

WHISKERS

**HUMANE
SOCIETY**
SPCA of Bexar County

(210) 226 – 7461

4804 Fredericksburg Road

San Antonio, TX 78229

Spring 2009

Help support the Humane Society and prove your dog's STAR quality!

Enter your dog in the El Rey Fido Contest to be a royal ambassador for the Humane Society.



El Rey Fido VI
Bear Rapier



**Prince of the
Indestructible Chew
Toy**
Chuy Benningfield



**Princess of the
Perpetual Food
Bowl**
Daisy Jones



**Duke of the Ever-
Present Fire
Hydrant**
Binky Hardin



**Knight of the
Round Food Bowl**
*Becker "the Vicious"
Fassold*



**Earl of the Round
Food Bowl**
Ika ika Gonzalez



Help a Heartworm Positive Dog!

Our Help-A-Friend Fund collects donations to pay for costly heartworm treatments for animals in our shelter.

By donating, you too can give Heartworm Positive Dogs, like Ume and Canute, a second chance.

Visit our website to donate.

The Royal Court

El Rey Fido and The Royal Court will reign for one year. They will serve as ambassadors for the Humane Society/SPCA of Bexar County in parades and other events and activities.



The race for 2009 El Rey Fido has begun and here is some information on how to get started. It only takes 5 minutes!

It's quick and easy! Just follow the steps below to register your dog.

- (1) Visit the link: www.firstgiving.com/humanesocietyspca
- (2) Please click "Get Started".
- (3) Please select "El Rey Fido 2009".
- (4) Enter your email information.

After you will be asked for contact information and then you are ready to start fundraising!

Don't wait, the Deadline for El Rey Fido 2009 is April 1st.

Go to the website for tips on a successful fundraiser.

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From the desk of the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

We are grateful for your support and friendship. The Humane Society for the sixth year in our new location has again had the highest number of adoption placements of any agency in over 150 miles! We could not do all this magical work without your help and support.

The international award winning campus at Fredericksburg Road and Loop 410 has matured and is lovely to visit. We are open seven days a week and there is a line at the door for adoptions every day when we open at noon!!

Our community is wonderful and has thousands of committed animal lovers. We all understand that every animal is important. As we educate friends and neighbors about the need to adopt orphaned pets from shelters, we encourage and support spay and neutering of every companion dog and cat so we all can take steps to a kinder, gentler community.

If you have an "alumni" pet of our adoption program over the years please take a minute to hug them from us and send us a photo and story about how you and your furry family member have enjoyed the last few years.

Kindest regards,

Kathryn and the Humane Team

kbice@humanesocietyspca.org



Kathryn Bice and
Cherriane her HS adoption

Volunteers at Work!

Congratulations to our Volunteers of the Month!



November 2008:

Karen Iwanicki

Karen has a love of all animals and has spent her time volunteering here since March 2007. She has worked in the laundry room, the puppy palace and as a dog groomer. Congratulations Karen!



December 2008:

Cindy Vargas

A volunteer at the Humane Society since July 2007, Cindy has worked in almost every area, from the laundry and wash rooms to helping at events and, most recently, photographing dogs for the website. Thanks Cindy!



January 2009:

Fernando Vera

A new volunteer in October 2008, Fernando instantly jumped into helping in all areas at the Humane Society/SPCA, from special events to administrative support and pet write-ups. Keep up the good work Fernando!

2008: A great year for Humane Society Volunteers

2008 was a record year for volunteers, who donated almost 24,000 service hours. Our volunteers helped in all areas, from working in the Puppy Palace and Kitty Kottage to helping at our most successful Mutt Strutt ever! This upcoming year, we are looking forward to finding forever homes for even more of our furry friends. Thank you, volunteers, for being such a big part of our success!

Interested in volunteering?

Visit: www.humanesocietyspca.org/volunteer



Tribute Gifts

Donations made between September 12, 2008 and December 29, 2008.

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Cody's Story by: Julie Schuessler



Bradley

Our story starts with our beloved Bradley, a Keeshond we adopted from the Humane Society of North Texas. Bradley died on Oct. 23, 2007, of cancer at only 11 years of age. He was taken from us way too soon.

Before Bradley passed away, I spent time alone with him in our yard and we would “talk.” **I told him I would miss him and that he should come back if at all possible. I told him I would look for him in a shelter.** I jokingly said that, if he did, he should please come back as a mixed breed (so he would live longer), with shorter hair (so his thick coat would not need constant brushing and he wouldn’t get so hot in Texas), and less barksy (so he wouldn’t annoy the neighbors). I laughed with him about this, thinking that if anyone heard me, they would think I was crazy.

