

Community News



Looking Back: Serving Others

As each year closes, we slow down and look back at the last year, and maybe even take a few minutes to brainstorm some ideas for the year ahead. For some organizations, it's a chance to take a look at the numbers. Whether it's the percentage of animals leaving Animal Care Services alive, or simply counting the number of animals spayed or neutered, each total gives us a better idea of how to truly make a difference to the pets of San Antonio. With each animal saved, we place another brick in the path to a No-Kill City but we can't forget there are still many to go.

For every happy ending there is a sad beginning for the pets coming through rescue agencies. Not always as drastic as illness or abuse, even the story of a stray dog who just wanted a warm spot for awhile and made themselves at home on the porch can jerk a tear or two from a hardened heart. We receive calls daily for pets that are unowned, uncared for, and just generally unwanted. We do our best to keep up with these calls and take in all we can, but we've learned that sometimes it's just a matter of having the right tools in your toolbox that can make all the difference. Not every person who is asking for help wants someone else to take responsibility – they just need a hand to get on the right track.

Jose didn't start out rescuing stray dogs, but as more dogs began showing up in his neighborhood and even in his yard, he did his best to care for them rather than take them to Animal Control or put them back on the street. One dog turned into two, two to ten and suddenly Jose had twenty dogs and no tools to care for them. Animal Care Services stepped in and took some, while SNIPSA took others. The dogs found new homes and, although Jose was sad to see them go, he knew he just wasn't able to keep up with their care. We were able to give Jose the information he needed to take care of his own dogs, and with that knowledge, he is able to help the folks in his neighborhood. Jose has helped his neighbors get their pets spayed and neutered, vaccinated, and even helped them to get food when they were having trouble. Give people the right tools and it's amazing what they can do!

Success in 2014

Adoptions: 988 dogs/cats Big Fix spay/neuter surgeries: 1,488









by Joel Pe

Big Fix is Trucking Right Along

A small church, door-to-door appointments and 100 surgeries in a day; fast-forward to 2014 and SNIPSA's Big Fix program is not only getting calls from District Councilmen to schedule events, but taking waiting lists for surgery, and still doing 300 surgeries in one day!

As the only MASH style surgical unit in San Antonio, this program has helped over six thousand pet owners receive sterilization, vaccinations, and microchipping free of charge for their pets. Thanks to the support from our community and the City of San Antonio, we will be back to Big Fixin' as early as January 2015. Watch out San Antonio – we are fixin' to fix your pets!



SNIPSA benefactor, Mim Scharlack and Brandy.

DONATIONS

The Generosity of Mim

Once in a while, a surprise that seems too good to be true comes along and it helps to remind us how wonderful people really can be. For SNIPSA, one of our greatest surprises came in the form of a quiet, unassuming woman who walked into our office to make a donation. We began to take her information and asked whether it was in honor of a birthday or perhaps in sponsorship of one of our pets. It was then that she pulled out the check for \$170,000 and told us about her good friend Mim Scharlack.

Mim loved animals so much she bequeathed her estate to three different charities, and SNIPSA was fortunate enough to be one of those three. Aside from the first donation, two more checks would be following, totaling almost \$280,000! For a small organization like SNIPSA, Mim has enabled us to provide rescue and care for countless pets and without her generosity we wouldn't have been able to offer so many pets a second chance. Thank you Mim, for your kind and generous spirit. You truly are one of a kind.



Your support and belief in our mission has enabled SNIPSA to rescue and re-home more than 6,500 animals.

- Acres North Animal Hospital
- Amy Shelton McNutt Charitable Trust
- Austin Highway Animal Hospital
- The Barking Lot
- Branding Works
- Courtney Walker

- Dr. Stephanie Lisciandro
- Langmore Photography
- Lily's Cookies
- Mim Scharlack
- Olmos Park Animal Hospital
- Olmos Park Wash & Fold
- San Antonio Area Foundation

- Slone + Company Advertising
- Southern Merchandise and Distribution
- South Texas Veterinary Specialists
- Spring Branch Veterinary Hospital
- US Signs
- Whole Earth Provision

www.snipsa.org Winter 2014 **3**

Saving Lives.









Nothing Less for Bess

For Bess, life started out pretty normal, at least for a San Antonio stray. Mom was a Lab mix who was living in a ditch and spent most of her time scrounging for food around the neighborhood. Dad was also a Lab mix, but he was a ramblin' man and didn't spend much time at home. Soon eight puppies were born to the little family. Bess being one of three chocolate brown puppies. While Mom did the best she could raising the group, some folks who lived nearby saw the puppies and brought them inside their home. They tried desperately to catch Mom so she could raise her pups inside in comfort but she didn't trust folks and avoided rescue at all costs. The pups were bottle fed for weeks until they were old enough to eat wet food. It was around that time they came to SNIPSA.

