

HOUSTON HUMANE SOCIETY



FALL
2022

Taming Puppy & Kitten Season

Spring and summer result in a constant flow of puppies and kittens, many of them infants with no mothers to feed and care for them. Everyone loves puppies and kittens until they become too much to handle, and the Houston Humane Society is always there to help.

The HHS Foster Program volunteers do an incredible job helping these babies! At one point, 106 puppies and kittens were receiving around-the-clock in-home care from foster families. But the need keeps growing.

A single cat can have three litters of kittens per year for 12-15 years. A dog can start having puppies as early as 6 months, with the average canine litter being 5-7 pups. HHS hosts **Fix Felix** and **Spay Day** events every year to help curb the potentially thousands of homeless animals roaming the streets. This year, almost 900 cats were spayed and neutered at no cost during these events!

We host these events with one goal in mind — to help end the animal overpopulation crisis in Houston. We understand many Houstonians not only lack resources to spay and neuter their pets, but are deficient in other essentials so we offer many activities in an effort to meet community needs to be responsible pet owners. It is **THANKS TO YOU** we are able to offer these life-saving programs such as free spay and neuters and keeping our doors open to the needy.



Before

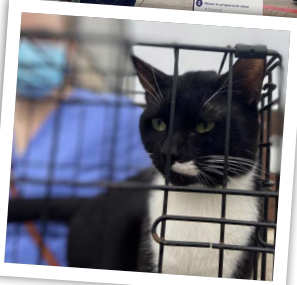


After

#BettyWhiteChallenge

On January 17, 2022, fans and animal advocates across the country honored the late actress, Betty White, on what would have been her 100th birthday with the #BettyWhiteChallenge. At HHS, we had a Golden Girl of our own! Betty White the dog, named after the legend, was found matted and roaming the streets as Houston dropped to freezing temperatures. Because of her condition, the HHS medical team first estimated Betty White to be an elderly dog. However, upon further examination, they learned she was only one year old. This young pup suffered from heartworms and appeared to have spent most of her short life alone and neglected. She was treated and groomed, bringing out her sassy side, just like her namesake. Betty was quickly adopted and now has a memorable life ahead of her!

Betty White's love for animals has sparked a movement that will help animals like Betty be happy, healthy, and loved.



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Shelter Location

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Houston, TX 77053

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HoustonHumane.org

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 brought to us for care.

From the Desk of the Executive Director



Gary & Poppy Poon

Dear Friends,

After 2 years of pandemic fears, social distancing, and online meetings, I am glad to see everything getting back to normal! The shelter is filling up with families looking to give our wonderful animals new homes. Our clinic is again running at full capacity, providing care to Houston's pets 7 days a week. We are out in the community with educational events, mobile adoptions, and our unique drive-through pet pantry and vaccination events.

However, the event I am most looking forward to is our HHS Gala. We're bringing it back with a Casino Royale theme. With Co-Chairs Alison Malkhassian and Nicole Longnecker and the gala team, it will be a special evening to remember! Check our website for details as they evolve.

You will read about many memorable times in this newsletter: our community work to help the homeless, free vaccinations and spay/neuter surgeries, lives saved by our animal cruelty taskforce, and the City of Houston's proclamation for Houston Humane Society Day.

I am incredibly proud to call myself a Houstonian, a city of great diversity. Last year, HHS served more than 62,000 animals, but we did not do it alone. Community driven, we worked to build alliances with more than 25 organizations who serve the homeless, the homebound, seniors, immigrants and low-income families, as well as smaller animal shelters that do not have the resources HHS has. You are our greatest ally in the work we do, and none of these efforts would be possible without your devotion and continued support.

THANK YOU for standing by our side and I hope you will continue your generosity toward HHS and all animals. Your kindness allows us to save lives and keep our programs going. I extend an open invitation to visit and look forward to seeing you at our shelter soon!

A handwritten signature in yellow ink, appearing to read "Gary Poon".

Executive Director



Houston Humane Society Day

Tuesday, February 1, 2022, was officially proclaimed **Houston Humane Society Day** by the **City of Houston, Mayor Sylvester Turner,** and the **Houston City Council Members** for the significant contribution in helping pets and pet owners. We are proud to serve the animals and pet owners in Houston and call Houston our home. It was a great honor to have our efforts acknowledged by the community!



HHS Supports Training for Houston's Animal Guardians

The Harris County Animal Cruelty Taskforce works hard to protect abused and neglected pets and livestock. To achieve educational accreditation, HHS hosted **CODE 3 Essential Animal Services Training** for investigators from **BARC, HPD, Harris Co. Pct. 5, Harris Co. Animal Control, Harris Co. Veterinary Public Health, Ft. Bend DA's Office, San Jacinto Co. Sheriff's Office, and HHS staff.** Over the course of one week, 35 investigators received advanced training in and **others from Fort Bend District Attorney's Office and San Jacinto County.** This first week-long program covered animal fighting, animal hoarding, and other topics related to animal cruelty investigations. Finishing all three components and receiving accreditation from CODE 3 is important both for the personal knowledge and the distinction it shows in court.



