

HOUSTON HUMANE SOCIETY



FALL
2020

Molly Seizure

Help Victims of Dog Chaining

On Monday, June 8, after receiving a cruelty report, **Fort Bend County Constable Precinct 3, Wayne Thompson's Animal Crimes Unit investigator and officers** brought a severely neglected 4-year-old pup, whom we named **Molly**, with an embedded collar to the Houston Humane Society.

Wrapped twice around her neck, the chain was so tight it had torn into her flesh. Every time **Molly** moved it would scrape against her skin, re-opening the wound. This extremely deep, infected laceration caused constant pain for this little girl. Molly also tested positive for heartworms, was very malnourished, and heavily infested with fleas. Beyond the physical conditions, Molly, like many animals in this type of situation, suffered severe emotional trauma from the consistent abuse. Our medical team and behavior staff worked with Molly for weeks to overcome her medical and mental issues. With therapeutic care and lots of love, Molly was reminded daily she was safe, loved, and her future would be free from suffering.

Sadly, Molly is not alone. She represents thousands of animals neglected and abused around Texas needing to be saved. In addition to our hands-on work, the Houston Humane Society works closely with the **Texas Humane Legislation Network** (thln.org) to advocate for humane animal welfare legislation. This includes bills to address and improve tethering standards so it will be illegal to force dogs to live their lives at the end of a chain or rope like Molly.



To report animal cruelty,
visit 927paws.org or call
(832) 927-7297.

Flea Market Breeder Seizure

On April 27, more than 95 animals were taken in by the Houston Humane Society after being contacted by the **Harris County Animal Cruelty Taskforce (HCACTF)**. A couple had been breeding and selling animals at flea markets, and after losing her husband the woman didn't want to continue the business. As it is illegal to breed and sell in the Houston city limits, **City of Houston Animal Enforcement BARC Officers** responded to the call and handled the scene. Experienced officers described the living conditions of the animals as "very dangerous and inhumane".

The animals were crammed together in an extremely filthy, outdoor space with floors saturated in urine and feces. There were 15 potbellied pigs, 75 parakeets, 2 guinea pigs, and 3 Chihuahuas. Three of the female pigs were pregnant and gave birth at the shelter. All animals were medically evaluated, cared for as needed, and put up for adoption.

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Shelter Location

14700 Almeda Rd.
Houston, TX 77053
Phone: (713) 433-6421
Fax: (713) 433-4325
HoustonHumane.org

Mission Statement

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



Gary Poon, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Though we are only half way through the year, 2020 has been a wild ride. COVID-19 has greatly affected the shelter, just as it has the lives of you and your loved ones. Despite the difficulties this pandemic has presented, HHS has been able to stay focused on the animals thanks to ALL of YOU. While HHS has been open during the entire crisis, our operations have changed.

COVID-19 necessitated many health and safety protocols around the shelter. Social distancing caused mobile adoption, outreach,

and fundraising events to be cancelled, shelter visitors have been limited, and corporate and group volunteers are staying home. **That means while our animals are still receiving excellent care, our resident dogs and cats are in the shelter longer, instead of finding forever homes.** In addition, supplies like surgical masks, cleaning products, and medications are harder to find and more expensive to purchase. Despite these hardships, HHS staff remains committed to providing the love and chances at happy lives that our homeless and abandoned four-legged friends deserve.

Due to high demand from the general public, and the fact many veterinary clinics in the Greater Houston Area were closed, it was imperative the HHS Wellness Clinic stay open. To accomplish that, we moved to appointment only and eliminated walk-in admissions. In addition, we opened our pavilion as a secondary site accepting clients for vaccines and other essential services including heartworm testing and treatment, fecal testing, deworming, microchipping, flea medications, and more. It proved very valuable as we served almost 1,500 patients at this location.

The need for pet food skyrocketed. As a response, we developed a free **pet food pantry** so pets do not go hungry or get surrendered to shelters. The pet food pantry operates 2-4 days a week at on-site and off-site locations. We have partnered with law enforcement agencies, animal welfare agencies, and local government officials to reach pet owners and pets in need.

Finally, in place of Spring Break Companion Camp, HHS instituted Virtual Companion Camp. While schools were closed and children were at home until Summer Camp began, twenty-eight episodes of Virtual Companion Camp were produced. Each episode reached an average of 1,700 viewers all around the nation. These 10-20 minute episodes on Facebook Live were publicly accessible and introduced children and their parents to adoptable animals, taught training tips, and demonstrated valuable responsible pet ownership lessons. Summer Companion Camp restarted on June 1 at the shelter but with strictly enforced PPE and social distancing rules.

