

HOUSTON HUMANE SOCIETY



Bella's Back! – An Update Story with Happily Ever After

On October 4, 2016, the Houston Humane Society's (HHS) animal rescue team seized **Bella**, a Labrador mix, from an abandoned home located on Taranto Lane in east Houston. Bella was covered in Demodex mange with hair loss on over 70% of her body with raw, open sores, and a body score of a three out of nine with severe muscle wasting due to malnutrition. She had hookworms and whipworms and had a very high white blood cell count due to the severity of infection. She also had a very low red blood cell count due to anemia. Bella's treatment included multiple types of antibiotics, seven days of dewormer, followed by another round two weeks later to rid her body of parasites. She received vitamin B-12 injections, oral vitamins, antihistamine, anti-inflammatory medication, medicated baths and treatment for skin issues, and prescription diet. The **Animal Medical Center of the Village** helped Bella continue her road to recovery by donating a special medicated ozone bath treatment that continued for a month. HHS sent out a plea to media for the public's help leading to information regarding owners/suspects. We received a huge response from both local and national media coverage. Ultimately, custody of Bella was awarded to the Houston Humane Society. On October 31, the HHS, **Harris County Constable Precinct Five**, and the **District Attorney's office** held a joint press conference to announce criminal charges being filed against two individuals. HHS Shelter Operations Manager, **Monica Schmidt** has worked tirelessly to find Bella a forever home. We are so happy to announce her hard work has paid off – Bella has a new home in central Texas. Here, Monica is sending Bella off with her new parents, **Crystal** and **Jim**, and her sister, **Sadie**.



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MISSION STATEMENT

The Houston Humane Society is dedicated to, and working towards, ending cruelty, abuse and the overpopulation of animals while providing the highest quality of life to those in our care.



From the Desk of the Executive Director



WILMA

Dear friends,

Can't tell it from the weather!!! But spring is right around the corner! During rain, heat, cold, sleet, whatever the weather, we have been working hard to save animals and get them to safety. We continue to improve the lives of the animals in our care, finding them their forever home, and working towards, ending cruelty, abuse and the overpopulation of animals (especially altering almost 600 in one day during our Fix Felix For Free this February!).

The Pavilion, along the Beltway 8 feeder road, is complete! This multi-use edifice is the first stage of our facilities expansion plan on our frontage

property just north of our current campus. It features audio and video capabilities, a concession stand, pet-friendly walkways and plenty of parking. After installing landscaping and signage, we will be announcing the date for our Grand Opening! Stay tuned for more information!

I recently spent time at the Capitol meeting with legislators asking for support for our Tethering Bill and will again for our Cruelty Improvement Bill. We would like to send a big thank you to **Representative Sarah Davis** for her work in authoring the Tethering Bill. **Laura Donahue**, Texas Human Legislation Network (THLN) Executive Director, **Ky Ash**, THLN Lobbyist, and I met with representatives from the offices of **Senator Paul Bettencourt**, **Representative Dan Huberty** and **Representative Jodie Laubenberg** to explain the need and importance of endorsing these two key bills. **Representative John Zerwas** personally spent time with us and committed to support this worthwhile bill. As you know, the Texas Humane Legislation Network is the only 501c4 lobbying agency specifically existing to promote bills that will help animals. Even though our state legislative session runs for only 140 days, we work with THLN year round to protect animals through legislation. Keep updated on bills as they are filed, move thru the process, and make your voice heard by signing up for Action Alerts at <http://www.thln.org/join>.

