

Community News







SNIPSA Lends a Hand During Hurricane Harvey

Texas was not expecting the costliest hurricane on record to hit the Gulf Coast in late August resulting in nearly 200 billion dollars worth of damages and the deaths of more than seventy people.

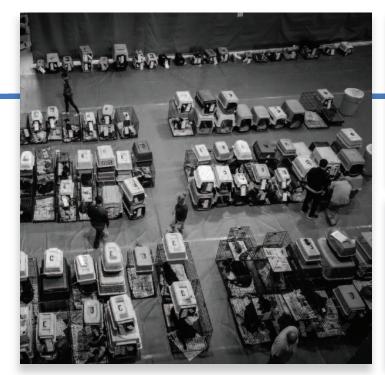
The devastation was far reaching — flooding thousands of homes and businesses in the Houston area, leaving residents stranded without shelter and infrastructure for months. And it's not just the people that were suffering. Pets faced hardships as well.

But a good thing happened in the wake of the unexpected. Thousands of pet lovers from across the nation joined forces to help the neediest of animals. Dogs and cats already sitting in shelters were transferred in droves to rescue partners in other parts of the country — as far away as Connecticut, New York, and Utah. Private planes, retrofitted buses, rescue wagons, and good Samaritans stepped up to help in unimaginable ways. The more space created in existing shelters paved the way for lost or displaced animals from the storm. Unlike Hurricane Katrina, animal owners would not be forced to abandon their pets and rescue workers went to great lengths to ensure their safety.

Knowing that San Antonio would be one of the first cities called to help its Gulf Coast neighbors, SNIPSA got busy. And busy we were! A social media plea went out in the early afternoon...simply how many can you take and how soon can you take them? Two transports to ACS and 25 dogs later, SNIPSA staff worked overtime to bathe, provide medical care, photograph, and recruit foster homes in a matter of hours. Dogs with fractures, mange, and heartworms filled our exam room. Fosters came out of the woodwork — opening their homes to unfamiliar faces and breeds. Sheer stewardship. It was AMAZING.

And if that wasn't enough, donations poured into SNIPSA's lobby. Bag after bag of dog food, cat litter, cleaning supplies, stuffed toys, and blankets. The giving was tremendous. So much so, we had to solicit the help of a local moving company to transfer the collected goods to the Houston area. Social media is a powerful tool and in this case it worked wonders.

A big shout out to all the folks that organized, executed, and put forth incredible effort to help our fellow Texans!















Photos by Joel Per

Fifteen Thousand and Counting (15,000!)

It is still dark outside when owners start lining up with pets in tow. Rolling carts, backpacks, cardboard boxes, wheelchairs, truck beds, laundry baskets, and purses serve as makeshift carriers to transport hundreds of dogs and cats to SNIPSA's Big Fix.

Volunteers place neck bands, record weights, and assign a crate for each animal from a systematically arranged kennel bay where animals will remain for the day and sometimes into the night. Another team of skilled veterinary technicians anesthetize patients one by one in preparation for surgery. The stampede of feet scurrying along the gymnasium floor mixed with a cacophony of dogs barking and cats meowing soon become commonplace in the background.

It's serious business spaying/neutering, vaccinating, and microchipping over 450 dogs and cats in a single day. There is always a little levity with staff in costume, whimsical banners, and delicious eats to keep our volunteers fueled. Thanking our amazing staff, volunteers, veterinarians, community partners, service groups is an impossible task.

Some "Big Fixers" have been with us since our inception — growing the surgeries from 100 appointments in 2009 to well over 400 in 2017. It's an incredible mix, with the old volunteers training new ones, and a unique bond that keeps the regulars coming back. We celebrate having performed more than 15,000 FREE spay/neuter surgeries for underserved pet owners. No doubt we ARE making a difference for the San Antonio community.

Special Thanks

Your support and belief in SNIPSA's life-saving mission has enabled us to rescue and re-home more than 9,500 animals and sterilize over 15,000 through our spay/neuter outreach.

- Acres North Animal Hospital
- Amy Shelton McNutt Charitable Trust
- Blue Pearl Specialty 8
 Emergency Pet Hospital
- Branding Works
- Courtney Walker

- Langmore Photography
- Lily's Cookies
- Mike's Dog Store
- National Charity League The Rose Chapter
- Olmos Park Animal Hospital
- San Antonio Area Foundation
- Slone + Company Advertising
- Southern Merchandise and Distribution — Johnathan Walker & Hillary Conrey
- St. Mary's University
- US Signs
- Violet Margly
- Whole Earth Provision

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Saving Lives

Partnering with fellow shelters is what we do. Several times a day, SNIPSA receives texts, emails,



and phone calls about needy animals whose time is running out. We don't always know what we are getting or what we might be faced with. Sometimes we are told it is a female and it turns out to be a male. Other times we are told it is perfectly healthy

and it breaks with parvo or has an unknown fracture. And then there is that

one tiny kitten that shows up with a crusty lesion on its face. The ringworm nightmare sets in and you don't know whether to light your place on fire or bathe yourself in Lyme dip.

