

HOUSTON HUMANE SOCIETY



SPRING
2021

Penelope:

A Starving Puppy Left Behind to Suffer

Penelope was left behind in an abandoned apartment in 40 degree freezing temperatures with no food or water. She was discovered through the **Harris County Animal Cruelty Taskforce** by investigators from the **Harris County Constable Office Precinct 5** and **Harris County Pets**. Penelope was in critical condition and was rushed to the HHS for medical care and treatment. She suffered from long-term neglect and weighed a disturbing 12lbs — only a quarter of what a dog her size should weigh. She showed signs of severe dental calculus, gingivitis, and abnormal thyroid levels as a result of malnourishment. Penelope was starved to the point even her internal organs were affected. After providing the critical care she needed, Penelope went into foster home for recovery, socialization, and decompression. After months with her devoted foster mom, she was adopted by a wonderful gentleman who is ready to give her the life she has always deserved. Good luck Penelope, thank you for letting us be a part of your journey!



14 Cats Rescued from Deplorable Conditions



After receiving a call from a concerned neighbor about a fallen elderly woman investigators found a devastating scene. The woman had been lying on the floor, unable to get up for six days. Dozens of cats were discovered living in deplorable conditions, deceased kittens were found, the gas had been left on, no food or water in sight, feces on the walls and floors, and all the cats were underweight and infested with fleas. Officers from **Harris County Constable Office Precinct 5** and **BARC** safely seized the animals. All were transported to the HHS for immediate medical evaluation and care. After examination by our medical staff, it was determined the cats all suffered from severe eye issues, some so extreme their eyes had to be surgically removed to save their lives. These poor kitties were denied basic veterinary care and food essential for life. It will take time in intensive care and months in our shelter to recover. Our dedicated Clinic and Shelter Staff will do all we can to save as many as we can to give them a chance at the life and love they deserve.

It is Thanks To YOU our Donors that enable us to make these transformations possible.

To report animal cruelty, abuse, neglect, and abandonment, please contact **Houston Humane Society** at reportanimalcruelty.org.

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Shelter Director

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,

2020 was a strange and challenging year for us all. COVID-19 and the resulting downturned economy, paired with natural disasters, was overwhelming to the majority in many ways. In response, HHS felt the responsibility to assist pets and pet owners to live safe, happy lives despite the difficulties by increasing our capacity to respond to the growing needs around Houston and across the South.

Within a day after the devastation from hurricanes Laura and Delta, the HHS Rescue Response Team was delivering pet food and supplies to Beaumont and Lake Charles, respectively. In addition, within three days we brought home over 220 animals to provide safe, warm, comfortable accommodations and full medical care. Dozens of additional trips were made to East Texas and West Louisiana to provide storm and flood relief to pet owners, rescue groups, shelters, and thousands of animals.

Through our Pet Pantry we discovered a new group of people who do not see the importance or need to spay or neuter their pets, nor can they afford to do so. Therefore, we launched our **Free Spay/Neuter and Medical Assistance Program** made available to those getting food from our Pet Pantry. All receive help initially, but to continue, pets must be altered. This free program includes spay/neutering, microchipping, vaccinations, and flea and heartworm preventatives. We have educated hundreds of pet owners, and given health care to thousands of pets, through this program.

Other 2020 highlights:

- In cooperation with our Harris and Fort Bend County partners, HHS spearheaded the creation of the **Southeast Texas LINK Coalition**, who's mission is to educate and advocate the link between animal cruelty and domestic violence.
- I joined and will serve as Treasurer for the **Texas Unites for Animals** board of directors. This statewide animal welfare support organization works to provide networking, training, continuing education, support, and resources to Texas's animal welfare professionals.

Life has changed dramatically in the past 12 months and continues bringing new struggles and uncertainties each day. We are still here and there is one thing we will never waiver on — our commitment to the animals and their welfare. On behalf of the volunteers, staff, board, mascots Lizzy and Roo, myself, and all the animals ... **THANK YOU** for your past help and we hope we can count on your future support to continue our lifesaving work.

