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Winter Issue | 2015

Community News



On the Road Again...for Rescue!

For several lucky dogs in San Antonio and other southern cities, a road trip is exactly what they need to finally reach their new home. It may come as a surprise to some folks, but the southern states are known for having lots of great adoptable pets, but not enough homes for them. Up north, the problem is just the opposite. There are an abundance of great homes who are looking for the right pup to complete their family, but not enough dogs to go around. For Greg and the rest of the folks at Rescue Road Trips, there was an easy fix — just give the dogs a ride!

The transport vehicle leaves every two weeks and picks up dogs from Texas and the surrounding states. Then they drive them up to preapproved adopted homes. SNIPSA had a chance to use this service with a wonderful pair of pups, Sister and Daisy. Both girls were big dogs with long coats, just itching for the opportunity to experience some cold weather. We posted their information in states like Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Maryland. It wasn't long before we received great applicants who were anxious to adopt.



The week of the transport was spent gathering medical

records, beautifying Sister, and making sure we had all our details in place. At last her big moment had arrived. The trip itself takes several days, but thanks to the drivers and "volunteer angels" along the way, the dogs get walked and receive plenty of one-on-one time at each of the scheduled rest stops.

When the dogs arrive to their new homes it's happy tears all around. For Daisy, a wonderful woman in New Jersey fell in love and was in need of a dog to pass the time with while enjoying her large yard and calm lifestyle. Daisy was a perfect fit and has spent each day happier than the last. For Sister, her home stop was Maryland where she shares the house with a retired mom. Love at first sight, Sister has filled a niche for her adopter, a "walking shadow," following her from room to room and chair to chair. She couldn't be more loved and all it took was a ride from a great group of folks. We look forward to working with Rescue Road Trips again soon!

At the beginning of the year, we decided it was time to expand our digs. After searching San Antonio we found the perfect place. Located within minutes of our old space, the new and improved SNIPSA was double the size. It would require some remodeling, but not only would we have room for offices, but also a clinic area, storage room, conference room, and a lobby.

We moved everything over on April 1st and the contractors began their work. With all of our equipment and supplies stuffed into our tiny lobby, our staff members managed by sharing desks, performing surgery in roughly ten square feet, and answering calls to the chaos of blaring hammers and drills. It was a crazy few months, but we are happy to call our new place home.



The Big Fix Connects Computity It's always interesting to see things from a different perspective, and for two of our volunteers, what started as a simple service became a passion for change in their community. In July 2014, Esmeralda and her daughter, Marina, brought their dog to our Big Fix event. After checking in, they hung around for a bit to see how it all worked. Amazed at the well-oiled machine of our spay/neuter operation, they applied as volunteers. When the next Big Fix rolled around, both ladies were eager to help. From walking the neighborhoods to handing out flyers and taking appointments, they were instrumental in spreading the word. At the Big Fix, Esmeralda headed up the kitchen team — prepping food and making sure everyone had spacks to keep them going throughout the day. Not only was she available to fire up

— prepping food and making sure everyone had snacks to keep them going throughout the day. Not only was she available to fire up the grill but also found herself circulating through surgery to empty trash and pick up dirty laundry. Marina worked in the recovery area making sure each pet awoke from surgery without incident.

This awesome mother/daughter team has now volunteered with SNIPSA for over a year, and they don't intend to stop anytime soon. Seeing how many folks still need these services in their neighborhood and appreciating the difference it makes in our community, they've become determined to change San Antonio. Joining the fight against overpopulation and homelessness, Esmeralda and Marina are continuing to connect SNIPSA with the people who need our help.

They too dream of a day when we can hang a "Going Out of Business" sign on animal shelters and rescues. A day when each pet has a home.

Shopping With a Smile

Are you an avid shopper? Prefer to do your shopping online rather than trekking through the stores or slogging through the crowds? If that's your style, then Smile! Amazon Smile is a perfect way to do your shopping without hassle, all the while donating 0.5% of your total purchase to your favorite charity. Just head to smile.amazon.com and sign in. You'll be asked to choose which charity you'd like to support, enter Spay Neuter Inject Protect San Antonio, and then start shopping! It's just like your regular Amazon account, so your wish lists, saved items, and specials or discounts will still be there. It's Amazon — with a Smile!



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🛟 Special Thanks

Your support and belief in SNIPSA's life-saving mission has enabled us to rescue and re-home more than 7,300 animals and sterilize over 8,000 through our spay/neuter outreach.

- Acres North Animal Hospital
- Amy Shelton McNutt Charitable Trust
- The Barking Lot
- Branding Works
- Courtney Walker
- Dr. Stephanie Lisciandro

- Langmore Photography
- Lily's Cookies
- Olmos Park Animal Hospital
- Olmos Park Wash & Fold
- San Antonio Area Foundation
- San Antonio Parks & Recreation
- Slone + Company Advertising
- Southern Merchandise and Distribution
- South Texas Veterinary Specialists
- Spring Branch Veterinary Hospital
- US Signs
- Whole Earth Provision

Saving Lives.







