

CHANGING LIVES THROUGH RESPONSIBILITY.



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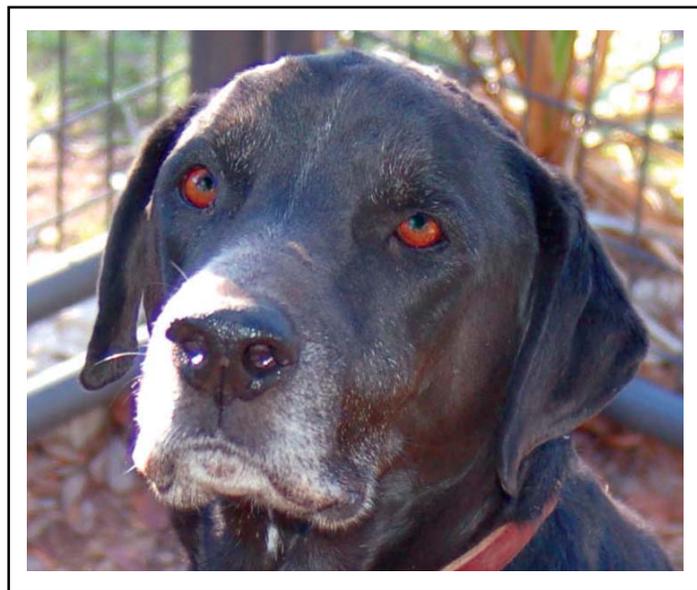
Community News

A Tiny Chip Makes a Huge Difference

Is your pet microchipped? It's a question pet owners are asked daily, but do you really know the importance of microchipping and registering your pet?

What is a microchip?

A microchip is a tiny chip placed just under the skin between an animal's shoulder blades. The microchip uses Automatic Identification Technology (AIT) to identify pets when they become separated from their owners. Veterinary clinics and shelters across the world have scanning devices that will pick up the unique identification number of your pet. Once assigned to a pet, these identification numbers are kept in databases. Shelters and veterinarians can call the companies that manufacture the chips to track down Fido's missing family.



Finding the owners.

Once your pet is microchipped you must call or submit written paperwork to register your pet's chip and connect your contact information to your pet. This is crucial because the chip is useless if it is not registered to your family. Consider your pet's microchip like your driver's license — if you move it needs to be updated! Registered and up-to-date chip records save lives quickly. Without registering the microchip, the process is much more time consuming and the system can fail, leading to dire circumstances for your pet's life in some situations.

What if I don't register my chip?

If your chip is not registered, your pet's chances of being euthanized in an area shelter increase dramatically. The scanning agency can find out who implanted the chip and hope they still know how to get in touch with you. If whoever implanted the chip does not have any current contact information, a "pet detective" committee can be put out to help track you down. All of this takes time, and time is limited for animals in shelters.

Microchips save lives. SNIPSA has been involved in numerous efforts to reunite pets with their families. And in many cases, the chips were never registered.

Sammy's Story

Our adoption coordinator was recently at animal control selecting dogs for our adoption program. There was a beautiful older black Labrador who had been impounded and had already been extended past his euthanasia date. He was microchipped but the chip was never registered and the shelter that implanted the chip was destroyed, along with all of their records, during Hurricane Katrina. This dog was scheduled to be euthanized that afternoon. He had won the hearts of everyone at the shelter and caught the attention of our adoption coordinator, but we just didn't have the space for him. After a few phone calls we were able to track down a name and last known address for the black Lab we now know as Sammy. We solicited help from Facebook and the Internet (the first internet plea landed Sammy a foster home because a volunteer knew she could find his family and save his life) and even found some amazing pet detectives. Within 72 hours they had found Sammy's original family who had adopted him when he was 8 weeks old. Unfortunately they are not in a situation to take Sammy back right now as they lost their home in the hurricane and have relocated out of state. Sammy is safe in a local foster home and will soon be heading back to New Orleans to be adopted. His original family has plans to come and visit Sammy soon. If Sammy had not been microchipped, would he have been euthanized? **Yes.** If Sammy's microchip had been registered, might he have been reunited with his family soon after the hurricane? **Probably.**

Do your part to save lives. Microchip your pets. Register the chip. Scan any animals you find. Search until you find their owner.



