

# TALES AND TAILS™

HOUSTON HUMANE SOCIETY

★ FALL 2023 ★

Celebrating  
**65 YEARS**  
★★★★★



## Houston Humane Society Rescues Dogs After Tornado Devastates Pasadena Community

*All shelter animals are safe thanks to you!*

On January 24, 2023, severe storms produced a powerful tornado that ripped the roof off the Pasadena Animal Shelter, causing more than 100 shelter dogs to be displaced. When word of the disaster reached us at Houston Humane Society, we sprang into action and opened our doors to as many dogs as we could. More than two dozen dogs were brought into our care in the days following the disaster. Thanks to your ongoing support, HHS was able to provide these frightened pets with medical care, food, shelter, and enrichment. In the weeks following

the tornado, HHS also hosted free vaccine clinics as well as food and crate distribution events in the area to help pet owners who were affected. In a disaster-prone region like Southeast Texas, we must always be prepared to help when disaster strikes.

**Your support enabled us to care for these dogs in the wake of the tornado. Thank you for opening your heart to animals in need!**

# 4 Million Meals & Counting

HHS Pet Pantry has reached an incredible milestone! More than 4 million free pet meals have been distributed to feed the pets of families in need since the program began in 2020. Every meal distributed fills the belly of a hungry pet and ensures they can continue to be cared for in their home alongside the people who love them. Food distribution events take place in underserved, or disaster-impacted areas across greater Houston throughout the year, allowing HHS to deepen our relationship with the community and provide pet care assistance to families who need it most.

**Every meal distributed helps to fulfill our mission of ending animal abuse, neglect, and overpopulation.**



## 2023 Veterinarian of the Year

Please join us in celebrating HHS's Tony Malone, DVM, on receiving the 2023 Veterinarian of the Year Award from the Association of Shelter Veterinarians.



## Dear Friends,

2023 continues to be a year of change and progress, bringing new trials and tales of resilience. The rising cost of living has forced countless pet owners to relinquish their pets, contributing to high intake numbers and low adoption rates at shelters nationwide. HHS has continued to save lives by pulling vulnerable pets

from overcrowded city and county shelters, including puppies and kittens, seniors, behavioral, and medical cases. As with every obstacle we've faced before, HHS is working with the community to overcome this extraordinary challenge and devise new programs and partnerships to support pets and people.

**We're on a mission to keep pets and families together.**

Thanks to your support, HHS has provided ongoing disaster relief to those impacted by the December winter storm and January tornado in Pasadena and South Houston, distributed pet food to families in need, rescued animals from cruelty, and expanded affordable veterinary care at the HHS Veterinary Clinic. We are especially thankful to be able to celebrate these successes with you during a milestone year. **We are celebrating 65 years of service improving the lives of pets and people in our community!**

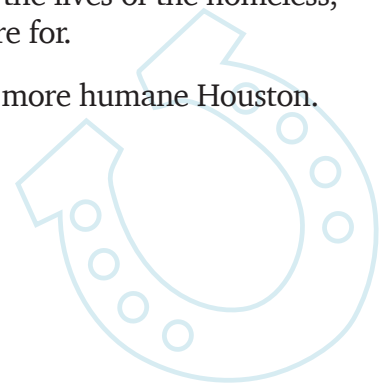
The need for our services continues to grow daily, and I hope you know just how vital you are to our lifesaving mission. Your assistance truly makes a difference in the lives of the homeless, abused, and neglected animals we care for.

Thank you for sharing our vision of a more humane Houston. We couldn't do it without you.

With gratitude,

*Gary Poon*

Gary Poon,  
President and CEO



## Together, We're Helping People and Pets

As the cost-of-living increases, underserved populations face a growing number of challenges. The rising prices of groceries, childcare, and housing have created an uphill battle for many in our community, and pet owners, in particular, have felt the strain.

Take Mr. Yates, for example. A resident of Houston's East End, Mr. Yates inherited his beloved dog Tyson from his roommate, who passed away in 2021 due to COVID. Since then, Mr. Yates has faced many hardships and has, at times, struggled to make ends meet and keep a roof over his head. Despite these challenges, he always prioritizes Tyson's care. Thanks to generous donors like you, Mr. Yates has somewhere to turn when funds are tight. With 20 - 60 lbs of pet food hanging from the handlebars, he rides his bicycle several miles home to a grateful Tyson. Your support means Mr. Yates will never have to make the hard choice between buying food for Tyson or paying rent.

Every year, HHS helps thousands of pet owners, just like Mr. Yates's, who love their pets, and need a little extra help to catch up on their bills. With the current state of the economy, this support is needed now more than ever before. At HHS, keeping people and pets together is our priority. We envision a future where pets are never relinquished or abandoned at animal shelters due to financial circumstances. Your compassion means people like Mr. Yates and his pet will always have somewhere to turn when they're in need, and we couldn't be more grateful to you for making that possible.



## Baby Owls on the Mend at the HHS Wildlife Center

When their nest toppled out of a tree, these two fledgling owls plummeted to the ground. A rescuer found them lying under the tree with flies circling them. At first glance, the rescuer thought they were baby mockingbirds and hurried to bring them to our Wildlife Center for care. It was there that our Veterinarian, Dr. Hoggard, identified them as Eastern Screech Owls. The team is working hard to teach these babies the important skills they'll need to thrive on their own in the wild. Through dedicated round-the-clock care, these owlets are expected to make a full recovery. **Your continued generosity gives orphaned animals like these little guys a second chance!** Thanks to you, they'll soon be strong enough to be released back into the wild where they belong. Found an animal? Please call HHS Wildlife Center at 713-468-8972.

# Mistletoe: The Dog That Inspired HHS's New Behavior and Rehabilitation Center

At just over a year old, Mistletoe bore scars from past abuse. Even deeper than her physical scars were the emotional ones that manifested in Mistletoe's fear of people and other dogs. Her journey with HHS started with medical care and then an introduction to the trainers. Soon, she was introduced to a small stuffed toy that resembled a lab puppy. Her fear of other dogs ran so deep that she was at first afraid of the stuffed toy, but with encouragement and time, Mistletoe came to love the toy dog and soon progressed to meeting real dogs. It was a big moment when Mistletoe played with another dog for the first time.



Mistletoe's hard work and perseverance paid off. This special girl was adopted by a loving family who adores her and understands her special needs. Her story of overcoming abuse and neglect is what launched the **HHS Behavior and Rehabilitation Center**. She showed us that with the right tools and a little extra support, even the most fearful animals can learn to trust again. The center ensures that every animal in our care has the support they need to thrive. We're helping animals just like Mistletoe to overcome behavioral challenges and prepare for adoption. With your support, we're making sure there's a forever home for every dog like Mistletoe who comes through our doors.

## Planned Giving

*"The current and future lifesaving work of Houston Humane Society could not exist without caring legacy donors like you. Thank you!"*

— Beverly Brannan, HHS Board of Directors/Chair

Houston Humane Society's legacy society, Legacy for Life, is comprised of compassionate donors who have made a commitment to making the world a safer and kinder place for animals. For more information on **Legacy for Life**, please visit [www.hhslegacy.org](http://www.hhslegacy.org) or contact [donations@houstonhumane.org](mailto:donations@houstonhumane.org).

## We're Better Together

Your 2023 1st Quarter Impact



14,000+

Total number of animals cared for



3,033

Number of surgeries performed



123

Number of cruelty intakes



655

Number of adoptions



237

Number of animals fostered



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