Liza was one of those ordinary requests — a nursing mother with puppies — how could we pass her up? She had a wobble about her but we would deal with that once her puppies were old enough to be weaned. Our goal was to keep everyone healthy and get them into adoptive homes.

And then comes the first hiccup — two of the pups were deaf the white-coated dog syndrome. All had hookworms — easy fix. The mother dog got in a scuffle with a chicken — another mounting problem. And finally, we had Liza's hips x-rayed and she was severely dysplastic. Solution - a total hip replacement (not in SNIPSA's budget) or bilateral femoral head osteotomies... still expensive just not as costly.

So what did we do? We fixed her — one hip at a time. We are happy to report that Liza is recovering from her first FHO and is well on her way to having a second surgery. And the best news ever...her foster failed miserably and decided to become her forever home.

Can't Get Enough • •

Sometimes we think it is a big deal when we have families that adopt two dogs - but five dogs through the years is quite the marriage. The Gulleys are a special family that have provided homes for seniors, our most broken, and even a shy little dog not pictured that lives with their daughter at college. Many thanks for seeing the value in our recycled yet very worthy rescue pets.

Goldie: Don't let this face fool you. She may look like a prom queen but Goldie has experienced a



few hard knocks. Born with cerebellar hypoplasia, she was the bossy one in the litter. Never mind that she had a head tilt or that she could lose her balance at times, Goldie managed to give us all a little heartburn. Most of the time she behaved like

a champ. Then about five percent of the time she wanted things her way and became quite unruly.

Having gone through two homes already, we knew we had to be choosy. We simply needed to find seasoned dog owners that could see far beyond her cute blonde face. A few weeks passed and then out of nowhere her "people" came forward — a young couple that had been eyeing Goldie's profile on the SNIPSA website. Long conversations ensued followed by an extended meet and greet. It was the perfect match. The adopters had already demonstrated their level of commitment by not giving up on their prior SNIPSA dog that spent days in the ER receiving plasma transfusions after an unexpected anaphylactic reaction. They were in for the long haul and would love Goldie despite her quirkiness. So just when you think things might be tough in the rescue world, don't give up hope. Miracles can happen.



• The Gulleys and their SNIPSA dogs "Marshall", "Tyra", "Buddy" and "Clover" (not pictured)

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.





Murphy

Murphy was surrendered to an area shelter after a dog fight left him with a broken leg that had become infected. He was in significant pain and was immediately referred to the orthopedic specialists for surgery. Luckily, he found an adopter not only committed to taking on wound care but also his physical therapy so that Murphy would regain full use of his limb. Her goal was to share his story with other children and train him to be a therapy dog.

66 Murphy has become the center of our family — both for my children and his canine siblings. He embodies the word "healing," for when we met, he and I were both broken in different ways. I was emotionally broken after losing Simba, my canine partner of nine years, and Murphy was physically broken from being attacked by another dog. Murphy has also helped heal one of our family dogs — a timid little guy with a history of severe abuse. Charlie was completely lost when Simba passed away. I can't tell you the joy I feel while watching our anxiety-ridden little guy play, snuggle, and share his food bowl

with Murphy. No matter what Murphy accomplishes as a therapy dog at the hospital in the future, he has already done a beautiful job fulfilling the role at home. His "brokenness" has created a tremendous amount of healing. As you can see from the pictures, my two kids are doing a great job preparing him for his new job as a pediatric therapy dog. ?? — Chelsea



Kix

Kix was scrawny, riddled with parasites, and suffered from a raging respiratory infection when he was found with his littermates in a dumpster. He also had a corneal ulcer that would require round the clock care to save his eye. Kix was in terrible pain but we were committed

to giving him the best chance possible. So every two hours, he received a laundry list of eye drops. Little by little, his cornea started to heal and Kix could open his eye again. He started playing like a normal kitten, chasing toys, and prancing around. We were delighted to see the progress he made and even more excited to find him an incredible home.

66 I love waking up each morning with my mommy and meeting her in the kitchen to tell her I am hungry. I sit right by the pantry door and meow good morning to her and to anyone else that happens to come by. Snacks are my favorite although I have a little trouble finding them with my vision problems, so I paw around at them until I've caught them. My personality is so big that I have trained the dog that was here first to be a cat. We eat our Friskies together. My favorite things are: snacks, playing with my string, chasing bugs and snuggling on my mommy's lap. 99 — Kix



Abby & Marci

You don't expect to get a call from Houston SPCA that two sweet poodles adopted out over 8 years ago find themselves at the shelter again. To complicate matters, Marci had heartworms as well as cataracts in both eyes. While the heartworms were an easy fix, finding

someone to care for and potentially treat a blind dog was not. And then came Linda, a widow looking for companionship with a special affection for poodles. It was love at first sight. She needed them as much as they needed her. Linda was committed to restoring Marci's sight with costly cataract surgery and had the time to commit to her care. We are pleased to announce that today Marci can see again and no longer needs Abby as her guide!

