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SAN ANTONIO HUMANE
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THE SAN ANTONIO HUMANE SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT, NO-KILL SHELTER THAT ANNUALLY CARES FOR MORE THAN 4,900 ABANDONED, INJURED OR ABUSED ANIMALS UNTIL THEY ARE READY FOR ADOPTION. WE ARE NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY NATIONAL ORGANIZATION, NOR DO WE RECEIVE FUNDING FROM COUNTY, STATE OR FEDERAL AGENCIES. BY DONATING TO US, YOU ARE "KEEPING IT LOCAL" - YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE USED RIGHT HERE IN SAN ANTONIO. COME VISIT US, AND YOU'LL SEE HOW WE'RE "CONNECTING FRIENDS FOR LIFE."

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR KATHRYN BICE



Dear Friends,

We begin the new year with many exciting new initiatives at the San Antonio Humane Society. But I'd like to begin this letter by thanking you, for I don't know what we would do without your friendship, kindness and giving ways. We are grateful for all of your support in 2010. It's helped us continue to be the No. 1 adoption agency and lead no-kill shelter in San Antonio. We could not have reached this pinnacle without you!

In this issue of our newsletter, we highlight important programs going on here at our shelter as well as in our city and state. We share the wonderful news that we have a new partnership with a Petco store on the South Side of San Antonio, making cats available for adoption in a traditionally underserved area. As the cats get adopted from the Petco store, we are bringing more each week. And this is only the first step: We plan to bring our wellness and education programs to the South Side in the near future.

Also in this issue, we draw attention to a critical state program to thwart rabies. South Texas is at high risk for rabies outbreaks, but a state effort is taking direct aim at the problem by continuing annual airdrops of Tootsie Roll-like rabies vaccine baits for native wildlife. Our staff veterinarian, Dr. Courtney Hurst Bridgeman, tells you what you can do to protect your pets.

Protecting and improving the lives of dogs and cats is our mission. That's why our Humane Education department is developing all kinds of new programs for kids, from camps during Spring Break as well as summer to birthday parties and tours. Read on to learn more about how your child or grandchild can benefit from our activities. Today's young people inspire us through their caring and interest in companion animals!

Here at the San Antonio Humane Society, we are always thinking about how to evolve in order to best serve our community. We do this while, on an average day, taking up to 100 calls at our front desk, receiving 20 dogs and cats by appointment or transfers from other shelters, and performing 35 spay/neuter surgeries.

As you know, we do not receive operational funding from national animal organizations. There is no trickle-down funding from any state or federal source. We are your local, independent, non-profit, San Antonio Humane Society. You make our life-saving work possible.

Again, our work is **made possible by your support** of our operations, staff and volunteers. We thank you today and every day.

TIME WARNER CABLE DONATING \$1 PER VIEW



Paws On Demand features short video clips of the playful pooches and frisky felines, as well as detailed information on adopting the pets through the San Antonio Humane Society. The clips can be found on San Antonio On Demand Channel 988 under the "Paws On Demand" category. Time Warner Cable is donating \$1 to the San Antonio Humane Society for every view of Paws On Demand pets throughout the month of February, up to a total of \$3,000. Viewers who are not able to adopt a pet at this time can still help out the Humane Society by tuning in and viewing!



SERVING THE SOUTH SIDE

Some South San Antonio families have a new cat to love and some lucky adult cats have new loving homes thanks to a recently established partnership between the San Antonio Humane Society and the Petco store located at 3143 Southeast Military Drive. The initiative, begun in September, is aimed at promoting cat adoptions on the South Side. And it's working: The store is averaging one to two adoptions per week. The SAHS keeps three cats at the store at a time.

"We think it's absolutely wonderful," says assistant store manager Mary Ann Murphy. "We had those empty cages for so long. Customers love having the cats; we love having the cats." Murphy coordinates with SAHS Kennel Supervisor Wanda Mitchell on adoption status and space availability for new cats. SAHS staff members and volunteers visit the store to clean cages and feed the cats.

Now, some customers come in just to see the cats, says Murphy.



KALEAH WILLIAMS, ANIMAL CARE TECH, WITH MUFFY

CATCHING UP WITH DR. HURST BRIDGEMAN



In January, the Texas Department of State Health Services began its annual airdrop of rabies vaccine baits over rural parts of South and West Texas – an increasingly effective effort to protect people and livestock from rabies. To better understand why it is important to vaccinate your pet, the San Antonio Humane Society's Dr. Courtney Hurst Bridgeman, D.V.M., answers frequently asked questions about rabies.