The pups were in our program for two weeks when we noticed Bess wasn't gaining weight. She seemed to have a tough time keeping food down, regurgitating much of what she ate. As she got thinner, we began to suspect a vascular ring anomaly - a condition where a ligament that originates from the heart and passes near the esophagus fails to disappear, trapping the esophagus. Puppies with this condition typically have no problem getting liquids down but as soon as solid food is introduced, it gets blocked and can't be digested. Confirmed by x-rays, the next step for Bess was surgery. Taking about 2 hours, one of the amazing surgeons at Southwest Texas Veterinary Specialists, Dr. Israel, was able to remove the ligament blocking Bess' esophagus so she could eat again.

Bess recovered quickly, but her esophagus was so stretched out, she still had problems eating. That when one of our staff stumbled across the Bailey Chair. Named after another pup with megaesophagus, the chair is designed so the dog sits upright while they eat. This allows gravity to help them swallow their food and get it all the way to their stomach without regurgitating. A SNIPSA foster parent drew up plans and built Bess a Bailey chair. Not only can she eat better, but the chair is also adjustable, so it will grow with her as she gets older.

Bess is still looking for her forever home, but this little girl has an amazing amount of spirit. She has survived so much in her short life, it's just a matter of time before she meets her perfect family. Until then, she's got great friends, good food, and her very own chair. What more could a little dog ask for?





The Rescue of Misty D

It was a change of pace for the EMT's who stumbled across Misty D. On a routine call, they noticed a dog slowly making her way to them. Her tail was wagging yet her eyes were pleading for help. Her belly was huge and looked as if she was about to give birth any minute. The EMT's brought her back to the station and a call was made to SNIPSA. She was named Misty D, in honor of the EMT's.

While at first glance Misty D looked pregnant, a closer look showed her abdomen was full of fluid. She was having a hard time breathing and was in the advanced stages of heartworm disease. The worms clogging her heart were also causing fluid buildup in her lungs and abdomen. This girl was going to need serious medical care and fast.

Misty D's treatment plan included several trips to an internist, numerous ultrasounds and x-rays, a lifesaving blood transfusion (bottom picture), an arsenal of medications, crate rest, and constant monitoring. To reverse some of the damage from heartworm infection, she needed to take one small step at a time.

Fast forward a few months - Misty D made a full recovery - nothing short of a miracle. The EMT who rescued her not only fostered her throughout her long treatment, but also adopted her! She was renamed Cara after the Great White Shark (Carcharodon carcharias). Cara loves swimming in the pool, traveling with her new mom, and playing with her brother Loki and sister Brennan. Cara is the happy ending to a story we see often.

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.



Dolly Madison

Dolly Madison was hit by a car, but she managed to drag herself out of harm's way. A Good Samaritan got her to Animal Control, and that is when SNIPSA stepped in. Sent to STVS, Dolly's x-rays showed an old elbow fracture and fractured tarsus. Unable to repair the old fracture, Dolly's front leg had to be amputated, and her back leg was then stabilized with pins and placed in a cast. Dolly adjusted wonderfully she'd often place her head in your lap and never made a peep. Her adopter saw her progress online and couldn't help but fall in love with her spirit. After her final bandage change, Dolly went to her new home where she is now the center of the universe to a five-year old boy.

In May 2014, my beloved companion of 16 years passed away. Her name was Iris. I grieved. My five-year old Schnauzer Benji grieved. And he grieved some more. We started calling him The Last Samurai. My five-year old son Wylie and I began to believe he might never recover. So we decided it was time. The Last Samurai needed a girlfriend and we needed a new dog. We were dog people. At one time we had four dogs. We had dubbed our house Four Dog Farms. We even made it a "place" you could check into on Facebook.