About six months after his passing, **I started visiting different shelters just to check.** I took my son along and explained to him the plight of homeless animals and the overpopulation problem. He completely understood that we adopt our animals rather than buy them. Since my son had only experienced older animals and never had a puppy, he had to learn that puppies chew, jump and sometimes steal his beloved stuffed puppy dog. I exposed my son to many different animals in various shelters. I knew we had to wait until he understood how to treat any type of dog well. Also, I knew the dog had to have the right temperament. I also knew we still had two dogs at home, a 16-year-old Chow mix and a 7-year-old Sheltie mix, and we really didn’t need a third dog.

On Oct. 23, 2008, because I had a doctor’s appointment right off of Fredericksburg Road, I joked with my friends that **I would just stop by the Humane Society on the way home.** During the past year, I had seen many dogs and had not adopted, so I wasn’t too worried. After my appointment, I stopped by the shelter and browsed. As I always did, I started with the older dogs first, then made my way to the puppy parlor.

Mystery was in a bottom cage. I was attracted to him immediately. He was very friendly and responsive, so I took him into a bonding room. With him, I experienced an immediate attraction that I had not had with any of the other dogs I had seen. I took pictures of him with my phone to show my husband. I knew this was a great dog with a great temperament, but I also knew we didn’t need a third dog. I further knew that I had to come back the next day with the family to see if he was a good fit. I put Mystery back into his cage knowing that he could be adopted before my return. **When we went back, it was love at first sight!** As much as my husband tried to avoid it, he knew Mystery, who became Cody, was a great dog with a great temperament. We adopted him.

Our adoption experience with your organization was wonderful. My husband and I both volunteered with a large shelter in the Fort Worth area for many years, so we understand very well what it takes to create an exceptional environment – and you do that, without a doubt.

As I filled out the paperwork, I realized that Bradley had passed away around this date. At the next visit to our vet, I checked. Yep. Bradley had died on Oct. 23, 2007, and I found Cody on Oct. 23, 2008. Cody is such a mix that no one has been able to tell me what he is (hence, his shelter name of Mystery). He has much shorter hair than Bradley, and we marvel that Cody hardly ever barks.

Coincidence? I guess that just depends on what you believe. For us, Cody is a gift from above.



Mystery/Cody

Memory Lane Bricks

Memory Lane is a unique spot at Humane Society/SPCA of Bexar County; a permanent tribute built one brick at a time by those who wish to honor or remember a loved one or special pet, mark an important occasion, or simply demonstrate their own love of animals and show their support for our life-saving work.

Depending on the brick size, the cost are **\$100** or **\$500**. Reserve your space on the Humane Society/SPCA of Bexar County Memory Lane today. Your contribution will help save the lives of thousands of homeless pets each year.

For more information call (210)226-7461, extension 120 or visit www.humanesocietyspca.org

What's been going on at the Humane Society...

Mutt Strutt

We at the Humane Society SPCA of Bexar County wanted to thank you for making the 2008 Mutt Strutt & K9 Karnival such a success. We had a record 400 participants and their dogs! We need your help to make that attendance grow at next year's Mutt Strutt which will be held on November 21, 2009. To start your web page for next year, check out our website for instructions.



**Sean Elliott and
Claudia Zapata-Elliott
...and their dogs, Mojo & GG**

The Humane Society SPCA of Bexar County would like to thank Sean Elliott and Claudia Zapata-Elliott for their help as the 2008 Mutt Strutt Honorary Chairs. Also special thanks to Bill Rhode, from WOAI 1200 AM for hosting his radio show at the Humane Society; Shelly Miles from WOAI TV4 for hosting the K-9Carnival.

Special thanks to all our volunteers and Mutt Strutt Committee: Monica Sanchez-Diaz Marcia Larsen, Traci Quinones & Angela Trevino

A Big Thank You to Mutt Strutt Sponsors



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These puppies were adopted in memory of Dana Edwards at a reception held to celebrate her life and memory. Miss Edwards was an avid animal lover and loyal supporter of the Humane Society.



Paws on the Patio-Halloween

On October 27th over 350 people celebrated Halloween with the Humane Society at the Canyon Cafe. At our annual Paws on the Patio event, we had a Halloween pet costume contest, animals up for adoption and offered micro-chipping. Thanks to Canyon Cafe for supplying the 3-course doggie meals and for helping us make this the most successful Halloween Paws yet.



