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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Reading Program Transforms Lives of Pets & Children

*Students Visit the San Antonio Humane Society to Read and Socialize with Dogs and Cats*

**SA, TX (October 25, 2018)** – Students from Glenoaks Elementary School will be visiting the San Antonio Humane Society (SAHS) at 11 a.m. on Friday, October 26 to participate in the Tales for Tails Reading Program.

This humane education program has proven to drastically improve reading scores with the added benefit of giving needy shelter pets valuable socialization time.

The Tales for Tails Reading Program is essential in our work to create a more humane environment for our community. Students who participate in the reading program have the opportunity to become part of our animals' stories and to show them kindness, compassion, patience, and respect. Traits that they will hopefully put into practice in their everyday lives and in the future when they are the decision-makers for our community.

Nicole Dearstine, SAHS Humane Educator, shares:

“A shelter environment can sometimes be a little overwhelming because it's noisy and there are unfamiliar people and pets walking through on a daily basis. Having the students sit calmly with our pets and read to them in a soothing voice helps them feel more relaxed and comfortable, and a pet that is relaxed and comfortable has a greater chance of being adopted quickly.”

The Tales for Tails Reading Program officially began at the SAHS in 2016 after partnering with Glenoaks Elementary School to create a program for students needing additional reading practice. By the end of the 2016-2017 school year, the students' reading abilities showed remarkable improvement, and scores jumped several levels for all students participating.

During the 2018-2019 school year, the SAHS is welcoming nearly one hundred children from seven NEISD elementary schools to participate in its Tales for Tails Reading Program.

For more information on our Humane Education programs, please visit [SAhumane.org/education](http://SAhumane.org/education).

#### **About The San Antonio Humane Society:**

The San Antonio Humane Society (SAHS) is a nonprofit, no-kill organization that has served Bexar County and its surrounding areas since 1952. As a local nonprofit, the SAHS does not receive government funding and are not affiliated with nor receive regular funding from the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) or the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). Every year, the SAHS shelters, medically treats, and rehabilitates thousands of animals. Many are injured, abused, surrendered by their owners, or found as strays. All pets remain in our care until adopted. Our mission is to protect and improve the lives of dogs and cats by providing shelter, care, adoption, rescue, spay and neuter programs, and community education.

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