

Community News



On the Cover:



He's baaaaack. Everybody remembers Scooter. He was found roaming the campus at St. Mary's University and was the first SNIPSA, Inc. rescue dog. Like many of our dogs that have behavioral issues, Scooter had tremendous separation anxiety and was promptly returned.

Now Scooter, as you can see, is uptown. I'm talkin' really uptown, hip, and in his best retro gypsy wear. The blue dress and boa allow Scooter to show off his feminine side while still maintaining that air of masculinity for which all male dogs strive after being castrated. Scooter especially enjoys going on walks, going with his dad to look at sick horses and generally staring at you through his facial hair that never goes away...even though occasionally someone will trim it because they feel sorry for him. Scooter never knows a stranger and he would be flattered if you would make his acquaintance.

Pay special attention to how great a dog Scooter is, because ALL of SNIPSA rescue dogs have that hidden potential that Scooter has realized. Hot enough to be a runway model but cooler than the back side of a pillow, Scooter is a real man...I mean dog...I mean model...



SNIPSA volunteers march on!

Fiesta Flambeau

SNIPSA celebrates a San Antonio tradition.

Every Spring San Antonio gears up for Fiesta - a celebration of our city's heritage. The city comes alive with fireworks, music, festivals, food and parades. One of the oldest traditions is the nation's largest illuminated night parade, otherwise known as the Fiesta Flambeau Parade. SNIPSA joined the ranks and marched with rescue dogs dressed in festive costume. St. Luke's Episcopal School allowed SNIPSA to use their bus to shuttle people to and from the parade and Double Dave's Pizza donated over 20 pizzas to feed the hungry walkers. Join us in 2010 for this fun annual event!

Volunteers Decorate **Angel Trees for Holiday**



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For the second year, SNIPSA volunteers ranging in age from 3 to 73 spent an evening at AnArte Gallery constructing handmade ornaments featuring pictures of rescued dogs and cats needing sponsorship for various medical needs. Ornaments rich with glitter and tinsel were assembled with real images and stories of

SNIPSA rescues. The ornaments will be placed on Christmas trees in local businesses where individuals will be given the opportunity to adopt a paper angel for a cash donation. It's a great way to kick off the giving spirit of the season while remembering more than just people need our help during the holidays.

SNIPSA Looks Back at 2009:

SNIPSA has taken care of hundreds of animals over this past year. So many of the animals we serve have broken bones, skin disease. heartworms, and suffer severe neglect. It often requires months to rehabilitate the animals and get them on their feet again. SNIPSA is committed to doing what it takes to offer them a second chance.

How We've Helped:

Animals Re-homed	632
Fracture repair	14
Amputations	3
Blood Transfusions	3
Heartworm Treatments	63
Mange	32
Dentals	11
Eye Removals	3
Cherry Eye Surgery	7

How We've Been Helped:

SNIPSA was awarded two grants from the San Antonio Area Foundation San Antonio Area



totalling \$72,000. Foundation Funding will help SNIPSA purchase much needed equipment and medical supplies for its spay/neuter and vaccination outreach in highneed areas of our city. San Antonio continues to experience a high incidence of parvo and distemper in unvaccinated dogs in addition to the birth of thousands of unwanted dogs and cats every year. A sincere thank you to SAAF whose generosity will have a direct impact on improving the lives of companion animals in our community.

2 Winter 2009 www.snipsa.org



Racers are ready to run at Race for the Rescues.

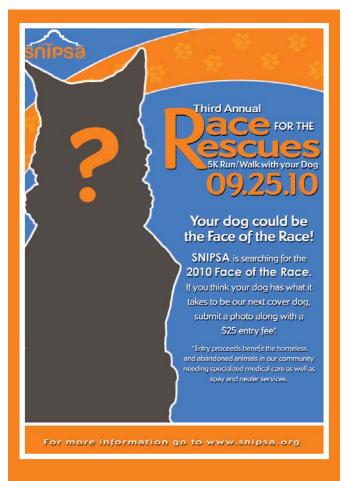
2nd Race for the Rescues Raises Over \$40,000!



