

# TALES AND TAILS

HOUSTON HUMANE SOCIETY

★ FALL 2024 ★



## You Gave a Second Chance to 26 Rescued Cats

Earlier this year, the Houston Humane Society (HHS) took into our care more than two dozen cats from a severe hoarding situation in Harris County. In a single-bedroom apartment, 26 felines were struggling to survive in cramped and unhealthy conditions. Originally, the population started with just three unaltered cats, which quickly multiplied due to repeated reproduction, escalating to a total of 26. These animals were initially surrendered to Harris County Animal Control before being transferred to us for urgent care.

Upon arrival, our dedicated veterinary team promptly assessed the cats, diagnosing and treating various health issues, including respiratory illnesses, bacterial infections, and severe eye injuries. It was evident that these cats had been severely neglected in their confined living space — the only home they had ever known.

**Thanks to your unwavering support, we were able to provide all 26 cats with the necessary emergency care, shelter, and nourishment, and offer them a chance at a new beginning.** Many have already been adopted into loving homes where they are cherished and safe.

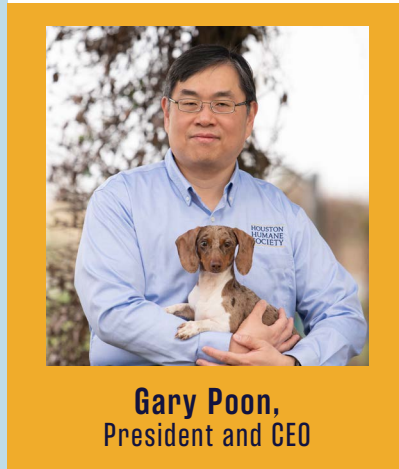
These felines represent just a small fraction of the thousands of animals that will come through our doors, each in need of care and comfort. Despite facing an unprecedented capacity crisis that strains our resources, we continue our commitment to aid every animal in distress. Your contributions are crucial in allowing us to impact the lives of these animals positively. **Together, day by day, animal by animal, we are making Houston a better place for pets.**

# Pets for Life: A Brighter Future for Houston Pets

Spaying and neutering form the cornerstone of our efforts to address the critical issue of pet overpopulation in Houston. Regrettably, access to these and other essential veterinary services is often out of reach for many pet owners. HHS is addressing this gap through our new initiative, Pets for Life, which is initially focusing on the underserved community of Braeburn Glen in Southwest Houston.

Through Pets for Life, HHS is improving access to veterinary care in underserved communities and paving the way toward a brighter future for Houston pets. As the program grows, HHS is committed to extending these critical services to additional neighborhoods, ensuring that pets such as Apollo, receive the essential veterinary care they need to live happy and healthy lives.

Pets for Life is dedicated to building trust and fostering lasting relationships within communities in need, paving the way toward a brighter future for Houston's pets.



**Gary Poon,**  
President and CEO

## Dear Friends,

In recent times, Houston Humane Society (HHS) has confronted severe overcrowding, a situation exacerbated by a significant demand in intakes and a slowdown in adoptions. These challenges heavily strain our resources and stretch our dedicated staff and volunteers to their limits.

It's heartbreaking to see pets surrendered to shelters because of the financial burden of pet care, but it is something that happens every day. At HHS, we strive to mitigate these challenges and help pets to remain in their loving homes. We've expanded appointment availability at our affordable care clinic and enhanced support services to prevent pets from ending up in already overburdened animal shelters. We are proud of our lifesaving efforts and are unwavering in our commitment to the community's most vulnerable pets. Your ongoing support and generosity are crucial to every stride we make.

Currently, our capacity crisis is one of our most pressing concerns. We operate daily at over 150% of our capacity, lacking adequate kennels to house all pets in need comfortably. Our clinic is under severe strain from increased demands and limited space. In partnership with community leaders, we are devising strategies to address these urgent needs and ensure positive outcomes for the animals in our care.

We look forward to keeping you informed about our progress and the innovative strategies we are developing to tackle this capacity crisis. Your continued support is more important than ever as we face these unprecedented challenges together. Thank you for being an essential part of our mission to create a more humane Houston.

