

CHANGING LIVES THROUGH RESPONSIBILITY.

# snipsa NEWS

www.snipsa.org



## Community News

Model for No-Kill

## Saving One Lives

Big Fix at a Time

## SNIP•ITs

Letters from Adopters

## Canine Chatter

2012 Fundraising

## What Can You Do?

10 Ways to Help

Winter Issue | 2012



# Community News

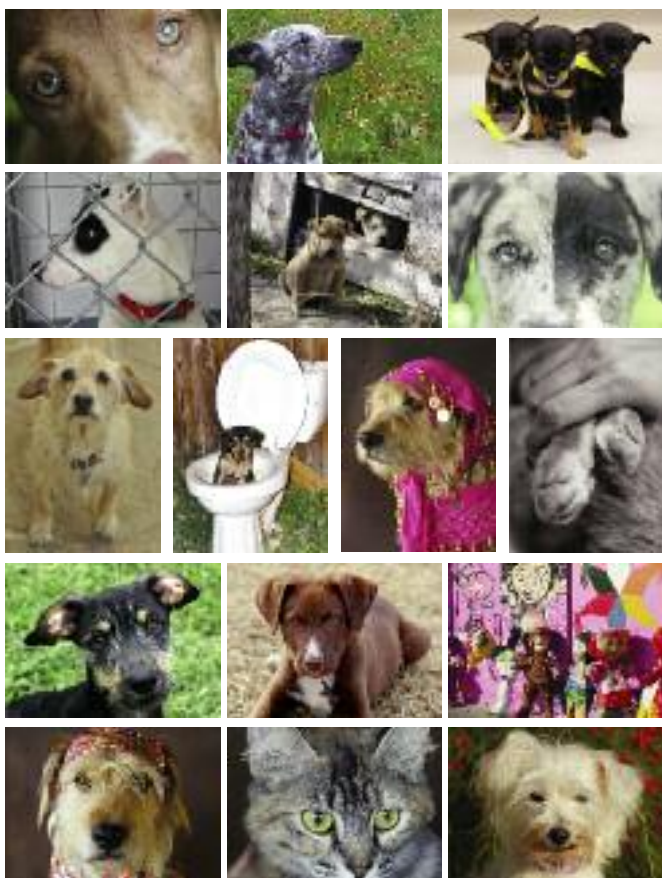


## Community Partners Giving Back

Partnership – it's green, it's hip, it's in! Many of the corporations in our community are giving back to causes that are meaningful within our city. Whether it is educational programs, service clubs, or “do-gooders,” businesses are stepping up to help fellow non-profits.

Whole Foods is one of the corporations that supported SNIPSA recently with its Community Giving Day. Five percent of total gross sales were awarded to SNIPSA to further its mission of saving lives. Shoppers were solicited far and wide while adoptions of dogs and

cats took place within the store. It was a great avenue to increase visibility for rescue animals at the same time filling our kitchens with savory foods. Over \$4,300 was raised! Thank you, Whole Foods, for giving to our four-legged friends.



## Set of SNIPSA cards \$20

With each purchase you are saving lives.

The pictures on these cards are worth a thousand words. They capture the spirit of SNIPSA — our adoption animals, spay/neuter outreach, street scenes of San Antonio taken while blockwalking for Big Fix clinics and more. They illustrate our mission 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.

To purchase your set of SNIPSA cards, go to [www.snipsa.org](http://www.snipsa.org). Thank you for doing your part in continuing SNIPSA's mission.

## Success in 2012

Adoptions: 608 dogs/cats

Big Fix spay/neuter surgeries: 1,471



## San Antonio Becomes Model for No-Kill

Several years ago, we would have never imagined that San Antonio could become a model for the No-Kill movement. Key officials from other areas of our country are knocking on our doors wanting to know how we are saving so many lives. Live release rates at Animal Care Services (ACS) have risen from 32% in 2011 to a record breaking 70% in September 2012. For the first time in ACS's department history, more animals are leaving the shelter alive than are being euthanized.

What has contributed to this success? Two highly innovative subsidized programs were developed to channel the surplus of incoming animals to other area shelters and foster organizations. The San Antonio Humane Society committed to absorbing an additional 2,000 dogs and cats in 2012 while San Antonio Pets Alive (SAPA) committed to 4,000 dogs and cats. As people are surrendering their pets, the Humane Society can immediately accept owner relinquishments, puppies or kittens and transfer them to their standing shelter. SAPA feverishly works to re-home animals on death row from the ACS euthanasia list. Pleas are sent out far and wide requesting foster care or adoption in the final hours an animal is scheduled to be euthanized. And it's working! People are driving from miles away to save innocent lives through the power of social media and the Internet. "Fido" resembles a childhood dog or "Fluffy" has an irresistible face. It is amazing the matchmaking taking place.