Willful Willow

At first glance, it seems like a shocking tabloid photo. Looking more like the classic chupacabra, Willow had seen some very rough times. Missing most of her hair, rail thin, and eyes crusted from illness and neglect, it was amazing she was still alive. She'd been picked up by Animal Care Services and her photo was circling the various rescue groups to recruit a foster for the poor girl. Notified by one of our awesome foster parents, we contacted Animal Care Services and sent a staff member to pick Willow up. On the ride home she was withdrawn and barely engaged with us. She seemed indifferent to the gentle pats she received from staff, and even after a bath with medicated shampoo she still didn't seem impressed. After her initial medical exam, it was discovered that on top of the mange and emaciation, Willow was also battling heartworms and a heart murmur. Dealt every card from the mistreatment and neglect deck, she'd managed to make it this far and we weren't going to let her down.

Medicated baths, antibiotics, and generous amounts of fattening food have all begun to work their magic and slowly but surely this gentle girl is healing. The more her hair grows back, the more Willow comes out of her shell. She now wags her tail and loves hugs, gets along great with the other dogs in her foster home, and is comfortable in the most fashionable of doggy shirts. While it might still be a little bit before she can go to an adoptive home, this walking wonder dog has gone from chupacabra to Willful Willow.

Phoenix Rises

Surgery days at SNIPSA can be a tad hectic, but we are never surprised by new challenges. Staff received a phone call from an EMT about a fire at a local apartment complex. As firefighters attempted to tame the blaze, a cat who had been living in one of the apartments burst through a second-story window. The traumatized cat was eventually caught, wrapped in blankets, and brought to our office for medical care.

With singed fur, burned paws, charred ear tips, and a permeating smell of smoke — Phoenix was otherwise okay. Her flight from window to the ground didn't result in any broken bones or major damage. Placed into a foster home, she was given pain medication and antibiotics. As days went on, her paws and ears healed, her fur softened and she began to lose the scent of ashes. A sweet cat, Phoenix loved to cuddle and did wonderfully with the other cats and dogs in her foster home. Not surprisingly, one of the firefighters who was there the day of her rescue fell in love with Phoenix and applied to adopt her. Previously adopting a dog from SNIPSA only weeks before, it was a perfect home for Phoenix, the kitty who rose from the ashes.

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.



🛟 Emma

Emma came to SNIPSA more than a little broken. Completely matted, riddled with heartworms, and a hip out of joint, poor girl barely made eye contact with her rescuers. All she wanted to do was make herself invisible by hiding in the corner. Started on pain medication and treatment for her heartworms, we began to turn her world around. It would be several weeks before she was a candidate for hip surgery but as soon as she was ready, we had her scheduled at STVS with Dr. Israel. She has made great strides in her recovery and was adopted by a caring and committed owner and her son.

Gen healing from a heartbreaking family situation, I began a year-long search for a furry baby to adopt. It is hard to explain why I chose adoption when for many months I considered purchasing a breed-specific dog. In the end it was organizations like SNIPSA who shared their stories of rescue. It was after seeing posts on social media about animals that had been saved from deplorable conditions that I knew the right family member would come along. And then I saw Emma's sweet face looking at me through the computer screen. Even through her matted, dirty fur, I knew right away that I loved her. Emma was recovering from heartworms, plagued by skin conditions due to her long matted fur and limped from a crushed hip that required surgery. I knew I wanted to help her find happiness, and as it turns out she helped me and my son find happiness, too.

She is still quite terrified of people, but with lots of hugs and pets she has come a long way. For the very first time I feel like my family of three is complete. Thank you to all those who have helped Emma and helped bring us together! She has healed our hearts as I hope we have healed her. **99** — Lauren



🛟 Alastair

Sitting in his kennel at ACS, Alastair had an injured rear leg, a damaged eye and heartworms. Euthanasia seemed imminent. His sweet demeanor caught the attention of one of our staff and she knew she couldn't leave him. We cleaned him up and did what we could before scheduling him for surgery with STVS. His dislocated hip was

repaired and he had an uneventful recovery, but that wasn't the end of Alastair's story. After a few months he was adopted by a wonderful, compassionate woman from Austin.

Alastair has been a constant companion and source of pleasure as we ride bikes and run. Our adventures include owl patrol where we walk in our neighborhood at night and find the hooting owl that lives in the trees near our house. His favorite activities are snuggling in bed, riding with his head out the car window, eating cat food when he finds it — yes, cat kibble is his favorite! Although he has one eye this has not slowed him down one bit. He has brought me a lot of joy and a lot of love. **99** — Caroline



🛟 Snickers & Gray

Good Samaritans live among us and never cease to amaze us with kind deeds. This is the case for two tiny kittens orphaned by their mother and found living under a bridge with a homeless man. Emaciated and covered in fleas, the two foraged meal to meal. One of our volunteers was alerted to the situation and made a trip in the wee

hours of the morning to trap the kittens. Success followed and the cats' next stop was a home with a roof. A little TLC and socialization, these kittens were ready for an adoptive home.