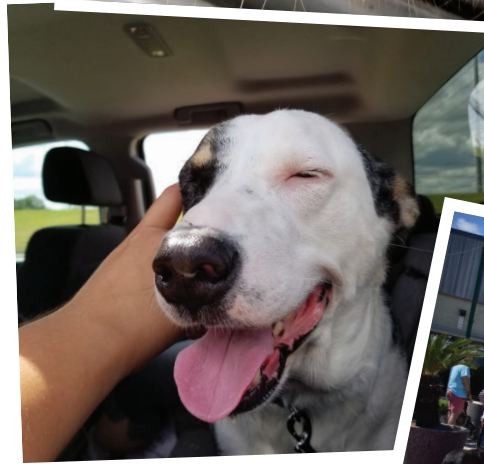


Free Spay/Neuter and Medical Assistance

Houston Humane Society experiences the consequences of unsterilized pets by receiving thousands of unwanted animals every year. They often must be given up simply due to a lack of funds for their care and the litters they reproduce. To address this issue, we've piloted a program to provide no-cost spay/neuter and veterinary care to pets of struggling pet owners who love and want to keep their animal family members. This project will help control the crisis of animal homelessness and assist with aging medical concerns and behavioral issues among Houston pets.

Through Sept-Dec of 2020, HHS provided over 400 dogs and cats with **free spay/neuter, microchip, rabies, vaccinations, flea and tick prevention, heartworm prevention, and heartworm tests**. This is in addition to the current tens of thousands of pets utilizing our low-cost, full-service Animal Wellness Clinic annually.

This program depends solely on financial and in-kind product donations. Our supporters have made this program a success, and we hope you will continue to invest in these worthy causes.



Hurricane Boarding & Medical Update



Houston and the Southeast Region was hit hard in 2020 both by the pandemic and by extreme weather. Many families were displaced by **Hurricanes Hanna and Laura, and Tropical Storm Beta**. Finding a shelter that allows pets forced people to choose between a roof over their heads or abandoning their beloved companions. In response, HHS provided free temporary boarding and medical care for hundreds of animals affected by weather emergencies that left them displaced and needing housing assistance. HHS collaborated with local accredited boarding facilities to offer these pets a safe and comfortable place to stay at no-cost, additionally providing free spay/neutering, microchipping, vaccinations, basic wellness needs, and treatment for ailments or existing conditions.



Dog Houses

To improve the living conditions of dogs continually kept outdoors, HHS launched a new program to provide doghouses to help keep them out of the cold, rain, and Houston's heat. All of these qualified recipients will be automatically enrolled in our Free Spay/Neuter and Medical Assistance Program and receive free spay/neuter, microchip, vaccines, rabies, heartworm, and flea preventative as necessary. To further aid owners, dogs will be given access to our other assistance programs for pet food and supplies.

Southeast Texas LINK Coalition

The Houston Humane Society has joined forces with several human and animal welfare organizations to create the Southeast Texas LINK Coalition (The Coalition), which launched in October 2020 to advocate for programs and policies that protect humans and animals from violence.



National LINK Coalition Facts & Statistics:

- Research has shown significant correlations between animal abuse, child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, elder abuse, and other forms of violence. Mistreating animals is often a predictor of crime and a warning sign of family violence to come.
- The best way to stop multiple forms of violence perpetrated by the same abusers is interagency communication and collaboration. However, in most communities, we have become a “nation of silos.” Child protection, domestic violence, animal care & control, and adult protective services operate in separate spheres, addressing one incident or type of maltreatment rather than seeing the larger cycle of violence that might be at work.
- Acts or threats of animal cruelty often coerce, control, and intimidate women, children, and elders into being silent about their abuse, prevent them from leaving, and force them to return.
- Many homes have pets, and 98% of Americans call pets, companions, and family members. Animal abuse does not occur in isolation. It is usually “the tip of the iceberg” and frequently the first opportunity for social services or law enforcement intervention.

The Southeast Texas LINK Coalition brings together agencies from across Southeast Texas to build a cohesive network that efficiently and effectively combats animal violence and human violence. The Coalition works to educate the public on the link between domestic violence and animal cruelty and advocate for local action to help better protect, prevent, and combat domestic violence and animal cruelty.

To learn more, visit www.setlink.org.