A second program, the Rescue Partners Incentive Program (RPIP), provides incentives for other key rescue partners – many of the smaller mom-and-pop organizations whose medical expenses far outweigh their adoption revenues. The small stipend allows rescuers to save more lives with reimbursements for sterilization and basic care needed to get an animal ready for its new home. Nine partners make up the RPIP partnership with SNIPSA being one of them. SNIPSA proudly re-homed 362 dogs and cats through the RPIP program in 2012.

And for our kitties, Best Friends Animal Society kicked off its partnership with ACS in the Spring of 2012 to provide two full-time

employees to head up the free sterilization, vaccination, and ear-tipping program for free-roaming or community cats. Historically, trapped or feral cats were held 72 hours and then euthanized as they rarely stood a chance of being reclaimed. By the time a potential owner noticed his outdoor cat had gone missing, it was too late. Now sterilized cats are returned to their familiar colonies. To date, Best Friends has assisted with the trap-neuter-return of 945 cats. Kudos to Best Friends! More great work lies ahead.

ACS ramped up its spay and neuter capacity by sterilizing over 11,000 dogs and cats in 2012 – far surpassing its original estimates of 7,000 surgeries. Staff has been working overtime to achieve this goal.

Adoptions are expected to rise with the grand opening of the new \$5.4 million Paul Jolly Animal Adoption Center, named for the head of PetCo, whose \$1 million donation helped get the facility off the ground. The once catch-and-kill facility will soon be a state-of-the-art adoption center with plans to open in late 2013 next to the City's zoo. The center is expected to yield 3,000 additional yearly adoptions. Attractions include an event pavilion, an educational center, an onsite surgical facility, and friendly spaces for adopters to interact with potential pets.

This is an exciting time for homeless animals in our community. Let's keep up the momentum and help San Antonio put its name on the map to become the leading city of the No-Kill Movement.

### Special Thanks

Your support and belief in our mission has enabled SNIPSA to rescue and re-home more than 4,000 animals.

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

# Saving Lives.



● Bear receiving treatment from SNIPSA.

## Bear's Rescue Story

SNIPSA encounters all kinds of circumstances when rescuing animals. We treat dogs with parvo and distemper. We help dogs suffering from mange and ringworm re-grow hair. We fix broken bones and manage dogs that have been so severely neglected by humans they fear an outstretched hand. And then there are other kinds of wounds – wounds that are inflicted by other dogs when left to fend for themselves. This is the story of “Bear” – an ordinary brown dog found by children near a playground.

Two young girls, minding their own business on the neighborhood playground, discovered other children throwing rocks at an injured dog. The dog lay there with multiple wounds, wreaking of terrible infection, and barely able to move. Alarmed, the two girls immediately called their mom, knowing they couldn't let this dog suffer. Long-time SNIPSA fosters, they contacted us immediately. Within minutes, a plan was in place.

Once examined, it was obvious the dog had been in a dog fight and with no veterinary care, had grown very ill. Maggots were crawling out of his wounds, creating toxins in his tissue causing the skin to rot and slough.

SNIPSA's staff went to work cleaning and flushing his wounds, administering antibiotics and pain meds to keep him comfortable, all the while hopeful he would round the corner and wouldn't develop life-threatening septicemia. By day two he was still alive and by day five he started eating on his own. Bear's amazing comeback exemplifies an animal's will to survive.

This would not have been the case had two young girls not taken the time to notice him, to be willing to stand up to peers not treating an animal with respect, and spending countless hours nursing him back to health. Thank you to all that helped Bear along the way. He is a fantastic dog in search of his new adoptive family and a second chance.



## Saving Lives – One Big Fix Clinic at a Time

SNIPSA finished 2012 with its 22nd Big Fix. We've sterilized, vaccinated, and microchipped over 4,100 dogs and cats free of charge to pet owners since we started our program in May 2009. For those of you that are not familiar with SNIPSA's Big Fix, it is a one-of-a-kind MASH style spay/neuter event targeting neighborhoods with a disproportionate number of homeless and unwanted animals. Zip codes are identified based on need and detailed statistics kept by Animal Control. SNIPSA goes door-to-door in these neighborhoods offering free sterilization services to residents. We secure a location, set-up our hospital, do our magic, and then dismantle the entire clinic within 24 hours. Having a facility that is within walking distance, accessible and available on Saturdays is important.

