

CHANGING LIVES THROUGH RESPONSIBILITY.

snipsa

www.snipsa.org

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# Community News.



## Do Your Part by Adopting a Rescue

**Every time you adopt a rescue, you are doing a very important thing. You are making a difference in the life of a homeless animal that competes directly with a saturated and controversial puppy mill industry. More than 10,000 puppy mills exist in our country — whose primary goal is to make a profit — pumping out over 2 million puppies per year.**

From breeding operations, puppies are sold to “consolidators” who add on their own profit before arriving to their final destinations in pet stores. Many die in transit and those that do survive are often ill and unsocialized. Others are trafficked online using enticing photos and fancy websites to attract the buyer.

Though required by law, the majority of puppy mills are not registered with the USDA. For those that are registered, there are a limited number of state inspectors to monitor the facilities and ensure a standard of care. Dogs often live their entire lives in small wire cages and are forced to breed with every heat cycle to maximize production. Many have never set foot on grass or even seen the sunshine. Little to no veterinary care is provided and many kennels are wiped out by infectious disease. It's a corrupt and multi-billion dollar industry at the sole expense of the animal.

So, next time you are considering adding a dog to your household, please think twice. Your decision is important. Without consumers, there would be no puppy mills. Don't get bogged down with that cute little designer breed in the window or fall victim to the inviting website of puppies sitting in baskets and frolicking in green pastures. Know your source and, by all means, don't meet in a parking lot or some other obscure location. You are not saving a life by putting money in someone else's pocket. If a “breeder” is responsible enough to breed, he is responsible enough to invite you to his home. Be a part of the solution and support the mission of rescue. Your decision SAVES LIVES.

### Special Thanks

**Your support and belief in SNIPSA's life-saving mission has enabled us to rescue and re-home more than 12,500 animals and sterilize over 18,000 through our spay/neuter outreach.**

- Acres North Animal Hospital
- Amy Shelton McNutt Charitable Trust
- Blue Pearl Specialty & Emergency Pet Hospital
- Branding Works
- Courtney Walker
- District Four - Rey Saldaña
- Greehey Family Foundation
- Harlandale High School
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- National Charity League — Rose & Mariposa Chapters
- Olmos Park Animal Hospital
- San Antonio Animal Care Services
- San Antonio Area Foundation
- Slone + Company Advertising
- Southern Merchandise & Distribution — Johnathan Walker & Hillary Conrey
- St. Mary's University
- US Signs
- Whole Earth Provision



Photos by Joel Pena.

## Big Fix: We Find Ourselves Through Service of Others

For the past nine years, SNIPSA has been providing free spay/neuter, vaccination, and micro-chipping outreach for the underserved pet owners of San Antonio — sterilizing more than 18,000 dogs and cats. When you think about it, that is A LOT of reproductive parts!

How have we done it? By recruiting and nurturing an incredible group of faithful volunteers, team captains, committed veterinarians and veterinary technicians, and of course a capable staff. The weeks prepping for a Big Fix are filled with excitement, anxiety, exhaustion, and energy that comes from the depth of the human spirit. Just when you think you can't lift another kennel or return another phone call, you somehow manage. Supporters drop off much-needed cleaning supplies, make batches of homemade baked goods, local businesses donate food, schools and community centers open

their doors to host a Big Fix, and even professional movers help us unload and set up our heavy equipment. It is quite remarkable! And one of the biggest rewards is seeing the same old faces returning time after time — including veterinarians who have moved out of state. It is a rewarding calling that keeps them coming back.

We celebrate the good people, the pet owners, the donors, and all those that make our Big Fix clinics possible. You are the backbone to SNIPSA's success and we appreciate you.