We want to thank everyone who came out to support our second annual Race for the Rescues. It was a great success with over 840 registered participants and even more who just came to join the fun. Dogs of all sizes, color, breed and mixed breed were there to travel the course. Jamba Juice, Starbucks Coffee, HEB, and Whole Foods

supplied the beverages. A special guest appearance from Manu Ginobili to present our awards was an added bonus. And our good hearted mascots – the WellMed Hound Dog, Animal Care Service's Chips and Salsa, and the Spurs Coyote battled the heat in costume. Our event would not have been possible without the manpower of our devoted SNIPSA team, USAA, Trinity University, and Junior League volunteers as well the financial commitment from our generous sponsors.

More than \$40,000 was raised to benefit spay/neuter outreach as well as to provide for the medical needs of sick and injured animals. On behalf of SNIPSA and our four-legged friends, we thank you for helping us to SAVE MORE LIVES!



Nominate your dog for SNIPSA's Face of the Race

Do you have the cutest pooch? Do they love to pose for the camera? If you answer yes and yes – don't wait – nominate your dog today to be the 3rd Annual Race for the Rescues' "Face of the Race".

To enter your dog in the 2010 Face of the Race contest, please send a 3x5 photo or photos of your dog, their story (they do not have to be a rescue), and a \$25 tax-deductible entry fee. Mail your entry to:

SNIPSA, Inc., ATTN: Face of the Race, 6338 North New Braunfels # 185 San Antonio, TX 78209

Nominations must be received no later than June 20, 2010. The winner will be announced July 1, 2010 and a photo shoot will be scheduled. Entry photos will not be returned and may be used in other SNIPSA publications.

www.snipsa.org Winter 2009 3

Saving Lives.

Living Life on a Chain: **Rusty's Story**



In late June, a woman moved, leaving behind the things she didn't want - a dresser, a broken television, some trash - and a dog left on a chain in the back yard.

Fortunately, someone living close by decided to help. He had seen the dog around, knew he was friendly, and knew he deserved a chance. Through his volunteer work with SNIPSA, he knew about an organization called Dogs Deserve Better, which deals specifically with chained dogs. I'm the local

rep for that group, so I drove out to meet this dog.

When I got there, I saw that his living conditions were abhorrent; he was chained to a pole in the middle of the yard, surrounded by fire ant mounds and with only a small bush for shelter. He's a big, furry dog, and this "shelter" wasn't enough to keep him cool in the summer heat. The neighbors told me I was welcome to take the dog they called Georgie, so I unchained him, loaded him up, and off we went.

At approximately 5 years of age, he had never been off the chain. He needed vet care and help finding a new home. So I called SNIPSA.

When rescuing dogs from situations like this, I like to give them a new name immediately. Right on the heels of the Penguins Stanley Cup win, I decided to call him Rusty, the nickname of Penguins' forward Ruslan Fedotenko. This guy was rust-colored, too, so the name fit perfectly! When we got home, we went straight to the tub. I knew he had fleas, but I never expected the amount that came swarming upwards when the water hit him! Rusty and I spent the next hour killing thousands of fleas, often one at a time; eventually, we won the battle.

After he was cleaned up, we noticed he still scratched constantly. Initially, we thought it was just a habit; but, it turned out that he had severe allergies, which would also need to be treated.

After surviving a near-hopeless situation, then fighting through health problems, Rusty remained in his foster home. As his foster, I had begun to wonder if he'd ever find a home; he wasn't the most adoptable dog.

Then one day, an Austin family came along needing a special dog to fill the hole left by their lab who had recently passed away. They wanted a rescue dog, but had a very important stipulation; they have a special needs child who leaves the door open at times, so they needed a dog who wouldn't run away. Being very people oriented, it seemed to be a good fit for Rusty, and we drove up to meet them.

Rusty hit it off with the family immediately. He bonded with everyone, and was just as gentle as they needed him to be. Next came the big test - the front door was opened, and Rusty was free to wander out. He walked through the door, sniffed through the front yard, a little scentfamiliarization along the road, and then his name was called. Rusty looked up, wagged his tail, and trotted through the front door to his new family. Finally, Rusty was home.