We are looking forward to many exciting events this year including a stupendous luncheon in October at the River Oaks Country Club, our fabulous and fun yearly Par Fore Pets golf tournament, and many other family friendly events. More details on all our fascinating fun affairs will be added as they materialize so keep checking for updates at www.HoustonHumane.org. However, one event is right around the corner. Not to be missed, our 36th Annual Fun Run will be Saturday, April 29, 2017 at Lynn Eusan Park on the beautiful campus of the University of Houston! This fantastic day of food, fun and friends is themed "Remembering Radar," when we will pay tribute to KPRC's weather dog, Radar, who was adopted from the Houston Humane Society. As Houston's oldest dog walk, the K-9 Fun Run raises much needed funds to support our homeless animals and numerous community programs. Be sure to register, join the fun and receive an amazing commemorative Radar T-Shirt with art designed by **April Murphy!**

We will be honoring and mending broken hearts over the loss of our friend, **Patt Nurdyke**. Patt was the founder of the **Texas Federation of Animal Care Societies** and a leader in Texas animal advocacy. Spurred on by her tireless dedication to animal welfare, we are going to make 2017 an even more memorable year.

So to each and every one of you... **THANK YOU FOR YOUR PAST SUPPORT AND I HOPE YOU WILL CONTINUE YOUR GENEROSITY TO THE ANIMALS.** Please come visit, tour our facility and meet our remarkable residents, enjoy our outdoor park with over a mile of walking trails and let me share with you our plans for the future. A future you help make happen.

For the animals, staff and volunteers – **THANKS AGAIN FOR YOUR HELPING US SAVE LIVES AND KEEPING OUR PROGRAMS GOING AND GROWING.** We hope to see you soon.

Sherry

Sherry Ferguson
Executive Director



Wilma
Executive, Executive Director



Animal Welfare in the 85th Texas Legislative Session

The Texas Legislature's 85th session started on January 10, 2017 and the Houston Humane Society is tirelessly at work to make sure animal welfare is at the forefront. HHS partners with the **Texas Humane Legislation Network** to advocate for strong, enforceable laws to prevent animal cruelty. There are currently two legislative priorities that have been identified.

The first is to fix the Texas Tethering Statute. "Tethering" is defined as restraining a dog by the use of a chain, rope, leash, cable or any other item attached to a stationary object. Although the initial law was passed in 2007, it isn't enforceable as it is currently written. The new bill establishes clear and concise requirements that include making sure the dog has easy access to water and shelter that has no standing water in the area. The length of the tether must be at least five times the length of the dog or ten feet, whichever is greater, and the tether must be attached to a good fitting collar. Punishment for an offense under the proposed law would be a Class C misdemeanor for the first offenses and a Class B misdemeanor for subsequent offenses.

The second priority is to strengthen the animal cruelty code. Animal cruelty cases are increasing in number and severity all across Texas. While animal cruelty itself is despicable it has also been proven to serve as an indicator of human and family violence. The bill moves to increase the punishment for aggressive acts of animal cruelty. If the act involves torturing that results in a death or causing serious bodily injury to the animal, the punishment will be increased to a Second Degree Felony with prison time for no less than two years and not more than 20 years. If the act of violence is committed against another person's animal without their consent, the penalty increases to a Third Degree Felony. If the person has previously been convicted of animal cruelty, the punishment will be further increased to the next highest degree felony.

Law enforcement and animal control officers receive calls on a daily basis about the mistreatment and abandonment of animals. For more information about these two legislative priorities, identify your local lawmakers, and find ways to help, please visit the Texas Humane Legislation Network's website at <http://www.thln.org/>.

2016 HHS STATISTICS

HEARTWORM TREATMENTS

188

RABIES VACCINATIONS

15,823

SPAY/NEUTER
PROCEDURES:

7612

CATS SEEN ON FIX FELIX
FOR FREE DAY

360

CAT EXAMS/
VACCINATIONS:

1891

DOG EXAMS/
VACCINATIONS:

