



CHANGING LIVES THROUGH RESPONSIBILITY.

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# NEWS

Race  
for the  
Rescues

Big Fix  
SNIP-ITs

Celebrate  
Scooter

Andy's  
Heartbeat

Winter 2019

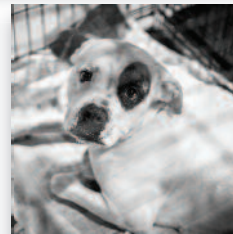
# Be the FIX.

Fifty eight Big Fixes and we are still snipping away — discarding balls and lady parts like yesterday's news. We don't do this because we love to spay and neuter. We do this because we know it works.

Events are laborious and ignite heartburn in even the most stoic of people. Imagine talking to 500 strangers with “call waiting” interrupting you every 15 seconds as you try to gather breed, gender, and age of Fido. We learn more than we need to and often end up making friends in the most unexpected of ways.

Once the schedule is shored up, the heavy lifting begins. SNIPSA staff hauls thousands of pounds of medical equipment and erects a fully functional veterinary hospital in a matter of hours. The following morning, dogs and cats pour in and surgery begins. Fast forward 20 hours and its time to pack up, bleach every crate, wash every instrument, pick up every dirty towel, talk to every pet owner you befriended during the week, and race to beat the Parks & Recreation curfew.

That's a wrap... no, not really... but it gives you a bird's-eye view into the tremendous undertaking — **19,500 FREE surgeries** — and we are still snipping away... one ball at a time.



Photos by Joel Pena.

# Why we do what we do.

SNIPSA partners with many area shelters to save dogs and cats facing euthanasia. In fact, we have done this over 15,000 times. Mange, heartworm disease, fractures, parvo, and nursing mothers are just some of the issues we manage. So when we received a photo of a hairless, emaciated, and severely neglected dog we said “yes, of course!”

## Mufassa

Missing most if not all of his hair, his leathery skin was sizzling red and oozed with infection. He scratched with such intensity he needed an E-collar to prevent further damage. It wasn't until we noticed the double dewclaws on his rear paws that we discovered he was a Great Pyrenees.

Luck was on his side when a veterinarian stepped up to foster. Mufassa would require weeks of antibiotics, medicated baths, and “super” foods. He was half his body size weighing just 48 lbs. With commitment and time, the transformation began. Small tufts of fur sprouted, the infection resolved, and the skeleton of a body disappeared. Eight weeks later, weighing in at 92 lbs., Mufassa has landed himself in a forever home where he surfs the ground for fallen goldfish and claims his bed on the family sofa.



# Andy's new heartbeat.

Did you know that a dog can need a pacemaker, too? Although it's not very common, they are sometimes a necessary lifesaving measure.

Just like human hearts, canine hearts can develop heart failure. This means that the heart can't pump adequate oxygen to the rest of the body. Andy is a fortunate SNIPSA rescue dog who made the trip to Texas A&M Veterinary School in an effort to kick-start his heart. After thorough testing, veterinary cardiologists determined this lucky canine was a candidate for the procedure. Doctors carefully threaded the small pacemaker device into his heart. The battery that powers it was placed under the skin in his neck. Today, Andy requires medication and can't wear a traditional leash as it could damage his battery pack, but he is a typical fun-loving pup who enjoys a daily standoff with the resident cat and greets his foster family with a never-ending tail wag. This is just one example of SNIPSA's huge heart — our folks invest soul, time, tenacity, and pocketbook into making a positive difference in the life of every pet that passes through our doors.



Photos by Joel Pena.



Mr. Henry – 2019 Face of the Race



# Race for the Rescues.

**Holy cow! SNIPSA let the dogs out... and the walkers... and the super fast runners... and the baby strollers! More than 1,000 participants showed up to make our 12th annual Race for the Rescues the largest in history.**

We also raised a whopping \$132,000 to support SNIPSA's mission. Lime green fanny packs made a comeback...what?! You got that right, we were rockin' the fanny packs and have never looked better. Embrey Construction defended its title as the largest team with 68 participants while Alamo Heights Junior School Cross Country was a close second. Special thanks to Mr. Henry for raising \$4,500 as Face of the Race and serving as our poster dog whose mug shot was plastered all over the Alamo City. Finally, a round of "appaws" for our remarkable donors, faithful volunteers, vendors, and staff who make this special event all that it is.

.....[snip]san antonio



## Your inner dog.

**Have we shared the latest yoga trend? Doing a little “downward dog” with a stray dog.**

SNIPSA partnered with Mobile Om to take yoga out of the traditional studio setting and into the natural beauty of Confluence Park. Nothing better than a little puppy breath as your holding warrior pose. Since embarking on the newest wellness craze, we have raised hundred of dollars to support the medical care of animals in SNIPSA's adoption program. Stay tuned for the spring schedule when we hit our mats again with the warmer weather. Namaste!