No-Kill Solutions in San Antonio

San Antonio is working towards its goal to stop the killing of innocent dogs and cats. In addition to the tens of thousands destroyed on highways and city streets, over 22,000 animals are still euthanized annually and we are struggling to find the solution. Yes, we have made great strides in the forward thinking of animal control. We have the backing of city government, additional dollars awarded to spay/neuter, and funds allocated to construct a brand new adoption center adjacent to the San Antonio zoo. But we aren't there yet. So how does it look for our city in the future?

November 2011 marked the seventh anniversary of the San Antonio Express-News expose, "Death by the Pound," unveiling the truth about the archaic practices at animal control and the 50,000 animals destroyed annually. Public outcry prompted reform and the strategic plan for No-Kill in San Antonio was born.

San Antonio has had five Animal Care Services (ACS) directors since 2004. It is a constant ebb and flow of people bringing their ideas to the table and implementing change in the best ways they know. It isn't easy, as evidenced by the turnover of key employees at ACS. But we aren't willing to give up on the lives of dogs and cats that deserve a better way, a better life than they have inherited.

Bonnie Brown from the Nevada Humane Society recently visited ACS, lending her expertise to improve practices at our San Antonio shelter. A leader in the No-Kill movement, she was the Chief Operations Officer for Best Friends Animal Society, the nation's largest sanctuary for homeless and neglected animals that boasts a \$23 million annual budget. San Antonio-area shelter executives met to discuss best practices and exchange ideas in an effort to implement a No-Kill model.

Austin recently achieved No-Kill in February 2011 with a 92% save rate for animals entering its Town Lake shelter. Austin was the first urban city in Texas to achieve such a milestone, having killed more than 13,000 dogs and cats in 2007. Much of the reform can be attributed to a new executive director, local rescue movements such as Austin Pets Alive that re-home more than 5,000 animals annually, and the unanimous support of the city council.

So what has San Antonio done to meet its match? ACS has ramped up its offsite adoptions — attending Boerne Market Days,

participating in mega-adoption events with other rescue partners, and seeking permanent space for offsite adoptions of cats at PetCo. For every cat adopted, four dogs are re-homed. It's critical for cats to gain exposure and increase their chances of finding homes.

Plans are in the works to extend adoption hours at ACS — opening on Sundays to accommodate working schedules. And themed adoption events such as "Howl-O-Ween" and "Furry Valentine" create fun avenues for family outings. Adoptions have risen from 2,940 in 2010 to 4,335 in 2011, a forty-seven percent increase. ACS has expanded its spay/neuter outreach, sterilizing more than 3,000 dogs and cats through its mobile spay/neuter van and in-house spay/neuter program. Increasing the wellness of the dog and cat population in the community through ACS's weekly vaccination clinics is also crucial. The healthier the population in the community, the healthier the animals coming into city shelters will be.

Given where we have been, San Antonio has come a long way in seven years. Gone are the days of shutting the door and pulling a lever to gas thousands of unwanted dogs and cats with carbon monoxide. Gone are the days of inhumanely housing animals so crowded in their runs, only the alpha dog could eat. Gone are the days of killing indigenous wildlife for co-habiting in our environment. Gone are the days of killing dogs for simple breed discrimination. And gone are the days of refusing to adopt out kittens and puppies in fear they would get sick and not make suitable adoption candidates.

San Antonio is on a new track — one that is committed to saving healthy, treatable, and adoptable animals in our city. You are part of that solution.

Be a part of the solution!

Do your part in helping San Antonio in its mission of saving lives.

- **Adopt from shelters** — don't support backyard breeders and pet stores where the majority of animals may originate from puppy mills.
- **Spay or neuter your pet** — it will keep them healthy and sends a message of being a responsible pet owner.
- **Endorse trap-neuter-return (TNR) of cats** — just because you are born feral doesn't mean you should die.
- **Volunteer at your local animal shelter** — even the smallest of skills are noteworthy.
- **Donate** — consider having a birthday party where donations are accepted for an animal shelter in lieu of children's gifts, or host a garage sale and donate the proceeds.
- **Commit to your animal for its lifetime** — don't give up your pet because you become pregnant, relocate to a new job, or don't have time for your pet.

Saving Lives.

Reaching Out: A Full Circle Project



SNIPSA's goals are simple; **rescue, rehabilitate, re-home,** and encourage **responsibility.** What started out as an adoption program grew in an entirely different direction when the Big Fix clinics were born. It simply made sense — make a bigger impact by providing large scale sterilization. What we worked feverishly to re-home in a year was destroyed in just over a week at animal control.