19,365

ANIMALS SEEN IN
THE CLINIC

34,844

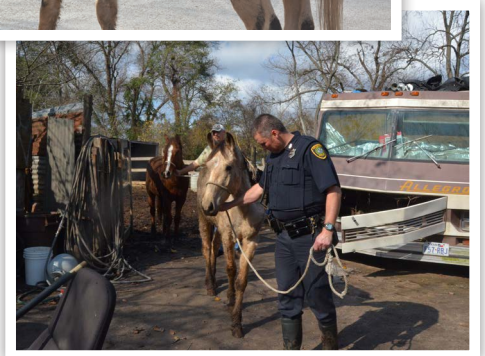
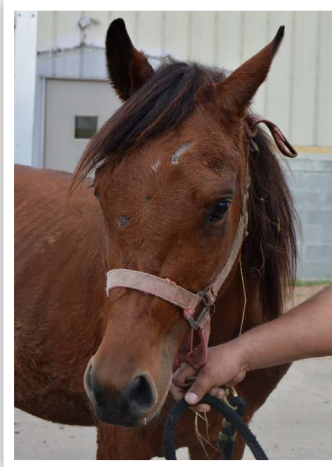
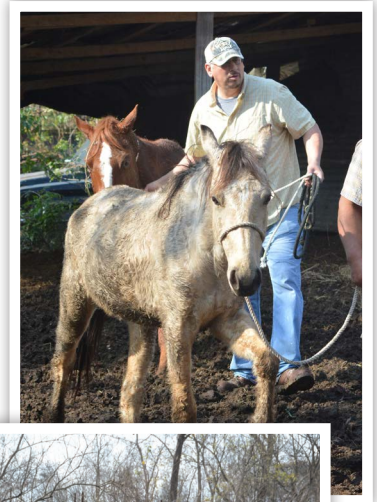
Monty's Task Force and the Great Eight

In late December, the **Houston Humane Society**, **Houston Police Department (HPD)**, and **Harris County Constable's Office Precinct 5 (Pct 5)** seized and took custody of eight animals from a property in the 1000 Block of Glen Ave. in the Acres Homes area.

The eight horses seized by warrant for cruel treatment varied from three years to 20+ years of age. The horses were without access to adequate food and water and living in mud and manure so deep they could barely walk. The equines were visibly underweight, full of intestinal parasites, and showed signs of long-term neglect including rain rot on their coats, lack of any hoof or dental care, and suffered from untreated wounds. Each one was under veterinary care at the **Houston Humane Society's Animal Wellness Clinic** where they received the medical attention they so desperately need. HPD arrested two individuals on scene at the time of the animal seizure, one for an outstanding warrant for burglary and one for possession of cocaine.

This seizure is a direct result of our ongoing program in the area known as **Monty's Task Force**. Monty's Task Force is a cooperative effort of agencies (see facing page) dedicated to ending the abuse, neglect, and cruel treatment of horses, specifically in the Acres Homes and surrounding areas, through education, increased access to low cost services, and enforcement of local and state laws.

All eight horses have been transferred out to equine specific groups, **S&S Ranch** and **Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society**, to continue their long road to recovery.



Popeye

Popeye was eight months old when he was found along Murphy Road with severe trauma to one of his eye. He arrived at Houston Humane Society on June 14, 2016 where he underwent emergency surgery. After several weeks of recovery at the HHS Animal Wellness Center, Popeye was placed up for adoption. On August 2, he was adopted to his forever home where he has three fellow adopted siblings - two cats and one dog.



Left to Right: Lt. Michael Joachim –Harris County Constable’s Office Precinct 5, Lisa Porter – District Attorney’s Office, Ellen Weitz – Houston PetSet, Rania Mankarious – CrimeStoppers of Houston, Teena Davis – Houston PetSet, Sherry Ferguson – Sherry is with the Houston Humane Society and Tama’s organization is Houston PetSet., Tama Lundquist – Houston PetSe, Tena Lundquist Faust – Houston PetSet, Captain Larry Baimbridge – Houston Police Department.

HHS is an Award Winning Organization!