Pets of the Homeless

Realizing there is an inseparable bond between homeless humans and their pets, many of whom put their animal's needs above their own, and the shortage of shelters that will accept pets forcing many to stay on the streets with their animal companions, the HHS began providing animal food and supplies and some human basics.

The need is great and growing, so HHS teamed up with **Harris County Sheriff's Homeless Outreach Team, Coalition for the Homeless of Houston and Harris County, and Cy-Fair Helping Hands** to provide basic onsite needs for people and limited medical care, food and supplies for pets and people experiencing homelessness.



52 Dogs on New Years Day

The lifesaving work is endless and around the clock. Our team was called in on New Year's Day to tend to 52 animals all found in one Houston home, thanks to the dedicated work of our **Taskforce partners Houston Police Department and BARC**. Situations like this often begin with good intentions but can easily get out of control. Spaying or neutering pets is the best first step to prevent pet owners and shelters from becoming overwhelmed.

The 52 animals consisted of nursing puppies and pregnant mothers' who were only days away from giving birth. The animals arrived very frightened and matted, showing clear signs of neglect from lack of daily care and socialization.

Our Animal Wellness Clinic medical team quickly went into action evaluating and assessing the animals, discovering that most of the animals were not spayed or neutered and appeared to have never been seen by a veterinarian.

The nursing mothers and puppies required daily medical attention. They were immediately placed in temporary foster care, providing a



safe and comfortable place for the moms to care for their young. After only a week, the rest of the puppies from the case were spayed, neutered, and vaccinated — ready for a healthy and happy life!

We were very fortunate to have awesome partners at **Meadowlake Pet Resort & Training Center** who were touched by this heartbreaking story and reached out wanting to give all 52 dogs a full groom! The pups were primped and pampered and ready for their adoption day. With so much love, cuddles and care received in the few days they had been with us, these pups were completely transformed inside and out.

The newborn foster pups took about 8 weeks to grow strong and healthy enough for adoption and were placed in loving homes. "Momma" pups like Sahara received hugs, enrichment, and even learned a couple of tricks like sit during their time with us. By February, all 52 animals had been adopted. Sahara's new mom shared she hoped all the pups would be provided with unconditional love; she knew Sahara would!



HHS Enrichment Program

The Houston Humane Society is a safe haven for thousands of homeless and abused pets in Houston. Our new **Enrichment Program** helps to enhance their mental health and standard of care. Led by a certified Animal Behavior and Enrichment Coordinator, volunteers spend time with shelter pets playing mentally stimulating games, socializing in groups, and taking fun field trips. All shelter animals benefit from enrichment programs helping them to become more adoptable. They can also be especially valuable for long term residents and high energy pets who tend to deteriorate quickly in their kennels. Opportunities for sensory, cognitive, and physical stimulation help overcome and eliminate these challenging behaviors, improving the pet's chances for a happy home!

Thank you for supporting our life saving programs!

Neglected and Abandoned

Confined to the patio of an abandoned house, Hailey was so neglected and starved, every rib was visible. This all too common situation included another dog that did not survive.

Thanks to the **Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office** for acting quickly and transporting this sweet girl to HHS. Any longer and she would have starved to death.

Animals like Hailey deserve a better life. We won't give up until all animals are treated with love and respect.



Tom & Jerry

Warning – cute animal couple alert!

We see many cases of abandonment, but rarely find a situation like this one where an unlikely duo was discovered in an abandoned garage. **Harris Co. Animal Control** and **Harris Co. Pct. 5** were called after a neighbor reported two animals abandoned in a garage with no food or water. To our surprise, a mouse and cat were discovered. Both animals were comforting one another in the corner of the cold garage, distressed and malnourished. We knew it was critical to preserve this very unusual social bond. After thorough examinations by our veterinarians, the two were able to get back to a healthy state.

The staff decided to name the dynamic duo after the infamous Tom and Jerry. We decided to share their story with our supporters in hopes of finding this bonded pair a home much faster. Not only did it work but their adopters turned out to be huge Tom and Jerry fans.

The new parents shared it was perfect timing. The pets will be his and hers. She wanted an emotional support animal and he wanted a fun companion. We are so happy for this unlikely duo!



Moose

Poor Moose was left alone when his owners no longer wanted to care for him and decided to request Moose be put down due to his condition. Our Animal Wellness Clinic team refused and instead quickly went to work on saving Moose.

Neglected, emaciated and suffering from severe dermatitis, Moose was missing over 95% of his fur. Moose's unprotected skin was so sensitive, he could not stand to be touched and did not want anyone close to him. He no longer trusted humans.

Moose received countless treatments from the HHS Animal Wellness Clinic for his skin condition and was put on a special medicated diet to supplement his lack of nutrients. Moose was also very lucky to temporarily have a foster open her home to allow Moose to heal comfortably in a safe and stress-free environment. Moose also received housetraining and enrichment with his foster, helping to find him a home much faster.