We arrive early and stay late, often racing the clock to have everything reassembled for the facility's regular use the next morning. There is nothing more exhausting or exhilarating than sterilizing 250 dogs/cats for a targeted neighborhood. Pet owners are gracious and in awe of what our volunteers and staff accomplish. It's a collective effort of people willing to donate time, resources, and expertise. From the little hands that recover dogs in surgery to the adults that kept the engine running, we are thankful to our volunteers, the people that host our clinics, and the City for supporting our rescue mission. May we continue to serve those that have less than we do and remember why we were all part of a larger purpose.



# SNIP•ITS

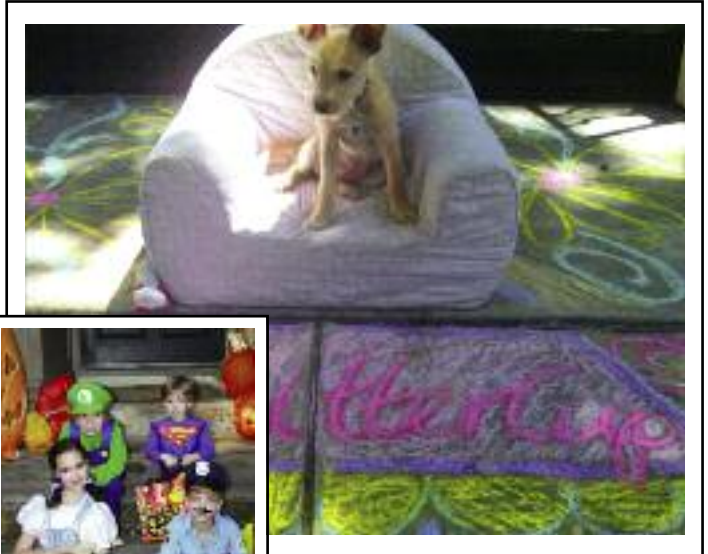
The joy of reading heartfelt messages from adopting families is the driving force of fostering – the reason we open our homes to animals in need. In the end we know any sacrifice is worthwhile.



## Maddie

“ I thought you might like to see a picture of “Madame Butterfly” a.k.a. “Maddie”. You named her “Hippo” when she came to

you because she had sarcoptic mange and was pretty much bald. She looked like a little hippo walking around. After we got her, she developed demodex, 3-4 months of treatment, but after diligent care and a great vet, in September she had no more signs of mites in the scrapings. This is what she looks like now. She is as beautiful and loveable as can be. We adopted her to be a companion to my husband who suffered from depression following back surgery. She was better than any medication could have ever been. Rocky and Maddie are almost inseparable. He loves his “little girl”, and she is a joy to have in our home.” — Lynette



## Buttercup

Buttercup came to the SNIPSA adoption program in June 2012. She was a small pup suffering from ringworm. Quarantined from other animals and living on a porch, she recovered quickly. Folks were clamoring to make her a part of their family. And the Odens did.

“ Buttercup made her debut this Halloween as Toto. She traveled the neighborhood giving many kids and homes a surprise. She was the only dog on our street trick-or-treating. When she is not playing musical shows, she is walking the neighborhood on a leash, of course! She loves to travel in the car to pick up the kids from school. She is quite the hit at the schools. I hope Santa knows how much hard work she has put forth breaking some of her puppy habits.” — The Odens



## Dexter

Found lying on the side of the road, Dexter was on his way to the euthanasia room at ACS when he was spotted by a SNIPSA staff member. Despite his horribly mangled leg she knew he was worth saving. South Texas Veterinary Specialists agreed to amputate his leg and ultimately saved his life.

“ Dexter has totally recovered from his leg amputation. At first, while chasing my son who was riding his bicycle out to the barn, he'd whine as if to say “wait up!”. Now, he outruns the boy AND his bicycle. How bad is it when your 3-legged dog outruns you on a bike? It's a family joke around here. He jumps up 2-3 foot retaining walls to play fetch or chase his boy – he does this without thinking and as if he has all four legs.” — The Manifold Family