On November 15, the **Houston Bar Association Animal Law Section** held their annual awards banquet. For the welfare work done on behalf of animals in our community, the **2016 Humanitarian Award** was given to **Monty’s Task Force Members: Houston Humane Society, Houston Police Department - North Command DRT Unit, the Harris County District Attorney’s Office, Harris County Constable’s Office Precinct 5, Crime Stoppers of Houston, and Houston PetSet.** HHS Executive Director, **Sherry Ferguson**, also received the **Heart Award** at the event for her years of service dedicated to, and working towards, ending cruelty, abuse and the overpopulation of animals and ensuring the animals that come through the doors of HHS receive the highest quality of care.

Era Comes to a Close

The end of an era is closed with the passing of **Patt Nordyke**, Executive Director, of the **Texas Federation of Humane Societies**. Patt has served many positions during her more than 3 decades of dedication to the welfare of animals. She spoke up whether it be locally in Austin to promote better animal ordinances, in the State Capitol to fight for State laws to protect animals, to calling, writing and visiting national officials in her quest to help animals. Her greatest accomplishment, the one for which she was most proud, was spearheading the effort to get the law passed in Texas that enables Pets to be included in Protective Orders. This law allows women and children staying in abusive situations to protect their furred, feathered or finned family member by allowing them to be taken along to shelters or be protected by the law until they were in a position to be reunited.



For all she did for animals, I will miss my friend of more than 30 years, for her friendship, support, advice, stories of her travels, the hours we spent eating her famous lime pie or splitting a pitcher of beer and Ceasar Salad while discussing all facets of life. She passed her love of animals and determination to help those less fortunate to her granddaughter, **Joanna Welch**, who selflessly advocated and cared for Patt thru so many illnesses consistently until the end. My heart is broken for the loss of a true friend yet happiness for the chance to get to know her wonderful granddaughter. **Bon Voyage Mon Ami** on your final trip to the Rainbow Bridge to meet the hundreds of animals you helped.



Companion Camp for Kids

Companion Camp is a wonderful opportunity for children ages 7-13 (or ages 12 - 15 during teen week) to work hands-on with animal residents of the Houston Humane Society. Campers learn valuable life lessons concerning the welfare of all animals. During a typical day, campers receive humane education, workshops from animal experts, games, crafts, and hands on animal activities. A great addition this summer will be the **Helping Our Pets through Education (HOPE)** program provided by the **Harris County District Attorney's office**. This camp is a must for all kids!

Mark your calendars now – registration began **March 1, 2017**. Early bird registration before June 1 is \$275.00 per session. After June 1, regular registration is \$295.00 per session. Fees include daily snacks and drinks, t-shirt, crafts, and all activities. Lunch is not be provided, so campers need to bring a sack lunch. Camp hours are from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and an optional extended morning hour is available from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. for just \$50.00 more per session. Camp sessions are limited to the first 30 kids for each session.



THERE ARE 11 WEEKS OF CAMP TO CHOOSE FROM THIS YEAR!

AVAILABLE WEEKS INCLUDE:

June 5-9

June 12-16

June 19 - 23

June 26-30

July 5-7 (Short week in observance of the Fourth of July – discounted for three days)

July 10-14 (Teen week for ages 12-15)

July 17-21

July 24-28

July 31 - August 4

August 7-11

August 14-18

Houston Humane Society's 36th Annual K-9 Fun Run & Walk

Upcoming Event

It's time for **Houston Humane Society's 36th Annual K-9 Fun Run & Walk**. Participate in the 1 mile competitive run or the relaxed 1 mile non-competitive jog & walk. Especially exciting this year - the event is at **Lynn Eusan Park, University of Houston, 4800 Calhoun Rd. on Saturday, April 29, 2017 at 10:00AM.**

Come dressed to impress and compete in our **Doggie Costume Contest**. We would love to have you join the **Alumni Parade** if your dog was adopted from HHS. Or simply enjoy refreshments and a multitude of pet friendly vendors and activities for the whole family. Your support and involvement raises money and awareness for the many animals saved and cared for daily at the HHS shelter.