— Adam Moran, Dogs Deserve Better

Just Look At Him Now: Otis' Story





Otis after SNIPSA

Just as you think you can take a breather, there is always another dog in need of assistance. Otis is one of those calls we receive day after day - a dog running aimlessly in a neighborhood with no owner. It was a guessing game at first - a hairless dog that remotely resembled a Pug. One couldn't be too sure - his skin was thick with scale from chronic skin disease, his eye badly injured, and he had heartworms. You can only imagine what he experienced foraging for food and being shunned by people who were too afraid to touch him. Fortunately, Otis

found his way into the care of one of our devoted fosters. A series of injections, medicated dips, and surgery was required to get Otis looking like a Pug again. He has made a full recovery with a shiny coat of fur and has learned that people aren't so bad after all.

Kudos for Volunteers



 Cheryl Bodenhamer and Kathy Nagel hard at work.

SNIPSA volunteers are our bread and butter. With more than 14,406 man-hours in 2009, we are making our mark in the animal community. SNIPSA has re-homed more than 2,000 animals in just over three years due to the generosity of our fosters. When we receive a call that an animal needs immediate help, we operate like a 911 task force. Who might have an extra bathroom in which to stash a sick kitten? Who can quarantine Hank

with mange? Then there are volunteers that help us set up for adoption events, work a Big Fix clinic, do a home visit or run a quick errand. And the "maintenance mamas" that fix anything that is broken - age is not a factor when it comes to building a fence or repairing torn screens. We are grateful for our volunteers that make SNIPSA what it is - an organization of service to the people and animals of San Antonio.

SNIP-ITS.

The joy of reading heartfelt messages from adopting families is the driving force of fostering – the reason we open our homes to animals in need. In the end we know any sacrifice is worthwhile.



Starbucks **

Starbucks, a black lab rescue, suffered from heartworms and a fractured femur when he came to SNIPSA. His fracture was several weeks old and required referral to South Texas Veterinary Specialists for surgery. Dr. Anderson worked his magic and pieced Starbucks back

together again. Once he was nursed through his broken leg, Starbucks was treated for heartworms and placed in his adoptive home.

We wanted to let you know just how happy we are to have Starbucks as a part of our family. A couple of months ago, when I heard the word Starbucks the only thing that came to mind was that my wife had spent another \$8 on a grande latte mocha. Today I think of a cold nose, a warm heart and a family member that doesn't take a single day for granted.

Starbucks went from a shy dog to one with the biggest personality we could imagine. He loves longs walks, morning wrestling matches with our yellow lab Saki and most of all he loves spending time with us. He has adjusted to the metal plate in his leg...he can run like a horse and jump like a kangaroo. We can't imagine our life without him and want to thank you!



Rosie and Ella

😽 Rosie

From the moment we saw Rosie's face on SNIPSA's website we were in love. We went to see her at an adoption event and she befriended us immediately. When we brought her home we were like new parents insisting that she would not develop any bad habits. However, after one week of looking into those loving eyes, she was sleeping in our beds, climbing on the couch and

running around the house like it was her castle. She makes us laugh every day. She is the ultimate chow hound and sniffs tirelessly after any food that she knows is around. She has a mischievous streak and has endless energy. She is a focal point for family time and we all love to play with her whenever we are home. She is proof that having a pet in the home decreases your stress and she brings us all closer together. Our family wouldn't be complete without Rosie. Shea



Cassidy and Ranger

Ranger

Our daughter, Cassidy suffers from a form of autism and depression. She often has feelings that she doesn't fit in and that people don't understand her. She has always been an animal lover and finally convinced her dad and me that a dog of her own would be a friend that would help fill some of the loneliness she felt. She found Ranger, a 6 month old doberman/lab mix on the SNIPSA website and called me over to show me the beautiful puppy. We have since welcomed Ranger into our home, where he immediately attached himself to

Cassidy's side. In a room full of people, his eyes seek out hers. He follows her from room to room and sleeps by her bed at night.

Cassidy says having Ranger has given her a friend she can talk to, someone who is always there and who loves her for who she is. I, as her mom, consider Ranger to be such a blessing to her and to our family. He's helping show her how worthy and special she is. His wagging tail and happy face tell her that she is HIS very own person and that he would be very lonely without her. She is needed, as is he. They are the perfect pair.