We had been looking for a companion for our cat Bonnie when we met Snickers and Gray at the SNIPSA event at The Quarry. Our intention was to only adopt one, but after learning their story about being rescued under the freeway, we realized we needed to keep the two sisters together. Having two new kittens in our family has brought us love and happiness and laughter as we watch them interact with our SNIPSA dog, a beloved yellow lab. **99** — Anne

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

Canine Chatter

8th Annual Race for the Rescues

It was another banner year for SNIPSA's Race for the Rescues. Over 850 runners participated in the fun, raising \$96,000! Of that, a large majority of the proceeds came from community sponsorships. Launching a new Face of the Race campaign, the contestant that raised the most money would be crowned our official race mascot. It was a tough competition but "Alec Baldwin" came out on top, raising \$5,200 in donations. Overcoming severe mange, heartworms, and a gunshot wound, this rescue dog was a fan favorite. There was plenty of

Alec Baldwin 2014 Face of the Race

goodies to help racers recoup and enjoy the morning — Kiolbassa sausage, iced coffee from Rosella, watermelon lemonade and organic dog treats from One Lucky Duck, and creative balloon designs for the kids.

This year's Largest Team with 45 participants was awarded to South Texas Veterinary Specialists. Thank you to our community, local businesses and supporters — we appreciate your steadfast support year after year.







5th Annual Dia De Los Perros

Green Dog Kennels' Annual Dia de los Perros is the best place to see spirited pets dressed in Halloween costumes, try delicious food from the Cove, and support the Furiend's Fund all in the same place. Started by Lola and Andrew Crane, the Furiend's Fund helps facilitate spay/neuter for the San Antonio community. This year's event had several vendors, a doggie costume contest, raffles, and even a silent auction. Over \$5,000 was raised and gifted to SNIPSA, the sole recipient of this year's proceeds. We appreciate the opportunity to continue to provide low-cost spay/neuter to our community with the assistance of the Crane's and Furiend's Fund.



1 (7 oz.) container Greek yogurt, plain 1/2 jar (4 oz.) jar baby food, sweet potato & chicken 1/4 water l egg gingerbread biscuit

Combine all ingredients in a blender and blend until frothy. Top with a small dog biscuit. Enjoy!

Memory & Honor

DONOR

Denise Dizdar Spring Branch Vet Hospital Spring Branch Vet Hospital Wendy Black Spring Branch Vet Hospital Spring Branch Vet Hospital Spring Branch Vet Hospital Nancy Smith Spring Branch Vet Hospital Drs. Robert & Virginia Nell Duncan Spring Branch Vet Hospital Jaime Cofield Tommy & Debbie Hunt Donald McCain Spring Branch Vet Hospital Adrian & Kari Gonzalez Spring Branch Vet Hospital "Bonz, JD, Jack & Bailey" Gonzalez Amanda Digman Spring Branch Vet Hospital Spring Branch Vet Hospital Spring Branch Vet Hospital Spring Branch Vet Hospital Shaun & Amanda Digman Spring Branch Vet Hospital Spring Branch Vet Hospital Metersky Family Leah Handy Spring Branch Vet Hospital Spring Branch Vet Hospital Spring Branch Vet Hospital Spring Branch Vet Hospital Sylvia Gattas Spring Branch Vet Hospital Martha Mitchell Spring Branch Vet Hospital Spring Branch Vet Hospital Spring Branch Vet Hospital Lauren Blackwell Jennifer Dooling Spring Branch Vet Hospital Constanza Gutierrez SNIPSA Spring Branch Vet Hospital Cynthia Campbell Tom & Marv Monroe Spring Branch Vet Hospital Spring Branch Vet Hospital Amelita Mauze Spring Branch Vet Hospital SNIPSA Spring Branch Vet Hospital Elizabeth Skipper Spring Branch Vet Hospital Johanna Sharp Spring Branch Vet Hospital Michael & Deborah Canoi Spring Branch Vet Hospital Brittney Hamrick SNIPSA Spring Branch Vet Hospital Angelina Felsing Amanda Digman Jack Ware Spring Branch Vet Hospital Spring Branch Vet Hospital Peter Dovle Marissa Trinidad Spring Branch Vet Hospital Spring Branch Vet Hospital Spring Branch Vet Hospital Spring Branch Vet Hospital Rhonda Peterson Spring Branch Vet Hospital Spring Branch Vet Hospital Spring Branch Vet Hospital Spring Branch Vet Hospita Spring Branch Vet Hospital Linda Hutchins

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What Can You Do?



SNIPSA Sips

Raise a glass to SNIPSA's new fundraiser. We worked closely with Benefit Wines to create SNIPSA's six signature wines — each imported from an organic vineyard in Chile, carefully labeled and shipped straight to your door. With each bottle purchased, \$6 goes directly to SNIPSA and into the paws of pets who need it.

If you'd like to try these spectacular wines, scan the QR code below or go to **Benefitwines.com/SNIPSA** to order. Purchase a single bottle, or try the Collector's Package and receive all six wines for just \$118.