## Scooter

### SNIPSA's Cover Dog: Celebrating 10 Years

Every year we have a benchmark with Scooter — will he make it to the next holiday newsletter? For the past decade, Scooter has not only graced the cover of every SNIPSA newsletter, he has served as the face of the organization's marketing. Not having a birth certificate, we suspect Scooter is somewhere between 15 and 16 years of age. He has been living with the founders of SNIPSA for at least 14 of those years. His photographs adorn the walls of the SNIPSA office and his face finds itself in thousands of homes every December with our annual holiday mailing. So here's to yet another year of this blonde scruffy dog's life and a thankful heart for his adventurous and co-dependent spirit.



# Saving Lives.

## Pillow Top:

Just when you think you have seen it all in the rescue world...you haven't.



after

A dog shot in the head with chronic nasal discharge and grand mal seizures landed itself in SNIPSA's adoption program. Her name was "Pillow Top" — a beautiful Labrador and Great Pyrenees mix. She melted the hearts of many determined to get her help.

We enlisted our friends at Blue Pearl Specialty Hospital where a CT scan

was performed. We were not prepared to find several pieces of shrapnel scattered across her skull. Her nasal passages were full of scar tissue making it difficult for her to breathe. You could hear this girl snoring from afar...her lips flaring as she tried to get as much air as she could through her mouth. The seizures were so intense we would find furniture rearranged and bedding soiled.

So we went to work making phone calls and formulating a plan. We needed a group of doctors experienced with facial trauma that could help dear Pillow Top. The resources were right here in our very own San Antonio — a veterinarian from the military working dog facility and a human maxillofacial surgeon from BAMC. Blue Pearl lent the use of their surgery suite and off we went with a team of veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and a human physician leading the way. After hours of endoscopy, radiology, and surgery — the team was successfully able to remove enough scar tissue and shrapnel to create a larger airway for Pillow Top. She spent a few nights recovering in the hospital and made amazing progress, wanting to eat only hours after waking up from surgery. It was a valiant effort on many fronts — doctors from different disciplines coming together for one common purpose — to help a homeless dog. This is when you feel a sense of pride for being a small part of something so BIG.

We are pleased to share that Pillow Top (now Willow) was adopted to a loving and committed family of two where she keeps an elderly woman with Alzheimers company throughout the day. The adopters added a second SNIPSA dog to the household and now they spend many hours romping in the back yard and taking daily walks. Though she may still sound like a foghorn when she sleeps, she is one happy dog that has completed one happy family.

## Huron:

Living in a rural area just outside of Lytle, Huron had made a life for himself foraging

for food in a trailer park and being shunned. He was skin and bones with a significant limp and a disfigured foot. We suspect he'd been caught in wire or a snare due to the nature of his injury. As if that wasn't enough, we discovered that Huron is deaf,



after

the dreaded genetic trait of many white coated dogs. Despite these disadvantages,

Huron has turned out to be an amazing pet. He plays for hours with his best buddy, Frank, an Australian Shepherd mix from another South Texas rescue. When not keeping his foster dad company during work hours, he finds the sofa and camps out for a long afternoon nap. Huron's story is not only a testament to the devoted team of SNIPSA fosters, but also its dedication to providing deserving rescues with second chances.

## Rizzo:

Injured and afraid, Rizzo found herself at Animal Care Services. After an exhaustive and sadly

unsuccessful search for her owner, this girl found her way to SNIPSA. Upon arrival, a closer inspection, revealed the extent of her injuries. Besides the usual scrapes and bruises, Rizzo also had multiple jaw fractures, and was in serious need of dental work. A wonderful team of specialists went to work, and put Humpty



after

Rizzo back together again. With a fancy contraption to hold things in place, all that

was needed now was a kind, caring foster parent to raise her spirits and — oh, yeah — hand feed her a special diet every few hours for 6 weeks or so. Thanks to her team of bigger angels and top-shelf antibiotics, this little angel is on her way to recovery.