Q: I live in the city of San Antonio – not out in the country. I don't have to worry about rabies, right?

A: While it is true that more wild animals live away from the city limits, many cases of this fatal disease appear right in the middle of the city. Wildlife such as bats, foxes, raccoons, bobcats and skunks wander throughout the city without much fear, more so when infected with rabies.

Q: How is the San Antonio Humane Society helping to prevent the spread of this horrible virus?

A: Each animal at our shelter is given its first rabies vaccine at the time of spay/neuter surgery. In addition, any animal that already has a home and is brought in to be spayed or neutered must have proof of current rabies vaccination or it will be vaccinated. The SAHS also offers rabies vaccine for only \$10 per animal at our twice-a-month low-income Wellness Clinic.

Q: Which animals can be exposed and infected? My horse is safe, correct?

A: No! Horses, cattle, pigs, dogs, cats, and most other domestic pets can be infected. In Bexar County in 2009, rabies was most common in skunks and bats. The message is: All pets must be vaccinated and everyone should avoid sick or injured wildlife that are behaving strangely.

For more FAQs on rabies, go to sahumane.org

ONCE A SHELTER DOG RUDY NOW ELICITS SMILES AS A THERAPY DOG

When Donna Sutton spotted Rudy at the San Antonio Humane Society, he was 1 to 2 years old and had been treated for heartworms. Donna was told the Retriever-mix had been transferred from another shelter, but other than that, not much was known about the dog then known as “Bart.”

A New York transplant and assistant manager at Tiffany & Co., Donna had a feeling right away that Rudy was the dog for her. Little did she know that her new pet would spread joy among so many.

Shortly after adopting Rudy, Donna visited a local dog show and noticed a recruitment table for therapy dogs. She thought it would be a good way to get into the community. After attending an eight-hour class without Rudy and then leading him through a practical exam—designed to evaluate his social temperament and comfort level with the sights and sounds of a hospital environment—Donna and Rudy became certified.

Now, they go on weekly visits to lift the spirits of patients at Warm Springs Rehabilitation Hospital and students in special-education programs at the Nellie Reddix Center.

Donna says the warm feelings that Rudy provides to patients and children come right back to her. “He’s an extension of me,” she says. “I’m glad we’re making people feel good.”

On a recent day, Rudy (accompanied by Donna) was making his way through the halls of Warm Springs, entering rooms of patients who indicated they’d like to see a dog. Rudy put his paws up on the bed of a patient who shared that her dog just passed away. “Rudy boy,” she cooed as she petted him, “you’re a good doggie.”

Another patient, who was recovering from a knee fracture, said she’d been trying to talk to her two Schnauzers by phone. One of the dogs wouldn’t eat with her gone.

“Thanks for bringing him by,” another patient told Donna. “He’s a fine dog.”

When a patient asks, Donna shares the story of adopting Rudy from the San Antonio Humane Society.

“Shelter dogs make wonderful pets,” she says. “And even more than that, they can make a difference out there.”

CHARITABLE GIVING MADE EASIER

New tax laws have created some incredible opportunities for charitable giving in 2011. For example:

- People over age 70½ can make charitable gifts from retirement accounts and maximize tax-free gifts from their IRAs. They can even give retroactively for 2010.
- There will be more advantages for charitable lead trusts, charitable remainder trusts and charitable gift annuities.
- Charitable planning can be maximized with the new limits (\$5 million) in lifetime exemptions when planning your estate.

These are among the many ways you can help the San Antonio Humane Society to improve the lives of dogs and cats and educate our community about responsible pet ownership.

For more information, please contact your CPA or call 210-226-7461 and ask for Nancy May.



DONNA & RUDY VISIT PATIENTS AT WARM SPRINGS REHABILITATION HOSPITAL





HUMANE EDUCATION UPDATE

Our Humane Education department is spearheading many exciting new initiatives. Read on to learn about how you, your children and your friends can expand their knowledge of a variety of wild and domestic animals and gain an understanding of our community's pet overpopulation challenge.

SPRING CAMP HUMANE: Can't wait for summer? Be one of the first to experience our new "Spring Camp Humane"! During Spring Break, we will host camp for children ages 8-13. Camp will be held on Monday, March 14; Wednesday, March 16; and Friday, March 18. Campers can sign up for one, two or three days. Camp is \$40/day or \$99 for all three days.