When we began to search there was no question where we would look first: SNIPSA. We came upon Dolly's picture online. Once we saw her eyes and read her heartbreaking bio we knew. This dog was our new friend. When we brought her home we were so nervous, yet so excited. She is learning how to use a dog door, how to maintain balance when The Last Samurai gleefully pounces on her. She is slowly gaining weight and putting some much-needed meat on her bones. Oh, and she has adventures. She has been camping and to the beach. Soon she will be fitted with a life vest for boating. This girl is moving up in the world. And she is doing it with grace. She is loving and gentle and kind. To each human she has come into contact with I believe she has been an example of what it means to not only persevere in the face of adversity, but to trust in the process and to overcome. Words cannot describe how sweet she is. It is something that must be experienced. — Dana

Maggie



Under a bush, severely injured and in need of some serious help, Maggie alerted her rescuer in the nick of time. While giving birth to her kittens, one had become stuck and the only way Maggie knew to get it out was chew at her back end. Flies had gotten to her wounds

and they'd become full of maggots. This girl needed help and quickly! After surgery to remove the kitten, and several hours spent removing maggots from her wounds, Maggie was put on antibiotics and placed in a home to recover. She had multiple surgeries to remove dead tissue in order for healthy skin to grow.

66 Maggie will sit for hours watching the birds, squirrels and deer outside the windows. However, her favorite time is when dad is at his desk studying, pompoms and mice fall from the bookshelf onto his paperwork when they are nudged by a paw! She has trained us to play catch, hide-n-seek, and to provide a comfortable lap to lay in at nap time. " Laurie

Chomper



We found Chomper while block walking for a Big Fix. Bitten in the leg by who knows what, she had a serious infection for such a tiny kitten. After several rounds of different antibiotics, her rear leg still wasn't healing. X-rays showed it was broken and the decision

was made to amputate the leg. She went through surgery and when she woke up, little Chomper acted like nothing had changed. She healed quickly and went back to being her silly, playful self. When her adopter met her the first time, she couldn't get over her goofy personality and knew that Chomper was the one for her!

66 She's been one of the best companions! I come home from long days at work and she's always excited to see me and ready to play. I couldn't have asked for a sweeter or friendlier cat. I'm actually thinking of adopting another kitten. Adopting her was so easy and I know she'd enjoy having someone else to play with. — Stephanie

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

Canine Chatter



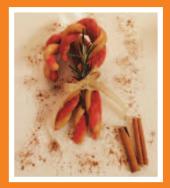
SNIPSA would like to thank our generous sponsors and supporters for helping raise a record \$95,000 to help homeless and abandoned animals in San Antonio. We couldn't have done this without you and we can't wait to see you again next year!

Dia De Los Perros



What started out as a simple barbeque has turned into one of Green Dog Kennel's best events! The Fourth Annual Dia de los Perros was held at the Cove restaurant and

was attended by over 300 supporters! Canines, costumes, and delicious vegetarian cuisine were the theme of the day, and over \$5,000 was raised to benefit spay and neuter services in San Antonio. SNIPSA and SpaySA will use these funds to continue their low cost spay/neuter programs for San Antonio communities. Mark your calendars for next year's event - November 7, 2015.



Candy Cane Treats

Tie a pretty ribbon around a few of these and you have a perfect gift for all the pets on your list!

3 cups whole wheat flour 1/2 cup chicken broth 1/2 cup water 2 large eggs (set one aside for egg wash) 1 tsp peppermint oil (optional) red food coloring (optional)

In a medium- sized bowl, whisk all wet ingredients together until well combined. Add dry ingredients gradually while mixing. Once dough-like consistency forms, knead on floured surface for 2-3 minutes. Divide dough in half, and add red food coloring to one of the halves until desired color is reached. Cover both dough rolls and refrigerate for 1 hour. Take the other egg, lightly beat in a small bowl and set aside.

Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees. Cover cookie sheet with foil and spray with non-stick cooking spray. Remove dough from fridge and begin breaking each ball into equal pieces - about a Tbsp in size – depending on the size of your dog. Roll each ball into a small, snake-like shape. Twist together to look like a candy cane, and brush each with egg wash. Bake for 10-12 minutes. Cool completely and store in an airtight container.

Memory & Honor

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"Aggie" Doe "Amie" Blom	Spring E
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"Buck" Moore "Bud" Collier	Spring E
"Bud" DiQuilio	Spring E Spring E
"Buddy" Rivera	Spring E
"Bud" DiQuilio "Buddy" Conway "Buddy" Rivera "Buffy" Renfoe "Buffy" Stauffer	Heather Spring E
"Buster" Gall	Spring E
Opie, Cody & Calvin" "Callie" Ulland	Spring E Spring E
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"Chester" Vollmer	Mike & I Spring E
"Chief" Meyer "Chiquita" Duran	Spring E
"Chula" McCord	Spring E
"Churchill" Bell "Cleo" Losack	Jeff & Le Spring E
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"Cosmo" DeSousa "Crash" Riedel	Spring E
"Cricket"	Spring E SNIPSA
"Daisy" Hernandez "Dakota" Hoffman	Spring E
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"Kynan"	Spring E