66 Adopting Abby and Marci was the best decision I could have made. They make my life so full and happy. When I adopted Marci, she was blind with cataracts in both eyes. In September she had surgery to have the cataracts removed. She is doing so well since the surgery. She plays with her toys now and runs around the back yard. Abby is also doing very well. They fight over who gets to sit next to me in the chair to watch TV. Of course they both end up in my lap. 77 — Linda

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

Canine Chatter



On your bark, get set, race! SNIPSA celebrated its Tenth Annual Race for the Rescues raising more than

\$100,000 to support the medical care and spay/neuter outreach for underserved areas of San Antonio. The 5k is SNIPSA's largest and only fundraiser to benefit its life saving mission. Every year we try to add just a little more spirit to keep the event high up on everyone's list. National Charity League, a mother and daughter duo service club, provided over 150 volunteers to outfit water stations, serve as course marshals, and cheer runners along. And of course we had our regular face painter and balloon artist, live dog demonstrations, iced coffee from Rosella, Boy Scouts grilling our legendary sausage wraps, Las Nieves Ice, pet portraits from Ross Benton, and fanfare from valuable partners in the community. Largest Team was awarded to Blue Pearl Specialty & Emergency Hospital with 34 participants and "Potato" was crowned Face of the Race. Thank you once again to everyone that showed up to support the cause and to our many community partners and sponsors. We would not be the success we are without each one of you.

SNIPSA Goes Cross Country: Finding quality homes for our rescues is more



Finding quality homes for our rescues is more important to SNIPSA than finding just a home. That's why we literally go the extra mile to fly dogs and cats all over the country — Oregon, Massachusetts, California, New Hampshire, Georgia, Rhode Island and even New York!

It is not easy waking up at the crack of dawn to be the first flight out to beat the heat or minimize travel hours. Ensuring the pet has the appropriate sized kennel, all the necessary documents, and is ready to be airborne can be challenging. But hearing the success stories and seeing the family photos and videos makes the effort worthwhile. These once-shelter dogs see a bigger piece of our world — basking on beaches, swimming in lakes, hiking up mountains, and going to work every day at Pixar studios are just some examples of the quality homes SNIPSA rescues find. Thank you for opening your homes to our worthy four-legged souls.

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Memory & Honor

DONOR	IN MEMORY
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Virgil Rosser	Judy H. Raines
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"Hillary" Goldstein	Debra L. Goldstein
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"Indy 500"	Jeff & Diane Holbrook
"Izzy" Cox	Robyn L. Cox
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"Josie"	Paul & Lauren Blackwell
"Kenny"	Jennifer Woods
"Kenny"	Leslie Fox
"Kenny"	Candice Larson
"Kenny"	Lezli Baugher
"Kenny"	Nancy Beth Kamhi
"Kenny"	Stacey Ayers
"Kenny"	Tiffany Hempeck
"Leo" Howard	Robin Howard
"Libby" Wass	Linda Wass
"Lionel"	Joshua Brooks
"Lionel"	Karen Aldridge
"Lucy"	Linda Mitchell
"Lulu" Nelka	Miranda Nelka
"Malcolm" Kolovson	Jean E. Kolovson
"Mindy"	Latrice Wilkinson
"Mojo"	Beverly Bragg
"Napoleon" Chavez Galindo	
"Pandora" DeMichele	Lisa DeMichele
"Peluche" Guerra	Manuel Guerra
"Petey"	Lou Womack
"Puck" Gertson	Daniel Gertson
"Renato" Varona	Maggie Varona
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"Savannah"	Julia Emerson
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Amanda & Carlos Rivera	Amanda Dewoody
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Brielle & Colston Book (B) Charles Butt	Heather Arrington
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David Andrew Durrant

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\$25: Balls NO, Shirt YES!

SNIPSA's fun new spay/neuter t-shirt is hot off the press. For just \$25, you can be the proud owner of one of these jewels — pun intended. Made from super-soft thin and cozy cotton this t-shirt is sure to keep you comfortable. Grab yours while supplies last at snipsa.org!

\$10: Fiesta San Antonio!

Every Spring the city comes alive with a ten day celebration known as Fiesta — a San Antonio tradition originally organized to honor the fallen heroes of the Alamo and the Battle of San Jacinto. Parades, parties, honorary kings and queens, cascarones, colorful costumes, and signature medals are the hallmark of this event. Medals come in all shapes and sizes, some with bling, others that spin, and even some that can serve as bottle openers. It is a quirky yet fun way that San Antonio celebrates

and supports thousands of non-profits and businesses in our community. In keeping with this city event, SNIPSA launched its second annual Fiesta medal showcasing none other than "Scooter," SNIPSA's mascot of 12 years. Medals sell for \$10 and are a valuable means to raise dollars to support SNIPSA's medical and spay/neuter outreach. Stop by our office or email snipsainctx@gmail.com to get your colorful medal today!

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