MILITARY VOLUNTEER FOR A DAY: Calling all military personnel! Our program gives soldiers and airmen the opportunity to earn service hours right here in our community while spending time with our wonderful shelter pets. You can help out in our kitty cottage, bathing room, dog kennels or puppy room. The \$15 donation fee includes refreshments, a certificate of community service hours and a T-shirt.

BIRTHDAY PARTIES: We are now offering pawsitively purrfect birthday party packages for the party-animal in your family! All packages include use of our education building and courtyard, a tour of our shelter, an educational presentation, hands-on visits with puppies and/or kittens, goodie bags and more!

GROUP TOURS: Our tours enlighten participants on animal care, responsible pet ownership and the San Antonio Humane Society's goals. The tour lasts about one hour and costs \$5 per person.

For more information on any of these programs, please contact Shannon Sledge, Humane Education Coordinator, at education@sahumane.org or 210-226-7461, ext. 108.

FEATURES



DAISY WITH HER NEW FAMILY



DAISY WITH ANIMAL HEALTH TECH SAMANTHA MARTINEZ

WITH GENEROUS DONOR SUPPORT INJURED DAISY RECEIVES TOP-NOTCH CARE AND NOW A NEW HOME!

A very good-tempered pup, Daisy was brought into the San Antonio Humane Society as a stray—a stray with a broken rear leg.

Around the same time, a couple generously wanted to know how to help a dog in need. It was, as they say, a match made in heaven.

These animal lovers were told about Daisy, and thus began the story of helping the 2-year-old terrier mix heal.

They donated \$1,500 toward Daisy's care. Dr. Tom Vice, a veterinarian in the San Antonio Humane Society's Giving Circle, referred her to an orthopedic specialist.

There, she had surgery that involved inserting metal pins into the bone to stabilize the break. Due to the generosity of the donors, Daisy's leg was saved.

"Daisy is a joyful dog," Director of Operations Cynthia Martinez says of the 20-pound pup. "Even when injured, Daisy had lots of love to give."

Over the holidays, while on doctor-ordered cage rest, Daisy made a full recovery. And on January 17, only two days after she was put out for adoption, a family with four young children came and took her home!

Stay tuned for more happy endings just like this one...

PERHAPS YOU CAN BE OUR NEXT HERO!

The San Antonio Humane Society wishes to thank all of our generous donors for their continuous support. It is due to such amazing support that we have a new IDEXX machine, which analyzes blood chemistries such as liver values and glucose levels.

Other high-priority items still on our list:

- Ultrasound machine
- Electrocardiogram (EKG) machine
- Fluid pump
- Digital dental X-ray machine

For more information, please contact Cynthia Martinez, Director of Operations, at 210-226-7461, ext. 121

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

THANK YOU FOR GIVING US YOUR TIME!

SEPTEMBER: Samantha Jansen - We enjoy all the help she provides for the clinic as well as her attitude and friendship.

OCTOBER: Chelsi Lopez - Chelsi has been a dedicated SAHS Volunteer since July 2009 and loves spending quality time with our adoptable puppies.

NOVEMBER: Natasha Hernandez - Natasha always comes in with a great attitude and always finds something to do to keep busy and contribute to the shelter.

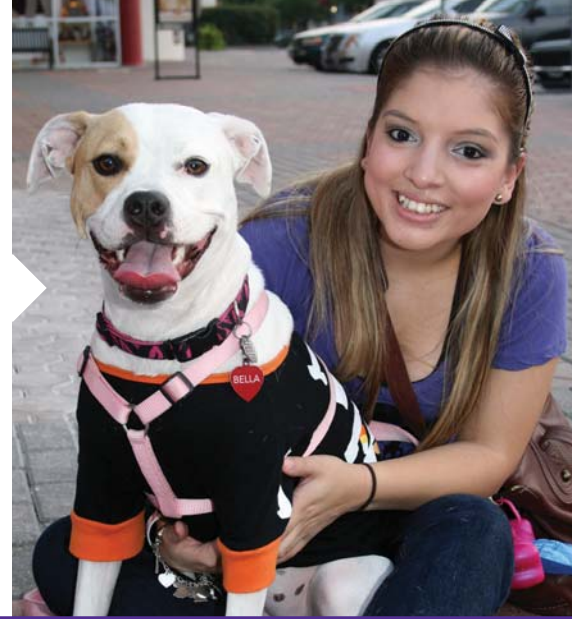
DECEMBER: Tiffany Kariuki - Tiffany Kariuki has been a wonderful SAHS Volunteer since August 2009 and always offers to help where needed.

