

# HOUSTON HUMANE SOCIETY



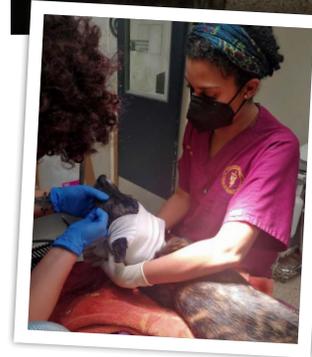
FALL  
2021

## ACU Seizures

## Equine Seizure

Houston Humane Society, together with the **Brazoria County Sheriff's Office, Brazoria County Animal Control & Livestock Deputy, and Brazoria County Pct. 4 Constable James Brawner**, assisted in the seizure of 18 abandoned horses. These animals had been deprived of proper nutrition, veterinary care, and simple basic needs for many weeks. Left with no food or water, these horses were severely malnourished and dehydrated. They suffered from serious untreated joint and bone impairments.

**Under Houston Humane Society (HHS) care, they are now safe and out of harm's way.**



## Sweetie

While driving to an appointment, a good Samaritan noticed a pup on the road that appeared to have some kind of injury. Stopping to help, she saw a deep gash around the pup's neck and ear. It was clear this dog was in desperate need of medical attention.

This kind woman brought her to the HHS Animal Wellness Clinic where it was found a hairband had been looped so tightly around the pup's neck it had grown into the skin, leaving a gash several inches deep. From the time the little one was picked up through her exam, treatments, and surgery, she earned the name Sweetie.

She is partially through rehabilitation and will be under the care of the HHS Medical Team until she is able to find her forever home.

**Our thanks to the wonderful lady that took the extra time to pull over and save Sweetie further pain and save her life.**

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Richard Perez

## 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,

It feels like a lifetime ago we were entering lockdown amid a pandemic that had no clear end in sight. After many grueling months, an end finally feels within grasp. While last year presented extraordinary difficulties often seeming impossible to overcome, I am proud to say HHS has consistently remained steadfast in its mission to end animal cruelty and abuse. We expanded our help to animals and their families desperately in need. All our work is due to loyal donors and we are very grateful to each of you.

Where do I even begin? While continuing restraints posed by COVID, the start of the year brought unprecedented winter weather to Southeast Texas, threatening the lives of countless pets. HHS provided crates, free of charge, for qualifying families who wanted to keep their pets safe indoors during the winter storm but did not have the means due to loss of jobs or other financial hardships. Our services were continually available for animals rescued by citizens from the freezing outdoors and provided life-saving care.

In addition to a rare winter storm threat, we also saw a significant uptick in animal cruelty investigations throughout the pandemic, prompting HHS to further collaborate with the city and county animal control agencies, as well as other law enforcement agencies, to investigate animal cruelty and rescue abused animals. The generous support of this community has allowed us to house, treat and rehabilitate many of these animals, and they now have a chance to live full and healthy lives, free from cruelty and abuse.

When the world faced unprecedented uncertainty, isolation, and anxiety, your generosity and support helped ensure that HHS could continue to be there for both animals and humans alike. Not only did the shelter serve as a place of hope and solace for all – but we also saw record adoptions as animal lovers across the city sought the comfort and companionship that only pets can offer. Since last year, we have found new homes for more than 4,000 animals with the help of foster families and volunteers.

Additionally, our efforts to establish and enforce safety protocols enabled the shelter to stay open. This allowed us to continue providing pet food and low-cost veterinary healthcare, which proved crucial to financially vulnerable families who, without such prompt and continued assistance, faced the heartache and sadness of a hungry pet or — even worse — forced to surrender one at a shelter.

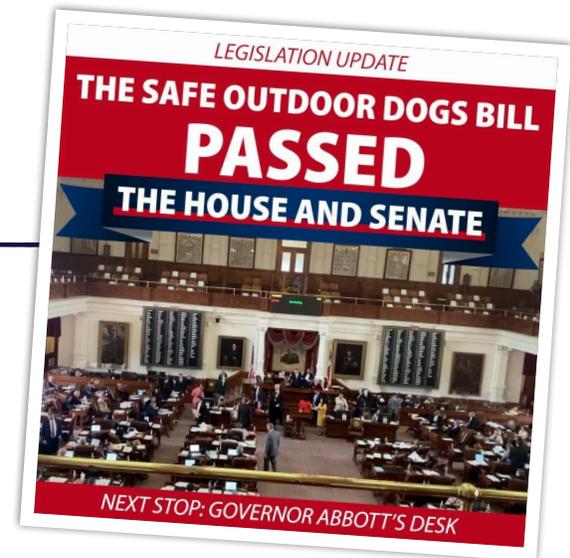
On behalf of the entire HHS team, thank you all for your consistent support throughout the year. Without your generosity and dedication, we would not be able to continue this critical life-saving work and give animals the quality of life and future they deserve. We hope you continue to stay safe and healthy and we look forward to welcoming you to the shelter soon to visit the beautiful pets looking for their forever homes.