To date, SNIPSA has held 15 outreach clinics and spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and micro-chipped over 2,500 dogs and cats. An incredible feat — all at no charge to pet owners.

In the days leading up to a Big Fix, volunteers go door-to-door distributing bilingual flyers and interfacing with pet owners about our upcoming clinic. It was during one of our blockwalking adventures that volunteers noticed several hairless dogs living at a residence. The dogs were skittish but in general well fed. The volunteer knocked on the door and asked the homeowner if the dogs belonged to him. He denied ownership saying they just lived in the area. The volunteer handed him a flyer for the upcoming Big Fix mentioning it would be a good opportunity for the dogs to receive the treatment they deserved. He then shared that the dogs did indeed belong to him.

His daughter had brought a couple home one day and before he knew it, one of the females had a litter. The dogs seemed okay but started losing hair and were scratching incessantly. He was embarrassed to bring the dogs to the Big Fix in their condition. The volunteer assured him she wasn't there to judge, but to offer help. She returned the next evening with her arsenal of veterinary supplies. It was dark and the car had to be parked to shine its headlights on the front porch to serve as the makeshift medical office. Within minutes a diagnosis was made and medication dispensed.

The day of the Big Fix arrived, and he brought all seven dogs, including "Guera" shown in the dog trap. All were sterilized, vaccinated, and micro-chipped free of charge. Dog food was donated to help him feed his pets. Had our grassroots intervention not occurred, the dogs would have likely been picked up by ACS — their owner denying ownership for fear of being fined for poor compliance.

Imagine the possibilities if our community was able to do this on a massive scale — a No-Kill model in the works.



● Chance at the Big Fix Clinic – Day 1.



● Chance today with his new family.

There's Always a Chance

Meet Chance, a San Antonio stray trying to survive meandering house to house, eating trash, seeking shelter under abandoned porches and dodging traffic.

He arrived at our Big Fix Clinic covered in mounds of ticks crowded so closely together you could barely see his skin, anemic and severely emaciated. Yet these weren't the first things to cause concern. Chance's eye was severely infected, draining pus with a terrible odor and he had open wounds on his head and neck.

The folks that brought Chance said they had seen neighborhood kids shooting him with a BB gun. Although he didn't make a good

surgical candidate that day, volunteers doctored his wounds, removed ticks for hours on end, and sent him home with antibiotics to treat his infections and allow him to regain strength.

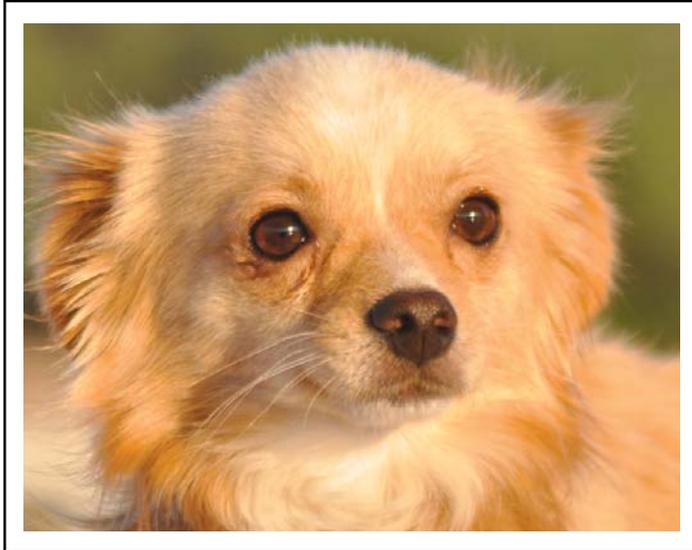
Over the weekend, a volunteer couldn't bear the thought of Chance living on the streets in his condition. So she headed out to search for him. He was in the same vicinity, peering out from under some hedges. She gently lifted his skinny body into her vehicle, and whisked him away to a new beginning.

A further visit from the SNIPSA veterinarian revealed Chance had heartworms, suffered from a tick-borne disease called Ehrlichia, and needed his eye surgically removed. It would be months until he was ready for adoption.