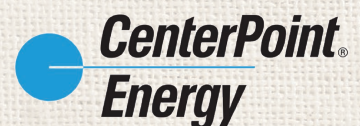
With sincere gratitude,

*Gary Poon*

Gary Poon,  
President and CEO, Houston Humane Society



A big thank you to CenterPoint Energy for helping us to bring our immersive, hands-on wildlife education programming to more students in 2024.

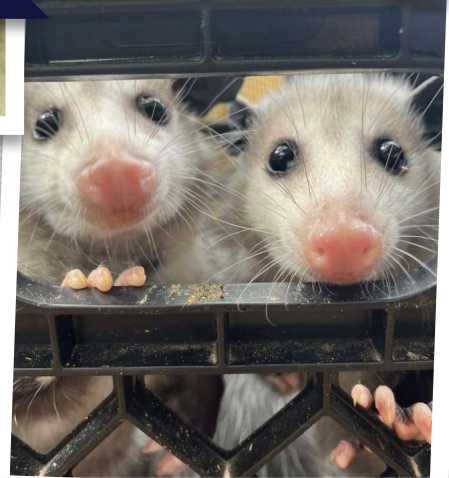
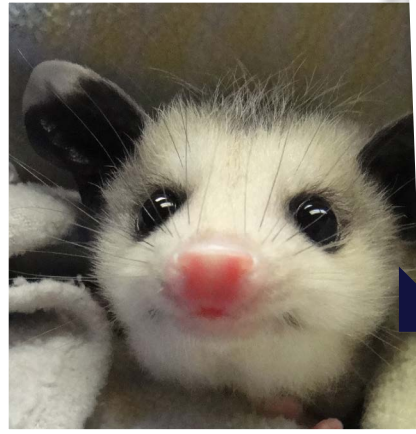


# Awesome Opossums

With its pink nose and toothy smile, the Opossum is one of our strangest and most fascinating wildlife neighbors in Houston. At HHS Wildlife Center (HHSWC), they're also one of our most common visitors. In 2023, HHSWC rehabilitated 497 opossums impacted by humans or altercations with other wildlife.

Opossums are some of the most adaptable critters, and they're hard-working too. They are increasingly found in urban areas such as Houston, and can thrive in even the most unlikely of places, partly because they're great scavengers. They scavenge dead animal carcasses and eat unwanted pests such as snakes. If you live in an area where ticks are common, Opossums are your friend! These helpful animals snack on ticks, reducing the risk to your household pets.

Have you found an opossum in need of help? Our wildlife assistance hotline is open seven days a week. Call us at (713)468-8972 or visit our website [houstonhumanewildlife.org](http://houstonhumanewildlife.org) for temporary care instructions.



**HOUSTON HUMANE SOCIETY'S 34TH ANNUAL**  
**PAR FORE PETS**

**NOVEMBER 8**  
**8 AM SHOTGUN START**

**HERMANN PARK GOLF COURSE**  
2155 N MACGREGOR WAY

[WWW.HOUSTONHUMANE.ORG/GOLF](http://WWW.HOUSTONHUMANE.ORG/GOLF)

**HOUSTON HUMANE SOCIETY**  
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# Button's Triumphant New Beginning

It was all hands on deck the day this miniature poodle mix was surrendered to HHS Veterinary Clinic. She was in distress and suffering from some of the most severe matts we'd ever seen. The painful knots limited her movements and completely covered both of her eyes. All that matting concealed her most pressing problem: a large chicken bone was embedded in the roof of her mouth, making her unable to fully close her lips or eat.

As soon as she arrived at the clinic she was rushed to surgery where the matts were shaved, the chicken bone removed, and the open wounds and ulcers in her mouth were treated. When all was said and done, under all that matting, we discovered a pooch that's as cute as a button, and we named her Button for short.

Button was terrified when she arrived at HHS, but through the compassionate care of our veterinary team she has blossomed into the sweet and playful dog she was always meant to be.

It is thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our supporters that Button was saved from suffering and given a chance to start a new life where she will be properly cared for and cherished in a loving home. Thank you for giving Button a bright new beginning.



## We're Better Together

*Your 2024 Quarter 1 Impact*



9,404

Number of pets  
cared for



4,057

Number of spay and neuter  
surgeries performed



3,236

Number of wildlife  
admitted to the HHSWC



533

Number of  
adoptions



318

Number of  
animals fostered



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Non-Profit • Supported by Donations

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