## We Won't Give Up on the Safe Outdoor Dog Bill

After many years of hard work, the *Safe Outdoor Dogs Bill* (SB474) finally passed both the Texas House and Senate but was vetoed by Gov. Abbott. He stated the current Texas law adequately protects dogs. But this bill — with active support from legislators, sheriffs, law enforcement, and animal controls — would clarify vague language that makes the current law unenforceable. In addition, SB474 would provide more humane restraint and protection for dogs and attach misdemeanor charges to offenses.

HHS is extremely grateful to animal advocate **Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr.**, who authored and lobbied this bill for numerous sessions. We thank consistent animal advocate co-authors: **Houston Senators Carol Alvarado and John Whitmire, Senators César Blanco, Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa, José Menéndez, and Judith Zaffirini.** Letters, calls, or emails of “Thanks” are earned and appreciated by these lawmakers.

HHS works closely with **Texas Humane Legislation Network** (THLN.org) on animal welfare issues. However, making a bill into law is possible only by persistent determination from individuals, groups, animal organizations, community advocates, and supporters. Thanks to all of you who called, wrote letters and made trips to the Capitol. We will not give up on a future better life for dogs.



## Markle Abused Dog

Regardless of the numerous times we're called on these senseless crimes, we will never understand why anyone causes deliberate pain to a helpless animal. Markle was terrified and in pain after witnesses saw her owner violently slam her on a hard, cold concrete floor during a domestic altercation. Our HCACTF's Animal Cruelty Officer quickly rescued this sweet girl out of this awful situation and rushed her to HHS for medical exams.

In addition to the anguish from this incident, our veterinarian noted she suffered from arthritis and years of pain and agony from an untreated eye ulcer. Unfortunately, Markle will require medical care for the rest of her life due to her abuse. Despite her past, she remains resilient and grateful for the love she's been given.

After receiving medical attention and grooming, Markle's life is a true fairy tale. She now enjoys the life of royalty in her fur-ever home, where she will be treated like a princess and no longer be a witness to the abuse.

Thanks to supporters like you, we will continue saving animals like Markle from cruelty and abuse. We guarantee they will find safety and care from the moment they arrive at HHS. We also pledge to find loving homes for these loving animals.



# Deep Freeze Uri

In February, Houston was confronted with an unnatural and devastating winter freeze that affected people and animals alike, causing an emergency on all fronts. The Houston Humane Society leadership immediately met to assess the situation to determine what could be done to give aid to the highest number of animals with the assets we had and could procure.

## Crate & Supply Assistance Program:

At highest risk were animals forced to live outside, so needy pet owners were provided a crate, pet jacket, blankets and other items to aid in the survival of their pets during the deadly freezing temperatures. In just 2 days, more than 100 crates and supplies were distributed in targeted areas. HHS staff and volunteers took this opportunity to answer questions and open conversations regarding pet care and other help HHS could offer. Wrap up discussions revealed many people simply don't know animal needs, how to care for them, and require education on many aspects of animal issues.

## Non-Stop Open Doors:

A huge challenge was staffing the shelter and clinic already stretched thin due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, due to the unbelievable dedication of the staff and volunteers, HHS kept our doors open during the entire crisis. For health and safety, our hours, appointments and staff had to be adjusted, but we were open to accept, adopt and offer vet services. HHS even opened our doors to animals from three other animal shelters in regions that lacked heaters and indoor holding areas for pets in their care.

## No Rest for Rescuers:

Freezing temperatures virtually shut down the city causing many residents to lose power and water for many weeks, forcing most of the population to stay indoors. While worrying about families, elderly, businesses, jobs, schools and other life needs, animals were often last on the list. One case in particular was that of 8 dogs and a pig. They had been outdoors for so long ice had literally formed on their skin and faces. Our **Harris County Animal Cruelty Taskforce's** partners, **Harris County Sheriff's Office** and **Harris County Pets**, found them shivering, covered in snow and immediately loaded them into our warm van and transported them to the HHS Clinic. All were lethargic, malnourished and in need of medical assessment and personalized care to save their lives. Artic, the young puppy, was the most critical and clearly a victim of abuse and needed specialized surgery for a broken jaw. Of course the staff lost their hearts to these poor souls and did everything possible to nurse them back to health. These animals were once near death, but we're happy to report after numerous treatments and lots of hugs, they are now in loving homes.