Through all of this Chance was a perfect gentleman. He never flinched while volunteers removed ticks, gave kisses while his wounds were flushed and cleaned, and was a great companion for his foster mom throughout his stay. It is hard to recognize Chance today. He has gained weight, sports a shiny black coat, has been successfully treated for heartworms, and is doing great as he heads off to his new home. There is no doubt that SNIPSA changed the world for Chance. We will never give up hope that there is a "chance" for every dog on the streets and in our area shelters. But we also know that around every corner there is another Chance just waiting for us.

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.



Julio

“ Losing my yellow Lab of 13 years was hard. Having another dog soon after — out of the question!

But then I “met” Julio by seeing a great video posted on the SNIPSA website showing him riding in a ski boat, playing in the yard and sharing snacks with one of his foster mom’s kids. That was followed by a visit to an adoption event where Julio was a star and was then welcomed into my home.

This occurred shortly before my annual trip to Colorado in my motor home. After being a man of the streets and living in a shelter I was unsure how Julio might handle travel. Well, not to worry! Put his bed on the co-pilot (passenger) seat and he rode like a king. Ft. Stockton, Carlsbad (got to chase rabbits there), Santa Fe, Durango, he liked them all.

One great story: He became known as “steak dog” by friends at the Colorado campground. At Happy Hour one evening I turned down an invitation to go out to eat because I had a big rib eye steak thawing on the counter and commented, “unless Julio got it” intended as a joke. Well, I opened the door to the motor home and there stood the guilty party with strings of beef in his mouth, packaging scattered all over and my steak on the floor looking like a piece of hamburger! The local restaurant was pretty good!

A great little dog and a wonderful companion who has so far survived living in a house dominated by two cats and who enjoys my travels. But one weakness: Food — especially expensive steak! ” — David



Mclver

In July of 2011, Gary and Linda adopted a little Shih Tzu named Mclver from SNIPSA. Both Gary and Linda were hopelessly in love with this little dog.

A few weeks after Mclver’s adoption, Linda grew very sick and was hospitalized. Dad spent most of his time by her bedside and Mclver was left at home alone. Gary and Mclver came to visit their SNIPSA fosters and shared the story of this difficult time.

During Mom’s hospital stay, Mclver was incredibly sensitive. He knew when his Mom experienced a bad day and would curl up in Gary’s lap, sitting quietly while Gary stroked and loved on him. During Mom’s better days, he would meet Gary with enthusiasm at the door wanting to be taken to the backyard for playtime.

After an extended stay in the hospital, Linda’s illness led to her death, leaving Gary and Mclver alone. Gary said, “Mclver never left my side after Linda died. He was there night and day to help me get through the death of my wife. He was my rock.”

Although both are still grieving, Mclver and Dad are ready to carve out a new life. Gary has bought a small SUV and they are headed out on the road. Gary vows, “Mclver will never be left alone again and will get the best that life can offer.”

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

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

Canine Chatter



Race for the Rescues 2011

With the help of race participants and sponsors, SNIPSA raised \$73,000 to benefit homeless animals in San Antonio. Over 1,150 participants and 15 teams joined the cause to make our fourth annual race a great success!

ZippyKid, a website hosting company, boasted 42 members to win largest team. Retired Spurs player, Sean Elliot, passed out awards to winners with the help of his rescue dog, Gigi. She was a shining example of the companionship that rescue dogs offer regardless of breed or looks. Jamba Juice and Starbucks kept racers well-hydrated as they mingled with their dogs and had their pictures taken by Ross Benton Photography. Proceeds raised will help SNIPSA spay/neuter, vaccinate, and microchip 1,000 dogs and cats in the San Antonio area. Thank you to all the sponsors, volunteers, and supporters that came out to help us serve the animals of San Antonio.



Wilson Parish Photography

“Canine and Couture”

Aquarius, a quaint clothing boutique in the heart of Alamo Heights, celebrated its one-year anniversary with a party featuring the works of San Antonio artist Franco Mondini-Ruiz. His well-known art included sketches and paintings of dogs and fashionistas titled “Canine and Couture.” A portion of the art sales benefited SNIPSA, bringing in just over \$2,000.

Franco practiced as an attorney for many years before pursuing his long time dream of being an artist. And a successful artist he has been, hosting shows all over the country and winning several prestigious awards. The evening was filled with Aquarius patrons and art lovers, tasty hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, and fabulous clothes to accent your fall wardrobe. We are hoping to make this event an annual affair — an ingenious means to help homeless animals in our city while having a fun night out on the town.