[www.snipsa.org](http://www.snipsa.org)

# 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.



## Epic (now Bishop)

While most of the animals we rescue originate from area shelters, there are a handful we accept directly from the streets. Such was the case with Epic and her litter. She was a smart dog who traveled trash can to trash can looking for a meal. She kept her puppies safe except for one that was hit by a car and suffered a broken leg. A Good Samaritan alerted us to the situation and we made room in our adoption program. We provided medical care, shelter, and socialization. The injured pup received surgery with our indebted Blue Pearl Veterinary Specialty Hospital. As the story always seems to go, the pups were adopted to wonderful homes and the mama was left behind. But she stole the heart of her foster dad, and though he has fostered hundreds of rescues through the years, there was something extra special about Epic. He just couldn't part with her and he went from foster to "foster fail." Epic now spends her evenings rooting for the San Antonio Spurs and watching the Pittsburgh Penguins.

“I've always wanted a “public dog,” but I always end up with dogs requiring a string of apologies whenever we left the house. Then, I was asked to foster Epic. When I met her, she had just finished taking care of her puppies, a few of which were nearly as big as she is! The look on her face was total relief, even if she was a bit confused and nervous. By the time we got home, I think she had already chosen me. Everywhere I'd go, she was close by, but quiet and loyal, never making a fuss. At the Race for the Rescues, she was unfazed by all of the chaos, and it was so nice to have a dog that was a joy to have in public. Someone asked me what I call her — and I realized I'd never really had to call her at all! That was the moment I realized she was a foster fail. Her “adopt me” bandana came off, her name was changed to Bishop, and now she's mine.” — Adam

## Elena (now Lil Bit)

Little kittens are both fragile and hardy. They can survive the most heroic circumstances and succumb to the most ordinary. We like to think of Elena as being one of those heroes. Found by a Good Samaritan with a fractured pelvis, paralyzed tail, and an infected abscess, Elena's injuries didn't inhibit her. She hobbled around batting stuffed mice and chasing her favorite “fly by” spinner. Maneuvering her litter box was challenging given she didn't have all her working parts. Eventually, she encountered more complications with a prolapsed rectum (yes, we don't like to talk about it but it does happen in animals.) That required a small nip and tuck to keep everything in place. She soldiered on and after several weeks in foster care, her tail started to regain normal movement and her fractured pelvis healed. Elena was eventually adopted to a wonderful home where she travels the country in her very own RV. In between gazing out the window and admiring the countryside, she gets a little naughty and decorates the house with toilet paper (much to her mother's dismay).

“Lil Bit is doing great. She is a busy little girl. She is a climber, getting on top of anything she can. At least we have stopped her from climbing the curtains. She recently discovered the door so we have to keep a close eye on her. We invested in a harness so we can take her outside on a leash during our adventures. She can be a lover and enjoys curling up on David's lap while he works on the computer. She sleeps so close to us at night, we are afraid we might smash her. The one night we couldn't find her in our bed, she had locked herself in the laundry room.”

— Sheri



Visit [www.snipsa.org](http://www.snipsa.org) to learn more about SNIPSA's mission or adoption.

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



# Canine Chatter

Photos by Joel Pena.



Johnny Cash – 2018 Face of the Race



## A Spooktacular Evening at Canyon Cafe

SNIPSA was back at it again this Halloween partnering with Canyon Cafe to host its annual Paws on the Patio. Goblins, superheroes, and canine ghouls took to the stage to see who had the most creative costume.

It was a competitive contest with a Shitzu serving up Puppuccinos as the Starbucks's Barkrista, a spinning ferris wheel of Chihuahuas marking the 300th anniversary of San Antonio, and Opoma and Trumpy — campaigning to Make Dogs Great Again. What a wonderful night we all had hanging out with the most well-dressed canines in the city.