Elsa



Kristoff



Oaken



Pabbie



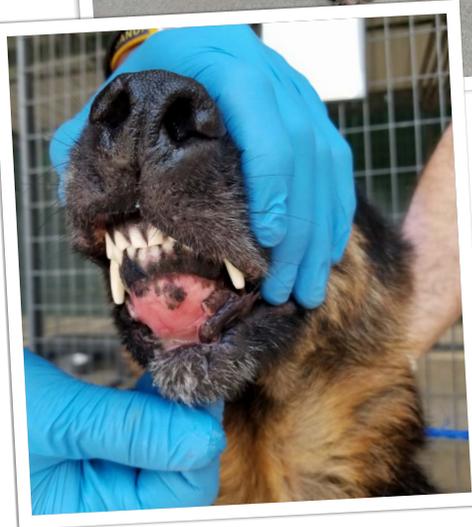
Bruni

# German Shepherds Family of 4

**BARC Animal Cruelty Investigators**, a member of the Harris County Animal Cruelty Taskforce, found and immediately transported four German Shepherds, all of whom were emaciated and suffering from severe skin and fungal infections, to HHS for medical treatment.

During the evaluation, **HHS's** medical team found obvious signs of motor oil used to treat their mange. **MOTOR OIL SHOULD NEVER BE USED TO TREAT ANY ANIMAL DISORDER.** It is very dangerous and often fatal. On top of this, these poor pups also suffered from ear infections, anemia, and numerous open skin sores. Two of the dogs had upper and bottom lip trauma possibly caused by fighting.

This family of four has officially begun their road to recovery, but it will be one very long journey.



## 35 Cats Rescued from Unspeakable Conditions

After the owner had not been seen in 3 weeks, neighbors called for a welfare check. Upon arrival, authorities observed several cats deceased in the windowsills of the home.

The rescue happened late in the evening and was determined an emergency. There were 10 deceased cats, bodies in various stages of decay, and a horrible stench indicating other atrocities.

HCACTF's partners **Harris County Pets**, **Harris County Precinct 5 Constable Ted Heap's** Animal Cruelty investigators worked into the night to ensure these animals were no longer suffering in the unlivable conditions and received veterinary care.

Vets found all cats infested with fleas, suffered from severe eye/ear infections and were blind. One cat in such a severe state continues fighting for her life after being rushed by Investigators to **Animal ER of Northwest Houston** for specialized care.

We are grateful to be a partner in the HCACTF and see animals get out of these loathsome conditions. Other partners include **Houston Police Department**, **Harris County Sheriff's Office**, and **Harris County DA's office**.

If you suspect animal cruelty or any other kind of animal torture or abuse, report it to the HCACTF at [927PAWS.org](http://927PAWS.org) or 832-927-PAWS.



# Education & Community Outreach



## Camp Pawsome

Taking place during summer, winter, and spring breaks, Camp Pawsome is a week-long camp providing fun and educational opportunities for children interested in learning all about animals. During each week, campers undergo unique experiences ranging from leadership development, in-depth instructions on animal care, health and welfare, and hands on interaction with the animals. Programs by experts from other animal related fields and a tour of our full-service Clinic are also among the many distinctive activities.

**Sign up now for one of our two winter sessions:**

**Session 1:** December 20-24

**Session 2:** December 27-31

## Rescue Dog Days

Rescue Dog Days are very popular and rewarding for students, teachers, HHS staff, volunteers, and the animals! Our crew takes animals to schools to ease the stress of students and teachers with a break from tests and studies with lots of cuddles and kisses. It has been shown this short recess acts like a power nap!!

We also have more intensive and specialized offers. If you are interested in having HHS visit your school and/or community group to give animal welfare presentations on a myriad of topics, contact our Education & Community Outreach Coordinator at [chamilton@housothumane.org](mailto:chamilton@housothumane.org).



## Youth Volunteer Programs

We've adjusted our volunteer program to better serve the community. Young adults 14 and older are able to volunteer independently at HHS. Youth ages 10-13 will be required to volunteer with an adult parent/guardian.