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SNIPSA	"Lily" and Courtney Walker	
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Heather Wright	"Lucky" Garcia	
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Spring Branch Vet Hospital	"Nicholas" Schule	
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Catherine Babbitt	"Nikki"	
SNIPSA	"Ohana" Goei	
SNIPSA	"Olim" Dingel-Elrod	
Spring Branch Vet Hospital	"Olli" Manuel	
Mike & Margot Reynolds	"Ollie Oop"	
Spring Branch Vet Hospital	"Oreo" Kirby	
Spring Branch Vet Hospital	"Oso" Pacheco-Thompson	
Spring Branch Vet Hospital	"Patches" Bishop	
Jeff & LeAnn Calvin	"Pepper & Chelsea"	
Spring Branch Vet Hospital	"Pepper" Ramirez	
Spring Branch Vet Hospital	"Pepper" Thomas	
Algis & Theresa Rakauskas	"Petey & Kayla"	
Spring Branch Vet Hospital	"Phineas" Butler	
Spring Branch Vet Hospital	"Phoebe" McCarty	
Spring Branch Vet Hospital	"Pinny" Vasquez	
SNIPSA	"Pollux"	
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Spring Branch Vet Hospital	"Pregger" Darnell	
Spring Branch Vet Hospital	"Prince" Dempsey	
Spring Branch Vet Hospital	"Princess" Fallbaun	
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Anne Mosqueda	"Shawn & Bo"	
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Rebecca McClain	"Shortstuff" and Zora Blosl	
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Spring Branch Vet Hospital	"Smokey" Stewart	
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Spring Branch Vet Hospital	"Susie" Willms	
Spring Branch Vet Hospital	"Sybil" Kershner	
Spring Branch Vet Hospital	"Sydnee" Fleming	
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Spring Branch Vet Hospital	"Taffy" Jones	
Spring Branch Vet Hospital	"Target" Fryhover	
Spring Branch Vet Hospital	"Tawn" Charlton	
Spring Branch Vet Hospital	"Taz" LaLonde	
Spring Branch Vet Hospital	"Teddy" Deans	
Spring Branch Vet Hospital	"Teenie" Wurm-Croom	
SNIPSA	"Telly"	
Spring Branch Vet Hospital	"Tiger" Barowski	
Spring Branch Vet Hospital	"Tiger" Cosgrove	
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Spring Branch Vet Hospital	"Tootsie Roll" Smith	
Veronica Rouse	"Vicky" Ramirez	

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"Roady"

Katherine Wilson	"Re	omeo & Juliet"
Dan & Gloria Gallagher	"Sadie"	
Lauren McGee Allison Cavazos		"Sam" "Sammy"
Robin Stephenson Karen Sebesta	"Savannah's	"Sasha" "Medical Care
Margaret Langford	Savailians	"Scarlet"
Terri Bills Cynthia Cano		"Siegfried" "Sienna"
Amy Cahoone		"Simon" "Sissy"
Aaron & Jennifer Herrera Worthwhile Animal Rescue	Club "Sparky's	" Medical Care
Stephen & Madge Cady Karl & Elisabeth Swann		"Syrah" "Tilley"
Pat & Kathryn Lutts	"Toby"	and Betty Leaf
Terry & Judy Bitowf Chuck & Tisha Cortines		"Vassily" "Witte"
Christina Kleberg-Jonker Tracey Garza	1	"Worthy" Amanda Garza
Lin Marche	,	Amini Family
Kristin Graham Nicole Greenberg	Ava	Amy Berry is 9th Birthday
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Lin Marche		Casey Roy
John & Claire Rouse Jane Stieren Lacy	Courtney Walker	orrigan Family & James Seiter
Kelsee McVey Louise Spoor		Danny Lee David Spoor
Luke Nester		Elina Osherow
SNIPSA Bill & Donna Wilder		Goei Birthday izabeth Wilder
Lin Marche Marc & Patricia Garza		Embrey Family
Lisa Saltzgiver	Emma Heusii	nger's Birthday
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Bill & Peggy Clark		Espy Family
Dr. & Mrs. Roy Gonzalez Jr. Kate Park		Espy Family Espy Family
Jay Kleberg Sally Searcy Kleberg		Espy Family Espy Family
Bill Sayre		Espy Family
Keystone School Gilder McCarroll		th Grade Class cille Radmann
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Laura Johnson		d & Ana Mayer
Pedraza Family Vikhyat & Corey Bebarta	ingri	d & Ana Mayer Ingrid Mayer
Anjali & Ajeya Joshi Polly Powers		Ingrid Mayer Ingrid Mayer
Stephanie Rao		Ingrid Mayer
Paul Greer & Sarah Powell Zoe McCreary		Isabella Wulfe Isabella Wulfe
Broadway Bank Travis Danysh	Ka	John Matey thleen Danysh
Tom & Phyllis Neckar	Keith &	Cindy Fleming
Melissa Haas Culhane Family	Land	ry Yarborough Laura Christ
Christina Mayer William Chambers		nson's Birthday urie Chambers
Armanda & Mary Rodriguez		Lily Fisher
Maureen Booth Myrtle Mannas		Burrow's Cats Burrow's Cats
Susan Bailey	Linda	Burrow's Cats
Paul & Stacey Darr John & Claire Rouse	Mo	gton's Birthday Murray Family
Michael & Abigail Lee Claiborne Carrington		nael Heusinger uder's Birthday
Luke Brue	M	lrs. Robin Titus
David & Claire Daviss Tom & Phyllis Neckar		Munroe Family Kelly Weigreffe
Lin Marche John Rouse		Nixon Family & Claire Rouse
Michelle Berridge	Patrick & Daniel Vau	ıghn's Birthday
Jay & Peggy Collins Cindy Stychula		Dial's Birthday r & Mike Flores
Jamon Halvaksz	Ra	achel Halvaksz
John & Claire Rouse Leah Handy		Rebblin Family nne Cavender
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Melissa Chapman		Suzie Elkins
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Lin Marche		Phyllis Neckar
Bobby Clark Kevin Elkins	W	/aynne Warren Wendy Black
John & Claire Rouse		Ziegler Family

