “One of the most valuable aspects of Camp Humane was that it provided the opportunity to educate beyond the Humane Society walls,” Schlautmann says. “Campers were able to explore and learn about animals and then go home and share their newfound knowledge and enthusiasm with their families and friends.”

Madeleine Garza-Parker, a 12-year-old who hopes to become a veterinarian some day, says the camp taught her about responding to a lost animal and “how to be nicer to animals.” A student at Wood Middle School, Madeleine has a dog, a cat, three fish, and one frog at home—but her favorite animal during camp was the sloth. “It was a unique animal and you don’t get to see it very often,” she says.

HANDSOME GOES BEHIND BARS, FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Handsome, a 2 1/2-year-old Great Pyrenees mix from the San Antonio Humane Society, became the 100th dog to join the female inmates of Texas’ Lockhart prison in a program to train and socialize shelter dogs. The goal of Paws in Prison is to increase the chance of adoption for certain dogs by providing basic obedience training and house- and crate-training. At a graduation ceremony in June, inmate-trainers demonstrated the skills they have taught to Handsome, as well as the Humane Society’s Greta and Wags. The program is an opportunity “to make a difference for not only our adoption animals but all the women who are training those animals,” said Humane Society Executive Director Kathryn Bice.

A professional trainer demonstrates to each handler how to properly train a dog. The San Antonio Humane Society is one of five agencies partnering with the prison, located about 70 miles northeast of San Antonio. Since joining the program a year ago, the SAHS has seen four of six participating dogs – Candycane, Sierra Landcaster, Buzz and Wags – adopted into new homes.

To learn more about our adoptable Paws in Prison dogs, go to www.sahumane.org or www.pawsinprison.com.



HANDSOME

FEATURES

NURTURING OUR TINIEST ORPHANS

Cindy Vargas was driving home from volunteering as a photographer at the San Antonio Humane Society when she got a call from her brother. He'd found four kittens at his East Side warehouse. Could she help? "I put them in a box and brought them home, and that's when the crash course began," says Cindy, who hit Google for how to care for the 3-week-old kittens. She fed them with a syringe until they were old enough to be surrendered to the Humane Society.

Three years ago, Cindy started volunteering by cleaning cages and helping with laundry. "Cindy is an amazing volunteer who is always ready to help in any area needed," says Volunteer Coordinator Melissa Escamilla. After a while, Cindy heard about a call for photographers to help showcase the shelter's animals. She jumped at the opportunity. "Cindy is an exceptional photography volunteer who contributes hundreds of hours capturing our adoptable dogs' elegance, as well as personalities, for all potential adopters to see," says Photography Coordinator Felicia Nino.

About a year ago, Cindy took on her first official Humane Society foster – a black Shar-Pei mix named Shadow. He had been dumped in a trash can. He had mange. Cindy cared for him for three weeks, training him to sit, stay, and lie down. "He turned out to be a wonderful dog," Cindy says. A military family adopted him and sent her photos of him in his new home. So far, Cindy has fostered seven kittens and puppies for the Humane Society, in addition to the two dogs, nine puppies, and four kittens she has rescued and fostered on her own.

Cindy's love of animals stretches back to her childhood, when she saw her mom try to help every stray she came across. As a young adult, Cindy became aware of the suffering of companion animals and became determined to educate others about properly caring for dogs. Today, she is a homemaker with three dogs of her own. Unable to have children, [Cindy says she is driven by a mothering instinct to provide foster care for four-legged babies](#). "I get that satisfaction of knowing they're going to be given to good homes, they have been well socialized, and they're going to be spayed or neutered," she says. "The most difficult thing about fostering," says Cindy, "is not the 3 a.m. feeding, but the moment of good-bye. Every foster or rescue that is ready to leave my home gets lots of hugs and kisses from me." And that's not all. ["I even say pet prayers with them during their last night with me."](#)



CINDY VARGAS WITH SHADOW



CINDY FEEDS A FOSTER KITTEN

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

THANK YOU FOR GIVING US YOUR TIME!

JUNE

Heidi Kibble, who provides essential customer service by assisting our Spay/Neuter Coordinator

JULY

We are honoring all of our dedicated photography and writing volunteers: Abby Barrett, Alayna Barrett, Ali Alvarez-Calderon, Allen DeLaZerda, Alyssa Lankford, Cherie & Gwyneth Heuser, James Edwards, Jennifer Harker, Jarmila, Mailin, Michaela & Serin Gupta, Louise Ramos, Justin Faitz, Kyle Dominguez, Marianne Hinojosa, Mary Ayres, Samantha Navarro, Cindy Vargas, Gwen Mitchell, Renee Wirick

AUGUST

Rorie Perez, who has volunteered at Camp Humane for the last three summers, and Dr. Kim Neal, who helped out all summer by performing surgery and seeing patients at the wellness clinic on a strictly volunteer basis.