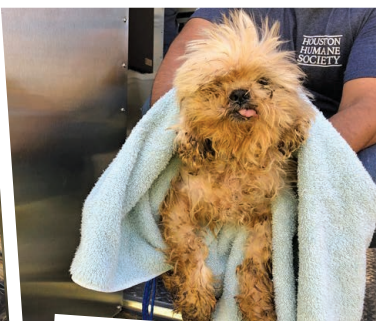
To everyone reading this, and all of our supporters around the country, THANK YOU for being our champions through these trying times. Your generosity and dedication to the animals keeps us saving lives and giving these animals the futures they deserve. Please stay safe and come visit our wonderful animals when you're ready.

Pets to Vets with Interfaith Ministries

HHS has built an important partnership with **Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston** providing full-service veterinary care to the pets of home-bound seniors in the Meals on Wheels/ Animeals program. Senior Citizens are often the most deeply dependent on their pets, and they often have the least amount of resources to provide their pets the care they need.

While **Interfaith Ministries' Animeals** program provides pet food to seniors to prevent them from sacrificing their own nourishment to pass on to their beloved pets, these pets also needed basic and emergency veterinary care. Unfortunately, many of these pet owners lacked the transportation needed to access veterinary care. **Houston Humane Society stepped in to provide veterinary care for Animeals clients' pets**, because we believe both seniors and their pets deserve to live long, healthy lives together. By providing transportation to and from our Animal Wellness Clinic, HHS has been able to **administer vital veterinary care to 77 animals** through this program including vaccinations, flea and heartworm treatment, spay/neuter, and treatment of other illnesses in six months.

We are excited to continue this program thanks to the support of our donors.



Katy Seizure

On February 28, the Houston Humane Society was called in to help with the seizure of over 220 animals found in one household in Katy, Texas. According to **Fort Bend County Judge, KP George**, this was **the largest animal cruelty seizure in Fort Bend County history!**

Our rescue unit received a call from **Fort Bend County Precinct 3 Constable's Office** requesting assistance in an extreme cruelty and hoarding situation including dogs, cats, reptiles, birds, and small mammals. All of the animals showed severe signs of neglect. Many had been living in vile, rusted out caging, and forced to live in their own filth and feces. They were all terribly malnourished, matted, soiled, and covered in parasites, and many had urgent medical needs. HHS found acutely sick and injured animals, and even deceased animals throughout the home.

Houston Humane Society staff, **Fort Bend County Precinct 3 Constable**, and **Harris County Precinct 5 Constable Officers** loaded these animals and immediately brought them back to **HHS' Animal Wellness Clinic** to be medically assessed and receive the medical attention they so desperately needed by the HHS Medical Team.

We can only do this life-saving work with your support and these types of cases come to us almost weekly. Your donations help us provide all of the medical care, rehabilitation, food, and housing these animals need upon rescue.

Pet Medical Care, Boarding for Domestic Violence Victims

For decades, HHS has provided free boarding and medical care for pets of Domestic Violence victims from **Houston Area Women's shelters**.

In 2019, we expanded our partnership with the **Fort Bend Women's Center** to ensure that victims and their pets are safe from violence. This enables more victims to leave and seek help without the fear of leaving their pets behind or retaliation toward their pets by their abusers.



Fix Felix 2020

On February 19, 2020, Houston Humane Society neutered 828 male cats in one day from across the county and state at our annual Fix Felix for Free event. A Huge Thank You to everyone who made this event so successful, including the **Houston Humane Society Medical Team** led by our Medical Director, **Dr. Tony Malone**, and full-time staff veterinarians **Dr. Carolyn Bender** and **Dr. Kevin Scruggs**. We also deeply appreciate **Dr. Cynthia A.K. Rigoni** and her Staff from **All Cats Veterinary Clinic**, **Dr. Melia Washington**, **Dr. Kris Anderson**, and the students from **Prairie View A&M**, **PIMA Veterinary Technician Institute**, and **Robert E. Lee High School FFA**, volunteers from **Mutts & Meows Rescue**, and of course our own **HHS staff and volunteers**.