Today, Moose is nearly unrecognizable. He is strutting a full white fluffy coat and a beautiful smile. He has a whole new personality, enjoying dog parks, hugs, and long walks. We are so thankful to our donors who contributed to Moose's care so he could have a new life.



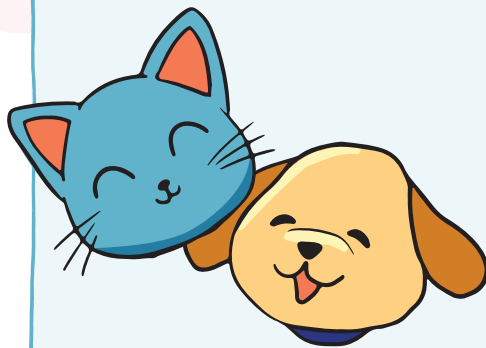
HHS Community Impacts in 2021

There is no greater thing you can do with your life and your work than follow your passions — in a way that serves the world and you.

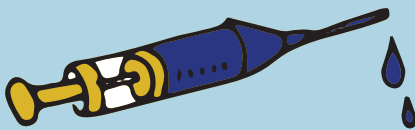
- Richard Branson



1,428,917
Meals Given to Pets
of Families in Need



62,007
Animals
Served by
HHS



33,464
Pets Received
Lifesaving Vaccines



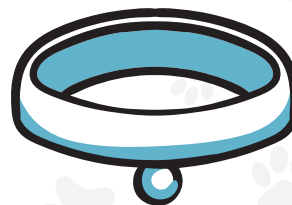
9,157
Pets Spayed/
Neutered



3,339
Animals Found
Fur-Ever Homes



609
Animals
Saved From
Cruelty and
Abuse



291
Pets
Fostered

Education & Community Outreach



Love Your Pet Kids Fest

In honor of *Love Your Pet Month*, we partnered with **City of Houston District H Council Member Karla Cisneros** to host a variety of FREE events and opportunities to provide the youth with humane education. This is the second year we partnered with Council Member Cisneros in offering these events.

This year we hosted 3 events targeting all neighborhoods in District H. The kids enjoyed hands-on play time with HHS adoptable animals, humane education, crafts and games benefitting homeless animals.

Love Your Pet Vaccine Clinic

In addition to the *Love Your Pet Kids Fest*, we also hosted a FREE Vaccine Clinic event. Hundreds of cats and dogs received their Rabies, Distemper and Bordetella vaccines at no charge.

This FREE vaccine opportunity was thanks to our amazing partner **District H Council Member Karla Cisneros** and our dedicated Animal Wellness Clinic Medical Team who served the pets in need.

The goal of this event is to help to protect the health and welfare of pets in our community, keeping pets in homes and out of shelters.



Reading to Paws



Reading to Paws is a Houston Humane Society program where our shelter brings adoptable animals to schools so students can read to them. This program teaches kids about the importance of respecting other living creatures and

also promoting reading to animals as a tool to help students improve their reading skills and build confidence in reading aloud. In the process, these cute and cuddly pets help lower stress levels and improve kids' moods while the animals enjoy the extra love and attention.

Many classrooms, like Memorial Elementary's 5th grade class, are adopting this program and utilizing it as part of their annual Read-a-thons. If you are a teacher or school official and are interested in bringing this program to your school, contact our Humane Education Coordinator at education@houstonhumane.org.

School Assemblies

Houston Humane Society hosts school-wide assemblies and classroom presentations on topics of animal welfare, science, and social-emotional intelligence. Our programs give students

hands-on experience with a variety of animals. Students will always remember the time animals came to their school and the lessons they learned through them.

This program also allows our animals a day out of the shelter and an opportunity to shine in the classroom! Recently HHS pet, Sherbet, became a true ambassador for her fellow shelter pups, tagging along and spreading the message to adopt at school assemblies. She absolutely thrives around children!

If you are a teacher or school official and are interested in bringing this program to your school, contact our Humane Education Coordinator at education@houstonhumane.org.



ALARA garage presents

Casino Royale

and the
Cars of 007!



An exciting evening
of fun and casino games.

HOUSTON
HUMANE
SOCIETY



Co-chairs:
Alison Malkhassian
Nicole Longnecker

SAVE the DATE
April 1, 2023

Honoring Sen. John Whitmire
and Dominique Sachse

Ways to Donate

- Amazon Wishlist
- Walmart Wishlist
- Target Wishlist
- Sign up as a Kroger Charity donor
- Amazon Smile
- Cuddly.com

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

Interested in making a greater difference? Consider a bequest or IRA rollover to leave your legacy of saving animals. You can find out more at www.hhslegacy.org.

Upcoming Events

Sept 17 Paws Fest at LaCenterra

Oct Subaru Love Pet Adoption Month at Gillman Subaru

Nov 11 Par Fore Pets Golf Tournament at Quail Valley Golf Course in Missouri City

Nov 29 Giving Tuesday

Mar 25 K9 Fun Run at MacGregor Park

Check www.houstonhumane.org/events/calendar for more information.

Thank you for making their lives different.