Southeast Texas LINK Coalition Members







Southeast Texas LINK Coalition Members: Fort Bend Women's Center, Harris County District Attorney's Office, Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office, Fort Bend Crime Victims Response Team, Fort Bend Juvenile Probation Department, Children's Assessment Center, University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work and Houston Humane Society

Pet Pantry

Since the Houston Humane Society launched the Pet Pantry in March of 2020, we've helped struggling pet owners throughout Southeast Texas provide food for their pets. This resulted in the decrease of animals going hungry, being surrendered to shelters, or even being dumped on the streets. Between the pandemic and economic insecurity felt by so many, we need your help to continue providing this valuable service to others. Please consider donating to our efforts or letting us know of others needing assistance.

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/petpantry/

Host a Pet Food Drive

We need your help to keep our pantry shelves stocked, enabling us to help animals in our community. We welcome schools, companies, churches, Scout troops, organizations, and community groups — anyone willing to collect kibble and bring it in!

In 2020,
Pet Pantry Has Served:



12,500
Households



1,500,000
meals



36,500
Pets

305,000
Pounds of Food



90
on-site and
off-site pet food
distribution
events in Harris,
Fort Bend,
Brazoria, and
Waller Counties

Over 61,000
pounds of food to
17 agencies serving
home-bound Seniors,
veterans, homeless,
and others affected
by COVID-19 &
natural disasters



Rescue Bank – Providing Assistance to Houston Rescue Groups



Houston Humane Society became the **Houston Affiliate of GreaterGood's Rescue Bank** in July of 2020. In this partnership, pet food and supplies are sent to Houston Humane Society from manufacturers. Houston Humane Society then distributes the product to predetermined rescue groups caring for their communities' homeless dogs and cats. In 2020 HHS distributed 1.6 million meals of food, tons of supplies, and treats to 75 local rescue groups, shelters, pet food banks, and relief organizations around the Southeast Region as part of this Rescue Bank program. These 1.6 million Rescue Bank meals were in addition to the 1.5 million meals served through our Pet Pantry.



Education



Camp Pawsome

Houston Humane Society Kids Camp is now **Camp Pawsome** — inspired by campers repeatedly telling their parents, “This camp is awesome!” At the start of the pandemic, HHS’ **Virtual Camp Pawsome** released 28 virtual episodes to engage children in quarantine to continue educating them about animal welfare and our shelter. Children were later welcomed back to the shelter under limited capacity to ensure strict adherence to health and safety precautions.

Camp Pawsome caters to children ages 7-12 (or 12-15 during teen weeks) to provide hands-on learning about animal welfare and responsible pet ownership. A typical day consists of a humane education lesson, leadership development discussions, games and crafts, and plenty of hands-on time with animals. Camp Pawsome also launched a **Spring Break Camp** in 2020 to accompany the Summer and Winter camps HHS has hosted.

Camp Pawsome is a week-long camp from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM Monday – Friday. Early bird rates are \$275 per session, and regular rates are \$300 per session. Fees include daily snacks, camp t-shirt, HHS water bottle, crafts, and activities. Check our website for more information.

Upcoming Camp Pawsome Dates:

June 1-4	June 28-July 2 (<i>Teen Week</i>)	July 26-30
June 7-11	July 5-9	August 2-6
June 14-18	July 12-16 (<i>Teen Week</i>)	August 9-13
June 21-25 (<i>Teen Week</i>)	July 19-20	

Teen Leadership Programs

The **Teen Leadership Program** at Houston Humane Society arose from the desire of animal-loving teens who have a passion for animals and want to learn more about animal shelters and careers in the animal welfare community. The curriculum incorporates social-emotional learning and lessons from leaders in the animal welfare community to foster the leaders of tomorrow. Our social-emotional topics cover self-awareness, self-management, social-awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making. Teens meet once a month to get hands-on experience with shelter animals, hear from experts, and learn about different topics in animal welfare such as spay/neuter, exams, and the cognitive awareness of our pets. Teens leave having learned about animal welfare, health, and handling as well as with the skills and passion to teach their peers and community about animal welfare.

HHS believes that youth are the future, and to make sure the future of our pets are in capable hands, we strive to build up knowledgeable and driven future leaders through our education programs.