# Memory & Honor.

IN MEMORY OF

"Apollo" Kirkham	Nancy Zacher
"Bailey" Vargas	Veronica Rouse
"Beau" Espy	Leah Handy
"Bella" Macmanus	Patricia Macmanus
"Boscoe"	Tom Scrivener
"Buddy & Caesar" Moorman	Julia Natale
"Buster" Kuykendall	SNIPSA
"Cabo" Langlois	Anita Feinstein
"Cabo" Langlois	Christine & Dave Langlois
"Casey & Jaeger"	Pat & Karen McMurry
"Cat"	Frederika Moreno
"Oreo" Chapa	Celina Chapa
"CoCo"	Beverly Braggg
"Darby" Blackwell	Lauren Blackwell
"Dottie" Miller	Kelly Topfer
"Dottie" Miller	SNIPSA
"Eloise"	Anne Alford
"Felicity" Penson	Alison & Derrick Fox
"Georgie" Ghertner	Marjorie Silverblatt
"Gigi"	Bonnie Reed
"Gizmo" Stooksberry	SNIPSA
"Gordo" Satel	Elizabeth & Barry Young
"Gus" Shetler	SNIPSA
"Hippo" Chirico	SNIPSA
"Jazzmine" Verrett	SNIPSA
"Koda Bear" Morrison	Monica Gottschall
"Lily" Cady	Stephen & Madge Cady
"Marauder" Mayfield	Lou Womack
"Marauder" Mayfield	SNIPSA
"Marauder" Mayfield	Virginia Nell Duncan
"Marguarite" Abernathy	SNIPSA
"Miss Cahokia aka Kia" Geisert	Jennifer Marshall
"Missy" Smith	Sandra Smith
"Missy" Smith	Kelly Smith
"Mitch" Kilby	Mitchell Kilby
"Mizuki" Garcia	SNIPSA
"Molly" Andrews	SNIPSA
"Monkey Shine" Cerroni	SNIPSA
"Oliver" Espy	Judy Raines
"Patches, Cody, & Pepper"	Mel & Jan McDougale
"Pearl" Hardberger	SNIPSA
"Pokey" Brevdad	SNIPSA
"Princess Catrina de St. Thibery" Dunnet	Claudia Smith
"Rita" Berler	SNIPSA
"Rocky" Scheible	Clint & Debbie Scheible
"Roxie" Verrett	The Verrett Family
"Roxie" Verrett	SNIPSA
"Salvador"	Peggy Dial & Stephen Shearer
"Sam" Hammond	Mimi & Don Weber
"Sarge"	Molly Porter Burke
"Scooter" Webb	Lou Womack
"Scottie" McBirnie	SNIPSA
"Shadow"	Molly Porter Burke
"Shelby" Bell	Lou Womack
"Simon & Scruff McGrufff"	Steven & Meghan Passineau
"Skipper, Amigo, Chloe, & Flo"	Jack Bandy
"Skipper" O'Donnell	SNIPSA
"Stella" Cavender	Suzanne Cavender
"Sweeper"	Ann Leafstedt
"Tommy"	Carli Wilson
"Watson" Newman	Frederika Moreno
"Wilfred" Maurer	SNIPSA
"Zsa-Zsa"	Kathleen Chmura-Shaffer
Brad Dunford	Dr. Mark & Ellen Weinstein
Christopher Alan Hard	Erin Martinko
David Thomas	Robin & Lucinda Berry
Dr. Donald Krause	Judy Raines
Dr. Earl Mabry	Man Wai Ng
Herbert Schrader	Frederika Moreno
Herbert Schrader	Gayle Alterman
Herbert Schrader	Geri Gregory
Herbert Schrader	Harriet & David Oppenheimer
Herbert Schrader	Janet Brueck
Herbert Schrader	Janet & Jerry Lang
Herbert Schrader	Marcy Catoto
Herbert Schrader	Nancy Fossee
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James Baker	SNIPSA
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Teddy Sullivan	Barbara Boyd