**One thing in life is certain — age. Eventually, we all face it. It's unstoppable — no way to turn back the odometer.**

Dogs seem to confront the inevitable with dignity — at least Scooter does. He bounds from the front porch like a thoroughbred out of the gate with the single mission of finding the same pee spot in the yard. We step around him as he plants himself beneath the frying pan anxious for a morsel of scrambled eggs or a crumble of bacon. Sharing is not his thing as he snubs other foster dogs attempting to hijack his bed. His fur is a little matted and his toenails grow sideways — that just adds to his scrappiness. We wouldn't trade him for the world. Scooter was the very first SNIPSA rescue and has set the benchmark for adoption. Here's to you old man... our inspirational, quirky, and faithful companion!



# Tails and trends.

**A constant SNIPSA challenge is finding new, innovative ways to showcase our adoptable pups. Farmers' markets, restaurants, and popular shopping spots have been longtime standbys. But what about a fashion show?!**

This past spring, SNIPSA partnered with Fashionable Adoptions, a non-profit committed to bringing awareness to shelter pets. Together we hosted the first ever Tails & Trends adoption event. Local models dressed in Hollywood glam took to the runway alongside some of our fashion forward furballs. The result? An amazing 19 doggies found their human match! Thanks to the Shops at La Cantera for their pet-friendly atmosphere and all of the talented folks that got this new tradition off the ground. Keep an eye on our website so you can reserve your seat front and center for next year's show.



Donating blood saves human lives. But what if donating blood could save the life of a stray dog or cat as well? The generous people from Cavender Auto decided that pet's lives matter and organized a blood drive at designated dealerships. For every pint of blood collected, Cavender Auto donated \$10 to SNIPSA. In addition, Amy Shelton McNutt Charitable Trust provided matching funds. Talk about a win-win! Just in case there were any nervous donors, South Texas Blood & Tissue Center arranged for a bedside SNIPSA puppy to quell any fears. What a wonderful way to celebrate the holiday season... giving the gift of life... TWICE!

# SNIP•IT

Talk about a bad day! What are the odds that you're nursing puppies in an alley minding your own doggone business when you inadvertently end up in a gun fight and get shot in the face?

*Bluebell* That is what happened to Miss Bluebell — a pretty young lab mix with a litter of three-week old puppies. To make matters worse, she was incarcerated at the city shelter through no fault of her own and luckily ended up in SNIPSA's adoption program. Fortunately, the gun blast only grazed her muzzle and she recovered with antibiotics and time. Bluebell graduated from motherhood and was adopted by a wonderful family with an eight-year old grandson. She is his constant companion, light in his life, and spends her days happily listening to dinosaur stories.

“Bluebell and I are best friends so we like to do lots of things together like chasing each other and watching TV. Every time I lay on the floor, she licks my ears and makes me laugh. I've trained her to fetch and she's trained to come when I blow the dog whistle. She's the greatest and snuggliest dog in the world! Best of all, she sleeps on my bed! I just know God handpicked her just for me.” — Adrian





# SNIP•IT

Alex and his feline family were season ticket holders to the Spurs games... not really. They were just living their best life as feral cats at the AT&T Center. Then things got weird when a Good Samaritan decided to set a trap.

*Alex*

Of course Alex ventured inside as the smell of the bait was simply too enticing. Before he knew it, the trap door slammed down and off he went to his “new” life. There was one small hiccup, however. Alex’s foot had been mangled. Not by the trap, but he had clearly been involved in a prior scuffle. The tendons were exposed and the flesh raw. It would require weeks of antibiotics and hydrotherapy. He eventually found himself a home with a very special young boy.

“Alex is doing fantastic and he’s a wonderful addition to our family. Our youngest son has Muscular Dystrophy and Alex has become his companion and best friend. Alex has a large white spot on his back that my son calls his “birthmark,” because he also has a white birthmark on his head to match. He thought it was sad that Alex was injured and almost lost his foot, but loved that he had to go through physical therapy just like he does. He is a very special kitty. He made our son so happy when he was feeling so sad and different from other kids. Our girls absolutely love Alex!! He checks on the entire family throughout the night every single night. Alex found his forever home, but we are the lucky ones to have him! He brought happiness back in our son’s life and for that we couldn’t be more thrilled. Alex has already blessed our family in so many ways!” — Beth



# Memory & Honor

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"Jax" Leavitt
"Jewel" Hollon
"Kinnick" Covington
"Kiwi Fruit Cup" Dennis
"Lady" Coussons
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