

# TALES AND TAILS

HOUSTON HUMANE SOCIETY

★ SPRING 2025 ★



## Thank you for Giving Toby a Second Chance

From the moment a kind-hearted police officer placed Toby into our care, he was an instant favorite. Toby was found all alone, wandering the streets of Houston. The police officer knew this sweet pup needed us.

Due to malnutrition and lack of proper care, Toby was not in mint condition upon his arrival. His entire ribcage & spine were visible. Toby's poor health, coupled with the new environment, made matters worse. For weeks, our staff worked around the clock to help Toby put on more weight, to no avail.

One day, our Interim Executive Director Alison had the idea that Toby should come hang out with the office staff for some socialization. Within a week of Toby visiting with our staff, he had already gained three pounds! Fast forward to one month later, and Toby looked like a healthy dog with a puppy attitude to go with it. Toby's steady improvement in well-being was incredible! One of our staff members loved his infectious spirit so much that Toby has since been welcomed into his new forever family.

Thank you to all the superheroes for the support needed to give dogs like Toby a second chance.



## Dear Friends,

Alison Malkhassian became our Interim Executive Director in September after Gary Poon's many years of service. She has been involved with Houston Humane Society since 2000, and on the Board of Directors since 2023.

Since 2012, Alison has served as Founder and CEO of Alara Ventures and AV Affordable Housing, building on her 35 years of business experience in various aspects of investment real estate. Alara Ventures invests in high risk-adjusted yield real estate opportunities. Alara has acquired in excess of \$140 million in 1,200 apartment units. In 2014 Alara formed AV Affordable Housing, LLC with the goal of participating in the acquisition, renovation, and operation of affordable housing communities in Texas. The current portfolio is comprised of three communities in San Antonio.

Before her entrepreneurial enterprises, Alison launched a multifamily investment platform for Lionstone Group, a major pension fund advisor in Houston, focusing on office and land investments. This involved developing research and portfolio management protocols, underwriting policies and procedures, and overseeing acquisition of multifamily investments.

Alison has also served as Senior Executive of U.S. Advisors in Napa, California; Chief Investment Officer at Walden Investment Partners, Dallas;



**Alison Malkhassian,**  
Interim Executive Director

and Senior Vice President and Company Officer with Camden Property Trust in Houston.

She has a Bachelor of Science in Finance and Communications from the University of California. Alison is a guest lecturer in real estate development at Stanford University, and has been interviewed by The London Business Journal, New York Times, and industry publications.

Alison has lived in Houston since 1997, and is married to Ara with their son Zareh. Alison is an avid animal lover. She carries a professional racing license with the Sports Car Club of America, participating in many classes of Road Racing including the Mazda MX-5 Cup pro series and several amateur racing series.



## 34th Par Fore Pets Golf Recap

Just as this year has flown by, so did our 34th annual golf tournament! Despite some showers in the early morning, our golfers' spirits were not dampened as they continued to play on. After a round, they were treated to a well-deserved hot lunch and raffle! A big thank you to all our sponsors and participants in this year's tournament. We cannot wait to see you all on the course in 2025. Watch for details!



# Pet Pantry Celebrates 5M

On November 20th, Houston Humane Society staff and supporters gathered at Houston Sports Park to celebrate an incredible milestone – serving over five million pet meals to area families through our pioneering Pet Resources program. The event distributed 16,000 pet meals to more than 175 households. This celebration brought together local animal welfare organizations and law enforcement, united in support of Houston Humane Society's Pet Pantry and the program's goal of helping pet owners keep and maintain their pets.

Since March 2020, Pet Resources has been at the forefront of reducing the financial burden of pet ownership by providing life-saving veterinary care, nutritious pet food and essential supplies. The program has provided medication, beds, litter, litter boxes, toys, and educational resources, helping pets stay in their home where they are



the happiest and healthiest. As our signature pet ownership support program, Pet Pantry has distributed 1.5 million pounds of pet food, and helped nearly 49,000 households and 150,000 pets across Southeast Texas. In line with our goal of providing safe shelter and high-quality care for animals, we remain committed to supporting current clients and welcoming new ones, ensuring they don't have to face the tough decision of giving up their pets for lack of resources.

A special thank you to our partners who helped to make this celebration possible. Pet Pantry's success is a direct result of generous donations from companies and individuals in our community.

## Wildlife Center Getting a New Home!

Thank you very much to those who were able to attend our new Wildlife Center Preview Party. We are so excited about this new facility at 3100



W. Fuqua St., Houston, 77045. It will provide opportunities for the growth and expansion of our Wildlife program, along with more advanced medical treatment and rehabilitation for wildlife in need. We are thrilled that this new facility will have five rehabilitation rooms, a surgery suite, and an expanded education area.

The Preview Party event provided a chance for people to tour the facility while under renovation and to purchase naming rights for rooms and exhibits. Already, four individuals have chosen to make gifts.

Jessica Avila says she chose to name the Surgery Suite because "I love that coyotes, hawks, owls,

and all the birds and squirrels can co-exist with me and my neighbors just a few miles from downtown Houston. But wildlife needs our help, especially those with injuries. I was looking for an animal-related legacy after my beloved rescue, Riley, passed away. HHS's Wildlife Center was a great fit since Riley and I had years of long walks enjoying urban and rural wildlife." The "Jessica and Riley Avila" room will provide a lasting way to support our cause while leaving a legacy.

Available now are 10 namable rooms, 15 exhibits, the entire building - or even the whole campus! Those who donate for a named opportunity may have plaques in the building designated as they wish, dedicated after themselves, loved ones who have passed away, or a friend or family member.

To learn more about what will take place in this new building, such as camps where kids will experience our ambassador animals and interactive touch table, email Wildlife Manager Kelsey Malan, [kmalan@houstonhumane.org](mailto:kmalan@houstonhumane.org). For pricing and purchasing naming rights, please contact Director of Development Debbie Ortiz, 713-341-3334 or [dortiz@houstonhumane.org](mailto:dortiz@houstonhumane.org).



# Hooves of Hope: Rescuing Horses, Restoring Lives

Three horses taken in from local authorities due to cruelty and neglect were successfully nursed back to health and all adopted by the same family from Cleveland, Texas, in October 2024.

A 12-year-old mare quarter horse, Caramello, came from the City of Houston Animal Control in June 2024. She was very emaciated with overgrown hooves and severe skin disorders. She has since made a full recovery.

Carolina, a 22-year-old sorrel quarter horse, came to us in August 2024 from the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office. She was underweight with overgrown hooves, eye and skin infections and other illnesses. Our team worked their miracles, and she's off to greener pastures now!

Applejack also came to us from the City of Houston Animal Control. This 16-year-old gelding sorrel quarter horse was extremely emaciated and untrusting of humans.



With a little TLC from our team, he was rehabilitated and is now living the good life.

We are pleased to partner with The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), which provides us with a network of equine professionals along with potential adopters.

Our Shelter Manager Brandon Dilleshaw said, "These are actually the first horses Houston Humane has adopted out through our new partnership with the ASPCA Right Horse Program. We are teaming up with them to promote the placement of neglected horses not only locally but nationwide."

## We're Better Together

*Your 2024 Quarter 2 & Quarter 3 Impact*



Q2: 5,871

Q3: 5,871

Number of pets  
cared for



Q2: 540

Q3: 696

Number of  
adoptions



Q2: 763

Q3: 486

Number of  
animals fostered



Q2: 2,529

Q3: 2,155

Number of spay and neuter  
surgeries performed



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