IN HONOR OF

"Ace" Hamilton	The Hamilton Family
"Annie & Barkley" Perkins	Jessica Perkins
"Bailey & Ellis" Miranda	Bryan & Denise Miranda
"Banjo" Sauers	Amanda Rivera
"Banjo" Sauers	Christine Butschke
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"Foxy and Sunshine" Basse	Donna Basse
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Waymon Cornell  
Sarah Doerflinger  
Constanza Gutierrez  
Donna Basse  
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Gigot, Mini, Peblys, Zoe,	Carla Milanese
Queenis, Chuy, Bella & Mia"	Joan Aronovich
"Goldie"	Belinda Martin
"Gracie"	H.G. & Harriet Pickett
"Gracie" Siegel	Jodi Siegel
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"Isabella"	John Flores
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"Jake" - Mortgage Mutts	Judi Coulter
"Jake" - Mortgage Mutts	Kristin Graham
"Jake" - Mortgage Mutts	Leigh Saunders
"Jake" - Mortgage Mutts	Lois Sinko
"Jake" - Mortgage Mutts	Martin Inman
"Jake" - Mortgage Mutts	Patricia Mirakian
"Jake" - Mortgage Mutts	Roxanne Chavez
"Jake" - Mortgage Mutts	Tracy Tylman
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"Katy Texas Jenkins"	Loretta Todaro
"Kiba and Sealfower"	Janis Kelly
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"Leo"	Robin Howard
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"Lindsay" Jones	Terri Jones
"Lionel"	Elsia Velasquez
"Louise and Penny"	Malissa Williams
"Lucy"	Anne Leather
"Lucy"	Janet Biechlin

- “Lucy”
- “LuLu”
- “LuLu” Nelka
- “Marilyn” aka “Sweetie”
- “Max & Memphis” Mathis
- “Maximus, Shadow, Chance, Louie, Tex & Stella”
- “Mia”
- “Midas”
- “Midas”
- “Mistletoe”
- “Mochi”

Mojo"  
"Niko"  
"Noah, Rusty, & Coco" Del Toro  
"Oliver" Dashe  
"Ollie" Sawaya  
"Oreo & Greg"  
"Otis"  
"Paddy"  
"Paisley"  
"Penny Moon Star"  
"Penny"  
"Penny"  
"Pillow Top"  
"Pillow Top"  
"Pillow Top"  
"Pillow Top"  
"Pillow Top"  
"Pillow Top"  
"Pillow Top"  
"Pillow Top"  
"Pillow Top" aka "Willow"  
"Pillow Top" & Dr. Sarah Israel  
"Pippin" & other rescues  
"Rho & Ohm"  
"Rio"  
"River"  
"Romeo & Juliet" Wilson  
"Roo"  
"Sam" Mandigo  
"Sammv"

Sarah Jessica Barker	
aka Jessie	Charlotte & David Townsend
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"Sunset"	Kelley Phillips
"Teddy" Duchin	Brian Duchin
"Teddy"	Laura Lieck
"Theodore's 4th Adoption Anniversary	Elisia Velasquez
"Toodle-Loo"	Vivian Condon
"Trinity"	Mitch Kilby
"Vanilli"	Trisha Sinclair
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"Zane" Copeland	Carla Copeland
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Adam Moran	Sheri Mendoza
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Amy Venticinque	Carmen & Merilee Venticinque
Amy Venticinque	Samantha Rodriguez
Animal friends	
past & present	Kathy & Vernon Friesenhahn
Auntie Rose & her love of cats	Kathy & David Kelleher
Auntie Rose & her love of cats	Toni Van Buren
Ava Greenbergs Bat Mitzvah	Anne Kinsey
Ava Greenbergs Bat Mitzvah	Ashleigh Hixon
Ava Greenbergs Bat Mitzvah	Cindy Berman
Ava Greenbergs Bat Mitzvah	Claire Damaras
Ava Greenbergs Bat Mitzvah	Fernanda Villota Testas
Ava Greenbergs Bat Mitzvah	James & Agnue McGoon
Ava Greenbergs Bat Mitzvah	Jeff & Lori Goldblatt
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Timothy Hedgepeth  
Lydia Duncombe  
John Younger  
Fred Suhr  
Katherine Wilson  
Brett Hayes  
Camille Mandigo  
Donna Mooney