Winter 2014 **7** www.snipsa.org

"Vicky" Ramirez "Walter & Wesley" Weir "Winston" Russell





SNIPSA Board of Directors:

Shannon Espy, DVM, President • Ben Espy, DVM, DACT, Vice-President • Amy Venticinque, M.M., Secretary • Chris Blasko, CPA, Treasurer • Pete Broderick, J.D. Board Member

What Can You Do?

1. Post on Social Media

Social media is an easy way to save lives because someone may see the plea and step up to help. Share articles, invites to adoption events and photos.

2. Item Drive

Hold an item drive for your local shelter or favorite rescue organization. Newspapers, treats, toys, collapsible wire crates, puppy pens, bedding, cleaning and office supplies are all valuable commodities to area rescues.

3. Photos & Film

If you enjoy taking pictures or making videos, shelters need you! Pets, especially the older or ordinary looking animals, need something to set them apart. A photo that captures their personality may be their ticket to a new home.

4. Clean

Laundry, cleaning, and general housekeeping are a must to keep an area shelter running. Even if you have just a few hours, offer to help empty trash, clean cages or sweep the floor. The animals need our help as well. Grooming, bathing, and giving the pooches a makeover can make a difference in finding a home.

5. Trap

There are thousands of stray cats living at large and there are progressive Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programs to manage these colonies. The success of these programs largely depends on volunteers willing to trap and/or feed the sterilized cats. Contact the San Antonio Feral Cat Coalition or volunteer for a SNIPSA Big Fix Clinic. We blockwalk leading up to each event to catch homeless cats in the neighborhoods we serve.

6. Speak Up

There are many misconceptions about rescues and why it is better to purchase a pet from a breeder. Mixed-breeds are not fraught with some of genetic problems we see with overbreeding. Plus, if you are looking for a purebred, 40 percent of the animals entering shelters are purebred.

7. Bake

Host a bake sale or a lemonade stand to support your local rescue organization.

8. Exercise

Dogs were once working animals. Today, we place our companion animals in kennels and expect them not to develop behavior problems. Daily exercise and mental stimulation goes a long way in curbing potential problems. Consider donating a few hours a week to teach a dog how to walk on a leash or stretch his legs.

Foster

Open your home to a dog or cat in need of temporary shelter. There are more animals entering city shelters than there is available space. The key to saving lives is foster care. Providing space, if only for a few weeks, may be all the time the pet needs to be featured at an adoption event or on the shelter's website. Medical care, food, and even a crate are often provided. You simply provide the TLC.

10. Errands

Our staff depends on volunteers to do errands such as hang flyers to promote animals/events, pick up pet food, deliver an animal to a foster's home and help out at adoption events. An organization is only as good as its volunteers!