Education and Community Outreach

As Houston Humane Society's education and community outreach programs continued to grow in 2020, the **Reading to Paws** program entered schools in our surrounding community where students practiced reading to HHS's adoptable dogs.

Two of our favorite pandemic events were our **Quarantine Prom** and **Quarantine Graduation**. The Quarantine Prom was an in-person quarantine event at HHS designed to provide memories for animal lovers. We know many students were missing their prom last year, so we gave them the opportunity to make some prom memories in their prom attire. Students arrived one at a time to accommodate social distancing with one parent/guardian for a one-hour exclusive photoshoot & time to interact and play with our shelter animals.

The Quarantine Graduation also gave students the opportunity to make graduation memorable even though they were missing out on their traditional in-person celebration. This event was open to all ages, attracting youth graduating from elementary to high school. These children wore their caps & gowns, participated in a photoshoot with the animals, and spent time with the animals. These events were a worthwhile and enjoyable distraction from the difficulties and changes these children had experienced amidst the pandemic.

Second Tails

The Houston Humane Society partners with the **Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation Department** on our new **Second Tails** program. This program helps their Juvenile Department youth to complete community service hours, learn about responsible pet ownership, and identify and report animal cruelty. Animal abuse is often a precursor to criminal activity. To help open these teen's minds to what HHS staff and volunteers do, we invite them into our shelter once a month to attend a 2-hour educational workshop on animal care as well as to complete community service tasks, including packing food for HHS Pet Pantry, socializing animals, scooping poop, and making pet toys.



2020 HHS Statistics

Total Animals Seen in Clinic: **21,321**

Spay/Neuter Procedures: **8,092**

Dog Exams/Vaccinations: **12,922**

Rabies Vaccinations: **15,528**

Cat Exams/Vaccinations: **6,266**

Sponsored Heartworm Treatments: **98**

Cats Seen on Fix Felix
for Free Event: **1,321**

Microchips: **5,602**

Hurricane Preparedness Packages: **158**

Animals saved from
Animal Cruelty Cases: **395**

Thanks to each and every one of our volunteers, donors, supporters and staff for your help in making this happen! We're here, we're dedicated, but we need YOU to make it happen.

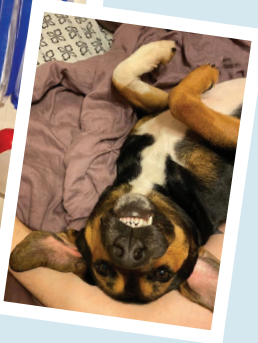
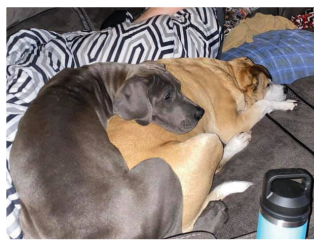
Happy Tails

Ororo

Humans and animals alike were affected and displaced by the catastrophic flooding caused by Hurricane Laura and Tropical Storm Beta. Stuck in the storm, Ororo was luckily saved from the devastation by a good Samaritan who saw her struggling in the floodwaters along the side of the road in Fort Bend County. After spending a few months at HHS, she was adopted by a wonderful man who lost his dog a few years ago. He had not been ready to adopt again but could not resist the magnetism and affection of Ororo. While many people teased her abnormally small ears, her new 'Dad' thinks they and Ororo are perfect.



Max & Benji After



Max & Benji

I hope all is well with you guys. I just wanted to give you a little update on Mr. Max and Mr. Benji!

Max is doing amazing. He still loves to play with his brothers, cuddle, and eat all the treats. Benji has been loving going on daily walks around the neighborhood; sometimes we even go twice a day, and he loves just to run and smell all the things! Benji also loves his cuddles! Moreover, he wants to sit with us every time we are on the couch, lol.

We did get another pup, a Great Dane! Both Benji and Max have loved having him around. They have played with him nonstop since we got him all though he is quickly outgrown, Max and Benji. Max's birthday is today! He is seven years old! We made him a little peanut butter cake, and OMG he loved it!!

- Max & Benji's Owners

Max & Benji Before

Thank you for making their lives different.