For Lauren Langbaum's Sweet 16 Party, she requested that instead of gifts, her guest donate to the Humane Society. Lauren raised \$800 for the orphaned animals. Thanks to Lauren for her generosity!

Michaels' Rehabilitation & Rescue Fund:

At the Humane Society/SPCA of Bexar County, we make every effort to find the best home for the pets in our care. Sadly, many of the dogs and cats that come to us have been abused, neglected, injured or are suffering from chronic illnesses. These animals are treated based on the funds available at the time of intake or the severity of illness.

Through the Michaels' Rehabilitation and Rescue Fund, you can choose to make a one time or monthly contribution for a dog or cat with special needs. This will defray the costs associated with the provision of necessary medical care each animal needs and deserves. Once healthy, the animal will then be available to the public for adoption.



"Snakebite Dog" Copper:

On December 18th, one of our staff members found Copper, a 2 year old Basenji and Australian Cattle Dog mix with an apparent snake bite to the neck. She received medication for her wound and made a full recovery.

Our veterinarian, Dr. Hurst kept a close eye on her and says Copper is lucky she was found in time. With some time to heal and extra care while she recuperated, Copper finally was adopted on February 6th.



Wilbur...A Work Well Done:

Wilbur made his debut in our summer 2008 Whiskers issue. As you can see by his photo, he has returned from foster care with a beautiful coat and a 'Wonderful Wilbur' disposition. Because of the generous help from our Michaels' Rehabilitation and Rescue Fund, Wilbur has begun a wonderful life in his new forever home.

Before

After



Before

Skelly:

In November, Skelly came in to the shelter malnourished and in need of some TLC. Since then, she has put some weight on and is doing much better. In fact, she was recently adopted in January.

After



Help-A-Friend Fund:

Every animal who arrives at our shelter is tested for heartworms before being put up for adoption. The Help-A-Friend Fund collects donations to pay for costly heartworm tests & treatments for the animals in our shelter. Call (210)226-7461 or visit www.humanesocietyspca.org



SHARE THE LOVE. ADOPT A FRIEND.

HUMANE SOCIETY

SPCA of Bexar County

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Receiving

7 Days a Week

By Appointment Only

Begin calling at 8:30a.m.

210-226-7461

Please call until you get through to a staff member.

Do not leave a message.

All animals will be evaluated prior to intake and must be:

In good health

Of sound temperament

At least 8 weeks old

Depending on the age of the animal,
a receiving fee is required for all intakes.

Adoptions

Open Noon to 7pm

7 Days a Week

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Adoption Fees range from

\$89.00 to \$125.00

Please speak to an adoption counselor for details

Contact Information

4804 Fredericksburg Road

San Antonio, Texas 78229

Phone: 210-226-7461

Fax : 225-PAWS (7297)

www.humanesocietyspca.org

Other Animal Shelters in Your Area

There is a variety of animal shelters and groups in the Bexar County area and each agency has different policies.

Please visit **OwnUpSA.com** for more information.

Interested in being a Foster Parent?

Why Foster?

*Taking care of rescue dogs and cats is something I do best.
I know because I've done it and I've surely passed the test.*

The dogs I've bathed, The food I fed

The vacuuming I've done,

And all to watch a frightened soul, sit dreaming in the Sun.

My own dogs I've neglected, But I tell them everyday,

That I love and cherish each of them,

Though as new animals come to stay.

I know they understand this, For in their eyes I see,

The love that I have given them, Come shining back at me

Some people think I'm Crazy, Some others think I'm great,

But very few can understand, what really is at stake.

If I can love and help a dog or cat to find a better way,

My own life is much richer,

I look forward to each day.

So now you know my secret, It's there for all to see,

The love I give, the life I save,

I do it all for me

By Kathleen Parson

If you are interested in providing an orphaned animal with a temporary home please visit our foster page @ humanesocietyspca.org.

Upcoming Events

Vaccination Clinics

2nd and 4th Saturdays of the Month, 8AM-NOON

For more information visit: www.humanesocietyspca.org

March 4th - Estate Planning for Our Pets by Kevin P. Shay, Attorney and Counselor at Law

*** 7PM workshop at Humane Education Center**

What would happen to your pet(s) if you were not to return home? Pet trusts are now legal in Texas. Mr. Shay will discuss alternatives for planning for the future in case of the pet owner's incapacity or death.

March 11th – Planned Giving Seminar by Lindsay A. Martin, Attorney at Law, Oppenheimer, Blend, Harrison & Tate, Inc.

*** 7PM workshop at Humane Education Center**

This seminar focuses on advanced estate planning and will include some general estate planning as well as information regarding charitable gifts.