Fix Felix for Free comes around once a year, but **low-cost spay/neuter surgeries and wellness services** are offered daily at **Houston Humane Society's Wellness Clinic**. Check www.houstonhumane.org/clinic for instructions, info, and updates.



Spay Day 2020

It's not just about the boys! After breaking our record of neutering 828 cats for Fix Felix, requests for discounted sterilizations for female cats was loud and clear from the public. Therefore, we created our very first Spay Day. On February 25, the Houston Humane Society spayed 83 female cats, and we're excited to keep this program going to meet the need just like Fix Felix for Free!



Bissell Pet Foundation Empty the Shelters Emergency Relief

During a time of severe overcrowding, we put out a plea for help. Not only was the plea heard, it was graciously answered.

During March 21-April 8, May 9-17, and July 10-12, the **Bissell Pet Foundation** and **Cathy Bissell** sponsored adoption fees for hundreds of HHS animals as part of their 'Assisting Shelters Amidst COVID-19' relief effort. Thanks to their initiative, more than 300 families found furever friends for only \$25 each. This wasn't just dogs and cats, but included birds and small mammals.

Subsidized adoption events like this help encourage people to include 'furry-quarantine-buddies' into their homes at a time when it's needed the most. So far, the **"Bissell Pet Foundation Empty the Shelters Event"** has gotten over 37,000 animals adopted in over 33 states! We're so grateful for this amazing partnership, benefiting our awesome animals!

Pet Pantry

The HHS Pet Pantry enables residents of Houston and surrounding areas to care for their pets by providing free pet food and supplies to owners who have fallen on difficult financial times and are needing assistance. We want to reduce animals suffering from hunger and the surrendering of animals to shelters. We need your help to keep this program going and our shelves stocked! Please consider donating or hosting a pet food drive.

Ways to Donate

- Through our website
- Amazon wishlist
- Walmart wishlist
- Target wishlist

Donations can be dropped off at, or mailed to, our shelter at **14700 Almeda Road Houston, TX 77053**

Learn more about the Pet Pantry on our website — houstonhumane.org/about-us/pet-pantry!

Host a Pet Food Drive

We need your help to keep our Pantry shelves stocked enabling us to distribute food to pet owners all over East Texas.

We welcome schools, churches, Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops, organizations, community groups — anyone willing to collect kibble and bring it in!



March 20 - July 2
Pet Pantry Has Served:



187,500
Pounds of Food



6,400
Households



19,200
Pets



Over 30,500
Pounds of Food to 11 Agencies
Serving Home-Bound Seniors
and Veterans

Thank You to Our Pet Pantry Partners

Organizations

Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston
Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels
Northwest Assistance Ministries
Attack Poverty
Second Mile Mission Center
West Houston Assistance Ministries
Tejano Center for Community Concerns
SEARCH Homeless Services
Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia Home-Bound Seniors Program
Montgomery County Humane Society
Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council
Interfaith of the Woodlands
Education Based Housing, Inc.
Barrio Dogs, Inc.

Public Officials

Dist. H Council Member Karla Cisneros
Dist. G Council Member Greg Travis
Dist. B Council Member Jerry Davis
Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia
Harris County Pct. 6 Constable Silvia Trevino
Fort Bend County Judge KP George
Fort Bend County Pct. 1 Constable Mike Beard
Fort Bend County Pct. 2 Constable Daryl Smith
Fort Bend County Pct. 3 Constable Wayne Thompson
Brazoria County Pct. 2 Constable Buck Stevens
Brazoria County Pct. 4 Constable James Brawner
City of Hempstead Mayor Michael Wolfe, Sr.
State Representative, Dist. 145 Christina Morales
State Senator, Dist. 6 Carol Alvarado

Venues

Bureau of Animal Regulation and Care (BARC)
Alvin Animal Adoption Center
Fort Bend County Animal Services
Montgomery County Animal Shelter (MCAS)
The Montrose Center
Paul Revere Middle School
Hempstead Recreation Center
Woodforest Bank Stadium
Leon Z Grayson Community Center
Needville Knights of Columbus
Barbara Jordan Elementary School
Ridgewood Park
Westside High School
North East Community Center
Houston Community Center — Southeast Campus

You are **HEROES** of hungry pets in our community



Volunteer Spotlight: Heidi and Matt

Heidi and her husband **Matt** have been volunteering with the Houston Humane Society since October 2019. In just 8 months of volunteering, they have put in over 200 hours of service! This couple takes dogs on walks multiple days a week and even adopted a dog that they (initially) were fostering through heartworm treatment — what a lucky pup!