Special thanks to store owner, Sara Ash Jessop and Ana Montoya of AnArte Gallery for organizing the event.

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Farmers Markets are a Friend to SNIPSA

When we think of farmers markets, we typically think of savory vegetables, tasty fruit, homemade jams, funky jewelry, and all the whimsical finds that one can only discover at an outdoor market. But now more than ever, there is a trend to include pet adoptions in the organic approach of making our community a better place to live. It is “green” to get a recycled pet so why not include a rescue group in the repertoire of vendors?

That is exactly the mindset of SNIPSA. We started with the Farmers Market at Pearl in the Spring of 2010 and have since added monthly adoption events at the Legacy Farmers Market located near 1604 and Hwy 281. With only three events under our belt, it has turned out to be quite a successful partnership. As many of you are aware, SNIPSA does not have a standing shelter and depends on venues in the community to showcase our rescues. We go where the people are. It helps not only our advertising budget, but also makes logistical sense as potential adopters have the opportunity to view several dogs/cats under one roof.

Please visit us at our local farmers markets; the first Sunday of every month at Legacy and the third Saturday at Pearl. It's a fun way to do your weekend shopping AND find a four-legged companion.

What Can You Do?

Attention Teachers!



This class project will save a life.

What is SNIPSA?

SNIPSA is a non-profit organization founded by a group of veterinarians and caring individuals dedicated to rescuing unwanted and homeless animals from high-kill shelters and providing free spay/neuter outreach for targeted areas of San Antonio.

OUR MISSION is to rescue, rehabilitate, and re-home adoptable animals from high-kill shelters and the community, and to encourage responsibility within the pet-owning population by providing free spay/neuter, vaccination, and microchipping services to areas of San Antonio with the greatest need.

How you can help

GET INVOLVED by joining SNIPSA's new youth program, STUDENTS SAVING STRAYS. This program was created to help educate and get school-aged children involved in our community's efforts with stray and abandoned animals. Our hope is that this will lead to future generations helping to put an end to strays, animal abuse, and needless euthanasia in San Antonio.

It's super easy

HERE'S HOW:

1. Email us at snipsainctx@yahoo.com and tell us your class or group wants to do a Students Saving Strays project.
2. We will send you a project outline sheet to get you started.
3. Plan a fundraiser for your group to hold to raise money for the animals.
4. Raise a minimum of \$200 per animal you wish to sponsor.
5. Submit your project report form and check for money raised to SNIPSA.
6. You'll receive pictures and information on your sponsor animal(s) and you'll be featured on our website. You may even get a visit from your sponsor animal!

Get your class or group started today!

Become a Big Fixer!

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 \$200 you can become a charter member of our Big Fixer 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.

If you aren't able to contribute financially, consider donating your time working at a Big Fix clinic. Volunteers are needed. Please contact snipsabecky@gmail.com for information.

SNIPSA Board of Directors:

Shannon Espy, DVM, President • Ben Espy, DVM, Vice-President • Sarah Abernathy, DVM, Secretary • Chris Blasko, CPA, Treasurer • Pete Broderick, J.D. Board Member

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



Buy a Shirt, Give a Gift, Save a Life!



What better gift to give for the holidays than one that supports the homeless animals in our community. For ordering information, visit www.snipsa.org or complete this form and mail with payment to:

SNIPSA, 6338 N. New Braunfels #185, San Antonio, TX 78209

White short-sleeved tee __YM __YL __S __M __L __XL __@ \$18= _____

Gray long-sleeved tee __YM __YL __S __M __L __XL __@ \$20= _____

Gray hoodie __YM __YL __S __M __L __XL __@ \$35= _____

Call when my order is ready for pick-up. OR Add \$7.00 shipping & handling. TOTAL _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Special Thanks

Your support and belief in our mission has enabled SNIPSA to rescue and rehome more than 3,000 animals.

- Acres North Animal Hospital
- Amy McNutt Charitable Trust/ Courtney Walker
- The Barking Lot
- Branding Works
- Digiprint
- Dr. Stephanie Lisciandro
- George, Kymberly, & Blake Rapier Family Trust
- Kym's Kids
- Perrin Beitel Veterinary Hospital
- PetSmart Charities
- San Antonio Area Foundation
- Slone + Company Advertising
- South Texas Veterinary Specialists
- Spring Branch Veterinary Hospital
- US Signs
- Veterinary Imaging Center



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

Memory, Honor & Thanks.

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