SUCCESS STORY

MAXIE



My husband Jeff and I adopted Maxie from the Humane Society in the summer of 2009. And let me just say, I have never met a more confident, happy dog! She loves to travel and ride in cars. Maxie has explored everything from the wild pigs in Arizona, to three foot snow banks in Pennsylvania! Max is also the biggest love bug. She is such a daddy's girl! Jeff and Maxie love to go outside and race each other. One day, Maxie will beat daddy!! Our little family has recently been separated due to my husband's deployment to Afghanistan. I was an absolute mess, and so was Maxie. Whenever she saw a soldier in uniform, she'd run up to them. Her big brown eyes would look at me pitifully and the pain would be unbearable. Fortunately, 4 months into the deployment, everything is back to a quasi-normal state and I really credit Maxie and her little brother Chase with keeping me sane. We recently celebrated Maxie's 1st birthday party. She got along with all the dogs, from the littlest Chihuahua to the huge German Shepherd. She was even nice enough to share her birthday cake with everyone! Maxie has been such a wonderful dog in our lives and I can't wait to see what the future holds for our little family.

- Jenniffer Guzowski



THE SAN ANTONIO HUMANE SOCIETY'S 2010 SUCCESS STORIES BOOK IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT [HTTP://WWW.BLURB.COM/BOOKSTORE/DETAIL/1535507](http://www.blurb.com/bookstore/detail/1535507)

SAVE THE DATE!

PAWS ON THE PATIO

It'll be a howlin' good time as the San Antonio Humane Society hosts Paws on the Patio at Canyon Café in Alamo Heights for the eighth year! Come owner, come dog from 4 to 8 p.m. on Monday, October 25. For only \$10, your canine companion will enjoy a delicious three-course doggie meal prepared by the executive chef, and for just \$5 more, you can enter your dog in the "Howl-O-Ween" pet costume contest. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the San Antonio Humane Society. There's no better way to kick off Halloween 2010!

ZITA SCHLAUTMANN, HUMANE EDUCATION SPECIALIST,
HER HUSBAND PETER DUNN, HS-ADOPTED DACHSHUND
HALEY AND SHELTER DOG MAGGIE



PLANNED GIVING

Did you know you can help the San Antonio Humane Society grow well into the future? That's right: We not only need to sustain current operations, but we must think about how we will protect and care for our region's orphaned companion animals in 10 years, 20 years, even 30 years down the road. You can help us by including the San Antonio Humane Society in your estate plan. If you have a passion for the Humane Society, planned giving is an incredible tool. For more information, please call 210-226-7461 and ask for Nancy May. Thank you! The SAHS does not receive financial support from any national organization or from any city, county, state, or federal agencies.

DEE DEE SALAZAR, ASSISTANT ADOPTION SUPERVISOR,
WITH HAWK, ONE OF OUR DOGS FEATURED ON
TIME WARNER'S PAWS ON DEMAND



SAN ANTONIO HUMANE SOCIETY • 4804 FREDERICKSBURG RD • SAN ANTONIO, TX 78229 • SAHUMANE.ORG

ADOPTIONS

- Noon to 7 pm every day except major holidays.
- Regular adoption fees range from \$89 to \$125.
- Check out www.sahumane.org for details and photos of each of our adoptable dogs and cats
- 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 and tick prevention. They also come with a microchip, 14 days of free vet care from VCA hospitals, 30 days of free pet insurance*, a starter bag of food, and a collar with a personalized tag.

(*Some restrictions apply)

RECEIVING

- By appointment only.
- Please call 210.226.7461 at 8:30 am
- See www.sahumane.org for details

ONLINE STORE

The San Antonio Humane Society's online store has gifts that are perfect for the animal lover in your life.

When you make this your place to shop, you'll feel good knowing your purchases benefit the animals of the San Antonio Humane Society.

Up to 20% of total retail sales will be donated to support our life-saving programs!



**VISIT OUR STORE ONLINE
AT SAHUMANE.PETFULFILLMENT.COM**

HOW TO HELP:

- **DONATE MONEY**
- **VOLUNTEER TIME**
- **FOSTER A PET IN YOUR HOME**
- **CONTRIBUTE PET BEDDING, TOWELS, DOG AND CAT TOYS, KITTY LITTER, CRATES, NAIL TRIMMERS, NEWSPAPER**