Dog participation is encouraged. Entry fee includes a limited edition race shirt, dog-danna, and race goodie bag. For more information, to register or sponsor, visit <http://events.houstonhumane.org>

This event raises funds to help the nearly 50,000 animals cared for by HHS each year. It also helps us continue offering low cost fees in our **Animal Wellness Clinic**, open to the

public 7 days a week, offering high quality spay/neuter surgeries, and wellness services. In addition we operate a state of the art adoption facility, an animal cruelty investigation department, and an extensive volunteer program.

Needing your very own pooch to join you at the event? Now is a great time to adopt a forever friend at the Houston Humane Society. All canine adoptions include spay/neuter surgery, a microchip, current vac-

cinations, deworming, general health exam, occult heartworm test in dogs over 6 months of age and 30 days of free pet insurance. The adoption department is open 7 days a week. For hours of operation and to see all of the wonderful pets currently up for adoption at Houston Humane Society, please visit our shelter at 14700 Almeda Rd, Houston, TX 77053, or visit us online at www.houstonhumane.org



The 36th Annual K-9 Fun Run and Walk:

- 1-Mile Competitive Run (must run with dog)
- 1-Mile NON-Competitive Jog (may enter without dog)
- 1-Mile Walk (may enter without dog)

Person's name: _____
first last

Address: _____ Apt.#: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____ Alt. Phone: _____

Age: _____ Sex: M F T-Shirt size: S M L XL XXL

I will not be accompanied by a dog at the 36th Annual K-9 Fun Run and Walk

Dog Name: _____ Age: _____ Sex: M F

Breed: _____ Dogdanna size: Small Large

Current rabies tag #: _____ (required)

Veterinarian's name: _____ Vet's phone #: _____

The Houston Humane Society would like to know if your dog has been spayed or neutered? YES NO

Registration includes limited edition shirt and dogdanna, race bib for you and 1 dog, & goody bag

Early registration by Fri., April 14th (1 person/1 dog) \$25.00	\$ _____
Registration April 15 - prior to race day (1 person/1 dog) \$30.00	\$ _____
Race Day registration April 29 (1 person/1 dog) \$40.00	\$ _____
Additional Dog \$5.00; includes extra dogdanna	\$ _____
Extra Dogdanna: <input type="checkbox"/> Small <input type="checkbox"/> Large	
Extra T-shirt: <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> XXL \$20.00	\$ _____
Additional Donation to HHS is appreciated and needed	\$ _____
NEW! Mail my packet to me! (must register by April 14) \$10.00	\$ _____
*1 fee per address if registered at the same time	
Total: \$ _____	

*Please note: registration is by person, each person attending the run/walk & post race party must register

Payment Info: Check # _____

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date: _____

Card Type: Visa Mastercard AmEx Discover Security Code: _____

Please mail checks and completed entry forms to: HHS Fun Run, P.O. Box 450528, Houston, TX 77245-0528

Or visit www.HoustonHumane.org to register online

Waiver Statement: Entry form not valid unless signed
 I waive any and all claims for myself and my heirs and successors against the Houston Humane Society, employees or agents of the 2017 Houston Humane Society K-9 Fun Run for any claim arising from my participation in the Fun Run. Running a road race with my dog among others is a potentially hazardous activity. I give permission to the Houston Humane Society to use all records of my participation in this event for any publicity and/or promotional purpose. I understand that high heat and humidity can be extremely dangerous and that I will not overexert myself or my dog(s). I further state that my dog and I are in proper physical condition to participate in this event. I also understand this is a rain or shine event, and if I cannot attend or choose not to do so, my fees will be considered a donation. I UNDERSTAND DOGS MUST BE KEPT ON A STANDARD NON-RETRACTABLE LEASH AT ALL TIMES. NO RETRACTABLE LEASHES PERMITTED.

Signature of Owner: _____ Date: _____

Signature of parent/guardian if under 18 years of age: _____

For additional entries please photocopy this page Separate form required for each person