Stewart

Stewart

I cannot tell you how happy I am to have Stewart! He has such an unusual personality for a cat. All cats that I have ever known like to be left alone and do their own thing. Stewart only wants to be where people are. He does not like to be alone. I have to watch him when the kids are eating because he loves to get up on the table and snatch food from their plates. He loves to swat

the water when I take a bath or brush my teeth. He also just loves to aggravate the dogs. They will lay there on the floor taking turns biting each other. Both boxers are so gentle and loving towards Stewart.

Stewart usually starts off sleeping on the floor at bedtime. Sometime during the night he jumps up and stands in front of my face and meows. He does that so I will make room for him on my pillow. After a few minutes of trying to find the right spot, he lays down and proceeds to pat my face with his paw. Then it is time for him to try to bite my eyelashes! I could go on with many more stories about the crazy laughter this cat has brought to our home. I cannot imagine my life without him.

LeeAnn

Content of letters may have been edited due to space constraints.

Visit www.snipsa.org to learn more about SNIPSA's mission or adoption.

www.snipsa.org Winter 2009 **5**

Canine Chatter

SNIPSA – Changing Lives Through Responsibility

SNIPSA runs the numbers to show the negative impact that the thousands of animals euthanized each year in San Antonio have on our community and the environment.

Did you know:

38,171	Number of dogs and cats impounded	at	
	Animal Care Services in 2008.		

88,240	Number of additional ACS service calls related
	to unwanted/abandoned animals, bite cases,
	cruelty investigations, and injured animals in 2008.

26,481	Number	of	dogs	and	cats	euthanized	from
	ACS in 20	300	3.				

40%	Percentage of dogs in shelters that are purebred,
	many suffering from neglect.

\$306	Average	cost to	taxpayers	to	catch,	house,
and euthanize each animal at ACS.						

\$8,103,186 Annual taxpayer cost to catch, house, and euthanize unwanted animals at ACS.

1 ton Approximate weight of animal carcasses deposited in our landfills daily.

36,365 Number of dead animals removed from city streets by the Department of Solid Waste per year.

SNIPSA knows:

We know that mass spay/neuter is the single most effective means to save more lives, reduce landfill, reduce free-roaming pack animals, and make our city safer.

We know that the majority of citizens living in San Antonio cannot afford to have their animals sterilized at a full service veterinary hospital.

We know that in just six years, an unspayed dog and her offspring can produce 67,000 puppies and a cat and her offspring can produce 370,000 kittens.

We know that we can prevent 9,000 births with only six Big Fix clinics.

To help fight this growing problem, SNIPSA conducts spay/neuter clinics targeting low-income San Antonio neighborhoods. During just two outreach clinics, SNIPSA has surgically sterilized, vaccinated, and micro-chipped 217 dogs/cats at no cost to their owners.

SNIPSA's "Big Fix" is a Big Success

The number of animals that SNIPSA works tirelessly to re-home in one year is euthanized in just two weeks at our local animal control.



Dr. Ben Espy performs surgery at one o
SNIPS A's Rig Fix spay/peuter clinics

Not only does this create an emotional burden for the city workers who must euthanize and dispose of the animals, but also is not a good use of our tax dollars and enables irresponsibility among the community.

To assist with this growing problem, SNIPSA recently launched MASH style spay/neuter clinics targeting low-income areas of San Antonio. Clinics are held in organizations such as churches and community centers where there is already an established relationship. Our goal is to reduce barriers and increase compliance among pet owners. Spay/neuter, vaccinations, and micro-chipping are provided at no cost to the owner.

Our first two Big Fix clinics proved to be a great success. In days leading up to the Big Fix,

volunteers canvassed neighborhoods distributing bilingual flyers in mailboxes and interfacing with residents about the benefits of spay/neuter. Our phone rang for days with people requesting appointments to have their pets sterilized. People lined up just after dawn with puppies in laundry baskets, dogs removed from chains for the first time in their lives, and cats in pillowcases. SNIPSA volunteers worked tirelessly to assemble a surgery suite fully equipped with kennels, anesthetic machines, makeshift surgery tables, autoclaves and all that was needed to run our clinic. With 98% of people showing for their appointments, we knew we had discovered an underutilized yet effective means to increase spay/neuter. Volunteers contacted the handful of pet owners that didn't show for surgery and arrangements were made to transport those animals. People were hungry for our service and grateful for what we were doing to help the stray and unwanted pet population in their neighborhood.