They didn't stop there. When COVID-19 hit, Heidi wanted to help even more. She began making masks in her free time with the proceeds going towards heartworm treatment fees for HHS' adoptables. To date, Heidi has sold over 200 masks and raised over \$2,000, which has fully sponsored the heartworm treatment of 6 HHS dogs!

Heidi and Matt, thank you for helping to save the lives of humans and pets.



To become a volunteer or learn more, please contact Sue Curtis at scurtis@houstonhumane.org or (713) 341-3313.

Young Adult Professionals

Painting with a Twist

On March 6 at **Painting with a Twist** Heights, the **Young Adult Professionals at Houston Humane Society — YAP@HHS** — brought together 32 Houston Area Young Adult Professionals and HHS supporters to memorialize their pets forever! While guests provided a picture of their pet, **Painting with a Twist** provided all supplies and instruction to make these paintings amazing. **Postino Wine Cafe Montrose** sponsored snacks and wine, truly elevating the experience.



For more information on membership info, perks, and to sign up as a member, visit houstonhumane.org/events-pointer/young-professionals-group.



Pet Pantry Deliveries

The **Young Adult Professionals** at the Houston Humane Society — **YAP@HHS** — have been working hard to continue to help the community through pet food deliveries all around Greater Houston to home-bound seniors, veterans, and the disabled. Thank you YAP Members for your help.

MacGregor Park Seizure

A local pastor, making home visits in the MacGregor Park neighborhood of Houston, noticed animal fur on a couple and a strong foul odor on the man. He knew something was not right and felt a professional check was in order. After receiving a call about a possible hoarding situation, **City of Houston Animal Enforcement BARC officers**, partnering with **HCACTE**, visited the home and discovered the animals filthy and confined to small spaces by caging and being chained to walls. In total, 21 cats and 6 dogs were rescued from the home.

Situations like this one often start with good intentions but get out of control for a variety of reasons. In this case, it was found that the husband suffers from stage 4 bone cancer and the wife suffers from several, severe medical conditions. Due to illness, both refused to be hospitalized despite advice



from doctors and, regardless of the home being unfit for human habitation, they wouldn't heed advice from law enforcement to relocate. The walls and roof of the home had holes, the roof was caving in, wires were exposed, and there was no running water or electricity. In addition, by continuing to acquire and keep animals, especially under these conditions, the hazards to owners and animals would persist and compound.



The Houston Humane Society accepted the animals, provided medical care, and sheltered until all were ready to be adopted. We want the owners to focus on their health and safety, and hope they get the help they need. Thanks for your donations to save these animals.



Happy Tails

Charlie

Hi guys! We wanted you to know that “Charlie,” now officially “Winston Furchill,” is doing absolutely great! He rode in the car unbelievably well with zero issues or anxiety.

He’s had several hours to get used to our yard and his new house. He had a great play in the backyard and loves fetching the tennis ball. He was curious about the pool, and I really think he wanted to go in. We may try that tomorrow if the sun comes out (we’ll see if that’s Lab in him).

He was a little anxious coming into the house but warmed up quickly. He has already mastered the stairs. He took a shower with my son and his girlfriend and really seemed to enjoy it. He loved having his fur blown dry. I think he likes being pampered. He’s so sweet and chill.

He’s laying on our kitchen floor right now snoozing at Debra’s feet. We love him so much already. He’s home!”

- John & Debra Millard



Gracie Before



Gracie After

Gracie

Background — Gracie was rescued in 2015 with over 20 other dogs in horrible conditions, suffering from severe neglect. Her hair was matted with feces and urine, making it painful to even move. When shaved, her hair weighed 7 pounds!

5 years ago my mom, Pamela Anzalotti, adopted Gracie after seeing her on HHS’ Facebook page. She is quite the little gem! She makes us laugh everyday and we just adore her.

My parents moved to Washington state to be closer to me, and Gracie gets to live her days surrounded by 100 ft pine and cedar trees, visits the Olympic National Forest, the Salish sea (strait of Juan de Fuca), Seattle, and all the other places around the western side of Washington.

She is a wonderful addition to our family, and we love her! Thank you for all the good work you all do, because without you, we wouldn’t have found her!”

- Sarah Anzalotti