Ava Greenberg's Bat Mitzvah	Munter & Mona Shamiel
Ava Greenberg's Bat Mitzvah	Nicole & Mark Greenberg
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Ava Greenberg's Bat Mitzvah	Ryan & Jessica Berger
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Ava Greenberg's Bat Mitzvah	Sarah & Jack Benedetti
Ava Greenberg's Bat Mitzvah	Simona Cuevas
Ava Greenberg's Bat Mitzvah	SMH Girls: Love Chloe.
	Emily Josie, MK, & Zizi
Ava Greenberg's Bat Mitzvah	Temple Beth-El
Ava Greenberg's Bat Mitzvah	Aleyda Kniestedt
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Eden Miller	Penny Bond
Felipa Caro	Toby & Coco Caro
Gabrielle Perdikis	Maddie Guzman
George Huron	Patricia Huron
Gloria & Lawson Magruder	Matthew Magruder
Halford & Clark Wedding	Libby Helms Inc.
	DBA The Good Beginning
Ilan Morgenstern & Karina Bharme	Annette Paulin
Ilan Morgenstern & Karina Bharme	Mary Goree
Jami Rudofsky	Sheila & Gerard Rudofsky
Jennifer Rutledge	Tiff & Sierra Campbell
Jodi & Craig Arnold	Jim & Sandy Miller
Joelle Tuttle	Savannah Tuttle
John Engates	M Capital
Kate Scott	Ryan Wade
Kelley & April Ramotowski	Claire O'Malley
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Kitty Prevost	Leo Perron Jr. & Leco Management
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Kristine & Scott Williams	Jim & Sandy Miller
Leah Williams Handy	Julie Cloud
LeeAnn Trevino	Vanessa Trevino
Lily Kelly's Birthday	Chip Morgan
Lily Kelly's Birthday	Greer Kemmett
Lily Kelly's Birthday	Nancy Doehler
Linda Sauer	Ellen Sauer
Lisa, Steve & Atley Scheer	Cheryl Matey
Luke Horgan & Matthew Schaub	Yvette Summers
Magnus Mayer's 11th Birthday	Diana Barrera
Magnus Mayer's 11th Birthday	Leif Endersson
Magnus Mayer's 11th Birthday	Shaun Debnath
Margaret Drouillard's Birthday	Max O'Donnell
Margaret Drouillard's Birthday	Diana Barrera
Margot Zuelzer &	
Tina Potter Cullum	Wilheim & Helen Zuelzer
Mary Alice Brown	Ariane Etemadi
Mary Alice Brown	Birsen McEntire
Morgan Engates	John Engates
Paula Winslow	Elizabeth Soto
Peggy Dial & Stephen Shearer	Nancy Zacher
Sameera Lanoue	Claudia Williams
Sophie Larkin	The Sea
Sophie Larkin	The Fenwick Club
Sarah Robinson's Birthday	Linda Robinson
Steve Markham	Gabrielle Garcia
SNIPSA Rescues	Ansley Embrey & her Lemonade Stands
SNIPSA Rescues	Courtney Walker
Suzu Kindred	Terri Jones
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The SNIPSA Team	Jen Coyner
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Wilheim & Helen Zuelzer	Margot Zuelzer
	& Tina Potter Cullum



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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](http://snipsa.org)!



## Holiday Ornaments

Support SNIPSA with your purchase of a handmade Christmas ornament commissioned from a small village in Mexico. Each cat or dog is unique in its design made by artisans using colorful materials. Tie the ornament to a bottle of wine, stuff a stocking, or simply make it a topper to a gift. The SNIPSA website is hand stitched on the back of each ornament.

So when you are trying to figure out that perfect gift this holiday season, remember SNIPSA in your giving. To make your purchase: drop by the office at 4216 McCullough, contact us at 210-237-9400, or email us at [snipsaintx@gmail.com](mailto:snipsaintx@gmail.com). Ornaments will also be sold at select businesses throughout the city.

Visit [www.snipsa.org](http://www.snipsa.org) or call 210-237-9400 to learn more about SNIPSA's mission.