6 Winter 2009 www.snipsa.org

What Can You Do?

1. Donations Welcome

SNIPSA is proud of the number of animals we have saved over the past three years. This would not be possible without our volunteers and the financial support of our community and friends.

Getting an animal ready for adoption is not simple. It requires that the animal be spayed/neutered, heartworm tested, vaccinated, micro-chipped, and treated for parasites. SNIPSA also assists a large population of injured and sick animals that have had little prior veterinary care. We are often their first stop and treat heartworm infection, skin and dental disease, and orthopedic injuries. With your support, we can continue our mission of saving animals in need.

Foster Families Needed

Foster families are the single most important variable in the number of animals SNIPSA is able to rescue. We do not have a standing shelter and depend entirely on volunteers to open their doors to house our animals. While in foster care we learn a great deal about the animals' needs and behavior – how they get along with cats, other dogs, small children, any escape tendencies, housebreaking, and general temperament. This helps us make a suitable match between the animal and his new owner. SNIPSA strives to find permanent placement for our rescues.

3. Muscle & Manpower

Do you need a work out? SNIPSA needs your muscle and manpower to help set up and break down equipment needed for our Big Fix clinics.

All of our surgery equipment is loaded onto a rented U-Haul and transported to the designated surgery site at a local church or community center. We need a good cleaning crew as well to bleach the kennels used at the clinic and for general clean-up following the event. So eat your Wheaties and join the troops. You will realize your sense of stewardship no doubt as this is one of SNIPSA's most rewarding volunteer experiences.

4. Become a Big Fixer – 20\$10s for a Better 2010

For less than the cost of catching, housing, and euthanizing ONE animal at Animal Care Services, you can make an impact in your community. By donating just 20 \$10s (\$200) you can become a charter member of our Big Fixer program.

Since SNIPSA was created in 2005, each year brings a renewed commitment to improving the lives of the animals of San Antonio. This year we've expanded our outreach to low-income areas with our Big Fix program.

With the funds from our 20 \$10 drive, SNIPSA will fund Big Fixes for targeted neighborhoods of San Antonio.

See page 6 to learn more about SNIPSA's Big Fix program.

Follow the progress of our Big Fixer membership drive at www.snipsa.org. The names of each individual and group who become Big Fixers will be listed on our website and will receive updates throughout the year.

Remember the fight we have on our hands – unless San Antonio goes to the heart of the problem and makes spaying and neutering the highest priority, the numbers facing our city will never change. Become a Big Fixer today and join the fight for a better 2010 for the animals of San Antonio.

Special Thanks

Your support and belief in our mission has enabled SNIPSA to rescue and rehome more than 2,000 animals.

- Acres North Animal Hospital
- Amy McNutt Charitable Trust/ Courtney Walker
- The Barking Lot
- Digiprint
- Dr. Stephanie Lisciandro
- George, Kymberly, & Blake Rapier Family Trust
- Kronkowsky Foundation

- Perrin Beitel Veterinary Hospital
- San Antonio Area Foundation
- Slone + Company Advertising
- South Texas Veterinary Specialists
- Spring Branch Veterinary Hospital
- US Signs
- Veterinary Imaging Center
- WellMed

SNIPSA Board of Directors:

Shannon Espy, DVM, President • Ben Espy, DVM, Vice-President • Sarah Abernathey, DVM, Secretary • Pete Broderick, Board Member

For more information on adoption or fostering, please contact Becky Bliss at snipsabecky@gmail.com.

www.snipsa.org Winter 2009 7





Visit www.snipsa.org or call 210-237-9400 to learn more about SNIPSA's mission.

Memory & Honor.

Donor

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"Chuck" Velinov

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"Jonah" Stooksberry "Kayla"

"Lucky" McCrann

"Maude" Stooksberry "Montie

"Pancho" Affleck

"Reggie" Tschappler

"Sophia" Tuma Tammy Faye" Raines

August Koontz Barbara Tuma

In Memory of

"Abbie" Hovel

"Boo Radley" Walsdorf "Boots"

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"Doc" "Dolly"

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In Honor of "Barkley"

"Dominique" & "Champagne "Dudley Domino" "Eli"-birth "Lizzie" "Mitzi" / "Lucv"

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