PAWS ON THE PATIO 2010 A HOWLIN' SUCCESS!

We wish to thank Canyon Café for hosting our annual "Paws on the Patio" Halloween event in October—a woofin' good time was had by all!

More than 400 people and 200 dogs turned out for the eighth annual costume party. A portion of the proceeds benefitted the San Antonio Humane Society.

In addition to Canyon Café, a hearty THANK YOU to all of our sponsors: Elite Lighting Designs, Petango, Accu-Aire, Global Online Computers Inc., Dirty Dog Self-Serve Dog Wash, The Dog House, Whole Foods Market, Time Warner Cable and Pet Works!



SUCCESS STORY ZIVA AKA ALIYA

We're writing to say a big thank you for all the wonderful, hard work that the Humane Society does for the people and pets of San Antonio. In November we decided the time was right to bring a new dog into our home and hearts, and many friends recommended the Humane Society. We browsed all of the dogs online, and went to the shelter that week. We were really impressed by the friendly and knowledgeable staff, and by how open, light, and clean all the runs were. Luckily for us, our first choice, Ziva (formerly Aliya) was still waiting for her forever family, and the staff helped us take her out for a run and get acquainted with her.

We loved her friendly, enthusiastic temperament, and she clearly loved running, so we knew she would be the perfect companion for long hikes and runs. With the help of a fantastic adoption counselor named Shannon, we were able to bring Ziva home that same week, and life has not been the same for us - it's been better! She wakes us up with dog kisses and tries to burrow under the blankets and demand belly rubs. She's always glad to see us return home, and is learning to sit and stay down as we enter the front door. We cannot resist buying her dog toys, and she plays with them all, but her absolute favorites are the braided rope toy for playing tug-of-war, and the Kong "tennis-bone" for playing fetch. What we all love most of all is getting to be active outdoors everyday, whether it be a walk around the neighborhood, a cool run in the evenings, or a hike at a local park.

Adopting Ziva was one of the best choices we've ever made, and we are lucky and proud to be her forever family. When the time comes to adopt a companion for Ziva, the Humane Society will be the first place we look. Also, it was great knowing that bringing her home, she already was spayed, current on vaccinations, microchipped, bathed, and had a good supply of Science Diet. Taking her to a veterinary clinic for all those services would have cost much more money than the very reasonable adoption fee.

Thanks again for letting us adopt Ziva, and for all the great work you do!

Sincerely,
Sari & Mary Ann

ADOPTIONS

- Noon to 7 pm every day except major holidays.
- Regular adoption fees range from \$30 to \$80.
- 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 prevention. Dogs receive heartworm prevention. Both dogs and cats come with a microchip, 14 days of 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

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

SECOND-ANNUAL "MUST LOVE PETS" HAPPY HOUR

February 13, 4-7 p.m., Grand Hyatt San Antonio, 600 E. Market St.

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 S.A. Humane Society while enjoying a full cash bar and complimentary hors d'oeuvres. Complimentary parking is available to Happy Hour guests and four-footed Valentine friends.

WALK MS - PAW OUT MS!

March 5, 2011, AT&T Center

1-mile and 5K routes. Event opens at 8 a.m. and walk steps out at 9:30. The San Antonio Humane Society will have up to 20 puppies and dogs available for adoption. Free walk registration for dogs and owners at walkMStexas.org

"BECAUSE YOU LOVED ME" LUNCHEON

March 2011

The San Antonio Humane Society's annual fundraising luncheon. For more information, contact Crystal Ochoa at cochoa@sahumane.org

SPRING CAMP HUMANE

March 14, 16 & 18, 2011, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

San Antonio Humane Society, 4804 Fredericksburg Rd.

Fun and a fantastic learning experience for kids ages 8-13. For more information, go to sahumane.org

EL REY FIDO CORONATION

April 9, 2011, 1 p.m., Grand Hyatt San Antonio, 600 E. Market St.

Come witness the crowning of new canine and feline royalty!

HUMANE HIGHLIGHTS TOURS

Every first Tuesday of the month at noon and every third Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. Join us for a behind-the-scenes tour and you will witness what we see every day: Happy endings! For more information or to RSVP: cochoa@sahumane.org



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