## Pawsome Readers Program

The **Pawsome Readers Program** is for volunteers of any age to sit and read to our cats during which kitty cuddles and much needed attention is shared. This program has proven to be fulfilling, and time spent socializing the kitties is incredible.

*In accordance with our youth volunteer program, kids 6-13 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.*

**If you are interested in getting involved in any of these fantastic opportunities, contact our Volunteer Coordinator at [scurtis@houstonhumane.org](mailto:scurtis@houstonhumane.org).**

# Pet Resources Program Update

The **Pet Food Pantry** is a big part of the Houston Humane Society **Pet Resources Program** and we continue to provide assistance to pet owners in need all around the Southeast Texas Region. We served families in Harris, Fort Bend, Brazoria, and Waller Counties, and as far as Calcasieu Parish to assist families during COVID, Hurricane Laura, and Winter Storm Uri crises. This program is designed to lend a hand to animals whose owners have fallen on hard times and/or can't afford to feed them, but love and want to keep them. We all want to aid these people and keep their pets from going hungry, being surrendered to shelters, or even being dumped on the streets. We need your help to continue providing this valuable service.

We ask you to consider supporting this worthwhile program and alert us to anyone you may know in need of assistance thru this program.

## Ways to Donate

Check our:

-  Amazon wishlist
-  Walmart wishlist
-  Target wishlist
-  Sign up as a Kroger Charity donor
-  Amazon Smile

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

## Host a Pet Food Drive

Get your school clubs, company, community and church groups, Scout troops, or any other organization you belong to involved, and get a pet supply and kibble collection started. Make it an online contest and see if your group can collect more than your competition! The animals depend on you to keep our pantry shelves stocked, so we're there when they need us. Hurricane season is upon us.



As of June 1, 2021, the Pet Pantry has served:



20,050  
Households



57,300  
Pets



145

On-site and off-site  
distribution events in Harris,  
Fort Bend, Brazoria, and  
Waller Counties



2,330,500  
Meals



481,000  
Pounds of Food



70,000

Pounds of food to 20 agencies  
serving home-bound Seniors,  
veterans, homeless, and others  
affected by natural disasters

# Happy Tail: Gilma

The staff at a local animal clinic were sickened to find a family of cats sealed in a cardboard box in their parking lot. The kittens were malnourished and the mom had a severe head injury, causing her eye to protrude from its socket.

They were rushed to our shelter to receive much needed medical care. The mom underwent emergency surgery to save her life, but the infection and damage from head trauma was too severe to save her eye. Now named Gilma, this mother cat has fully recovered and even with one good eye, she is healthy and able to live a long, quality life.

Gilma found a wonderful home and is adored by her new family who thinks her scar adds character. Her new mom gives Gilma extra TLC every day to remind her how very special she is. We are so happy Gilma found the love she so rightfully deserves.



## Events

### Tour for Life

In March we teamed up with **North Shore Animal League America's "Tour for Life 2021"** — the world's largest national cooperative, life-saving pet adoption event — in partnership with Purina®. We are excited to be a shelter partner in one of 53 cities/towns in 37 states working together to save lives and bring attention to our long-term residents who've waited over 3 months to find the perfect family. During the **"Tour for Life 2021"** event, 37 HHS animals found new families.



### BeYoga Event

On March 18th, dozens of our supporters and their pooches joined HHS's "Bring Your Dog to Yoga" event to practice their poses, breathing techniques, and puppy snuggles! Adoptable puppies Bambi, Thumper, Flower, and Faline impressed with their downward dog poses and helped attendees exhale stress and inhale puppy breath - all while raising money for disadvantaged pets! We are thankful to **The Studio B**, 714 Yale St, Suite 4A Houston, TX 77007 for opening their class and hearts to our little ones.

### BISSELL Adoption Event

Houston Humane Society was one of 200 animal shelters participating in the national **"Empty the Shelters"** adoption event. The **Bissell Pet Foundation** sponsored adoption fees to help find homes for many of our pets, with a total of 21 animals adopted in one weekend. Bella, a chocolate lab, was one of those lucky ones. She was surrendered by her previous owner months ago as they no longer wanted the 12-year-old senior. We all fell in love with her sweet demeanor and were ecstatic to go the extra mile to help her find the perfect match. We have participated in this activity for numerous years and are majorly grateful to the Bissell Foundation for their sponsorship and promotion of the yearly "Empty the Shelters" across the nation. Plus, their pet hair vacuum is amazing.



Thank you for making their lives different.