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



## On Your Barks! Get Set! GO!

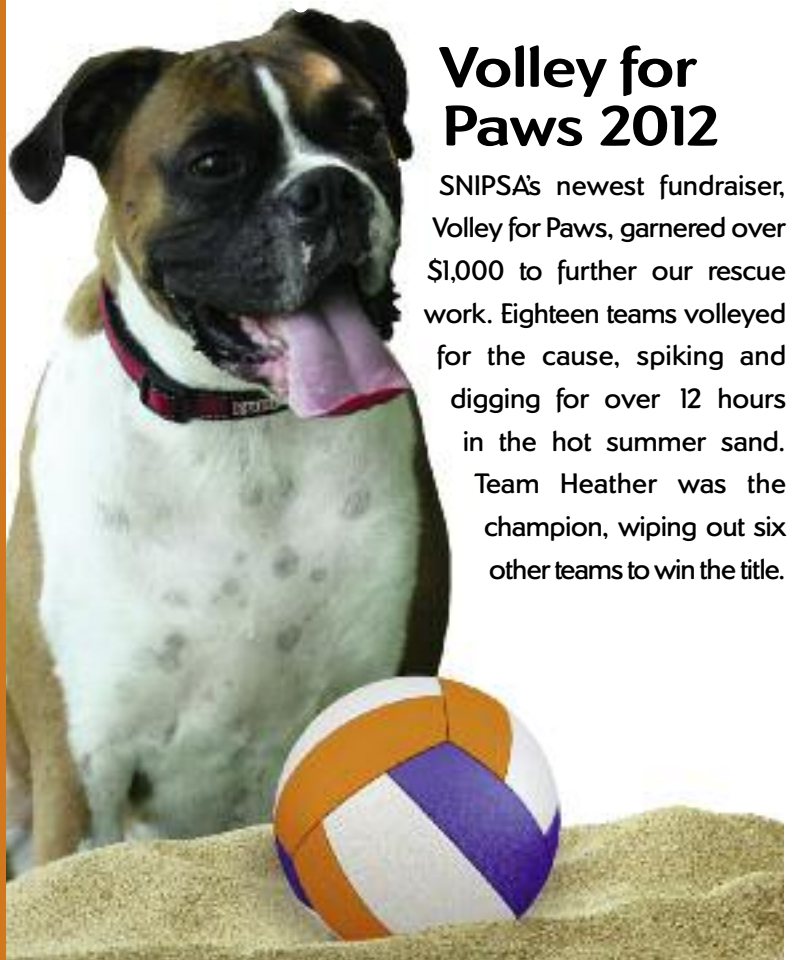
SNIPSA's Fifth Annual Race for the Rescues was not without a few hiccups this year. Hours before the shotgun start, a tropical storm made its way to San Antonio forcing the closing of the race course due to severe flooding. We had no choice but to postpone our single largest fundraiser.

Three weeks later we came back with our tails wagging and pulled off our most successful event ever. With more than 1,100 participants and hundreds of four-legged pets, we raised over \$50,000 to further our spay/neuter outreach and medical care for our adoption program! This is always a fun event for SNIPSA as we are reunited with rescue animals that once shared our homes and visit with adopters who are often our newest friends. Thank you to all of our sponsors, volunteers, and those who woke up not once, but twice, to run in the best companion/dog race in San Antonio.



## We Have a New Best Friend

Most in the rescue world have heard of Best Friends Animal Society. It is the largest No-Kill sanctuary in the country, responsible for saving thousands of animals' lives and supporting countless rescue organizations in their efforts. One of Best Friend's goals has been to advocate for Pitbulls and quell the misconceptions that are often associated with this breed. Once revered as a family dog, this breed now outnumbers any other in shelters and has been the victim of misuse by humans for decades. To assist with this issue, Best Friends recently partnered with PetSmart to provide sterilization for Pitbulls across the country. SNIPSA was a lucky recipient of the grant and committed to sterilizing 75 Pitbulls at its recent Big Fix clinics. Thank you, Best Friends, for providing this deserving breed with a better way of life.



## Volley for Paws 2012

SNIPSA's newest fundraiser, Volley for Paws, garnered over \$1,000 to further our rescue work. Eighteen teams volleyed for the cause, spiking and digging for over 12 hours in the hot summer sand. Team Heather was the champion, wiping out six other teams to win the title.



# What Can You Do?

## 1. Post on Social Media

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

## 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, ever-populating 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 in the days leading up to an event to catch homeless cats in the neighborhoods we serve.

● Wren honored SNIPSA with her birthday party.

## 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 and garnish dollars to support your local rescue organization.

## 8. Exercise

Dogs were once working animals. They lived on farms and helped their master with his daily chores. Today, we place our companion animals in cages and kennels and expect them not to develop behavior problems. A good walk and daily exercise can curb potential problems. Just a little change of environment and mental stimulation goes a long way. Consider donating just an hour or two a week to teach a dog how to walk on a leash or stretch his legs.

## 9. 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 hanging flyers to promote animals/events, picking up pet food, delivering an animal to a foster's home and helping out at adoption events. An organization is only as good as its volunteers!



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

