

TALES AND TAILS™

HOUSTON HUMANE SOCIETY

★ SPRING 2024 ★



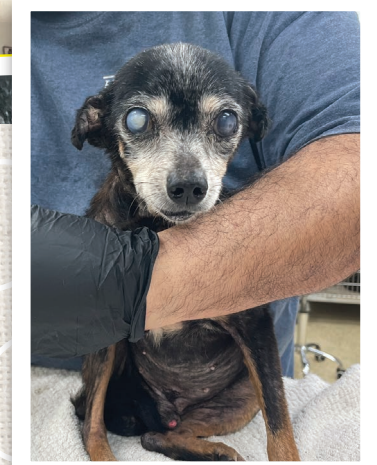
47 Dogs Rescued from cruelty thanks to YOU!

In a recent hoarding case, Houston Humane Society, alongside our partners in San Jacinto County, encountered a scene that left even the most seasoned animal rescuers astounded. A dilapidated trailer, piles of trash, feces everywhere, and many, many hairless, starving, and flea-infested dogs — 47 to be exact. The canines, mostly Chihuahuas, ranged from newborns to cloudy-eyed seniors, all with overgrown nails and facing a myriad of life-threatening medical issues.

Some of the rescued dogs had endured a lifetime of suffering and no longer trusted humans, while others were rescued before they could open

their eyes. Fortunately, thanks to the support of heroes like you, the younger ones will never know a day of suffering and neglect, and the older dogs can begin to heal.

With your support, we successfully rescued all 47 dogs from these dire circumstances and provided them with emergency veterinary care and shelter. As they embark on the challenging journey towards recovery, your generosity has ensured they receive the care and compassion they desperately need. **Thank you for being a crucial part of their journey toward happy ever after.**



Your Cat's Cuter When You Neuter

On February 21st, Houston Humane Society hosted "Fix Felix", an incredible single-day event that provides free cat neuters to the community. This year was a milestone year for the event - a total of 1,094 cats were neutered!

Just one male and one female cat together can produce approximately 18 kittens per year, but a male cat can father hundreds more kittens with multiple unaltered females. That's why this event is so important. **Every cat neutered means fewer stray and unwanted cats and kittens roaming the streets and filling shelters, thereby contributing to a happier, healthier Houston.** Thank you for making this feat possible and increasing access to this vital service for community members who need it most.



Dear Friends,

Animal overpopulation is one of the most pressing problems we face as a shelter today. In 2023, the number of families relinquishing pets due to the high cost of care coupled with declining adoption numbers meant that animals faced longer stays in shelters, putting more animals in our community at risk. Last year, HHS transferred in 769 animals from overcrowded partner shelters and cared for 447 animal cruelty victims. Because of your generous

support, Houston Humane Society has been able to meet this problem head-on, providing shelter, life-saving veterinary care, and behavioral support to thousands of animals without a safe place to turn.

Your support serves as a beacon of hope as we strive to do even more in 2024 to protect animals. Our dedicated staff is tirelessly working on life-saving initiatives such as the development of an equine adoption program and the expansion of our Behavior Rehabilitation Center to provide comprehensive enrichment and support to adoptable pets in our care. We are continuously devising new and innovative ways to protect pets from cruelty and neglect and save animal lives.

One of our innovative new programs, Pets for Life, aims to reduce the number of animals surrendered to shelters by going door to door in underserved communities and establishing a relationship with pet owners in need of assistance. Over time, we hope to build trust and improve the relationship between people and pets in the chosen communities.

Every year, thousands of animals are given a second chance at life at Houston Humane Society, and it's all thanks to your generous support. Your commitment is shaping a brighter future for animals and the people who love them.

Thank you for being an integral part of our mission to build a more humane Houston.

With sincere gratitude,

Gary Poon

Gary Poon,
President and CEO



With Your Help, HHS Saved 2,500+ Bats

This winter as Houston residents bundled up and headed indoors to brace for extreme winter weather, HHS Wildlife Center (HHSWC), home to Houston's only bat rehabilitation center, was preparing to do just the opposite. With temperatures dipping well below the normal range for the area, the local bat populations were at risk. Our specialized bat team braved the freezing temperatures to ensure the safety of these important colonies.

Mexican Free-Tailed bats, such as those found at the Waugh Bat Bridge in Houston, TX, are an important part of our ecosystem. Their presence not only attracts daily visitors who delight in witnessing the sight of bats emerging from their roosts for the night, but they also serve the community and the environment through pest control. Mexican Free-Tailed bats feed on and reduce environmental pests like moths, beetles, flies, ants, and even mosquitoes. Without this safeguard, 7.5 M mosquitoes can hatch each night. Farmers also reap the benefit of the local bat populations. Without these little helpers, farmers would have to apply more pesticides to protect their crops.

HHSWC collected and triaged a whopping 2,500 cold-stunned bats from six bat colonies across greater Houston. Most of the bats began recovering quickly after they were given fluids and placed in warming incubators. Less than a week later, the temperatures outside had returned to normal, and the bats were ready to return home to their colonies.



42ND ANNUAL
**K9
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**MAY
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**MASON
PARK**
5415 75TH

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HHS Leads the Way with Texas' First Forensic Veterinarian



HHS is making history as the first and only humane organization in Texas to employ Forensic Veterinarians. Our Animal Cruelty Unit, led by Dr. Jennifer Janssen, completes forensic examinations, autopsies, reports, and provides expert testimony for animal cruelty cases. This vital information, combined with findings from law enforcement investigations, plays a crucial role in the ability of the District Attorney's Office to file criminal charges in cases involving animals.

Sergeant Rosalie Hutchison at Houston Police Department (HPD) along with the Major Offenders Animal Cruelty Unit, has been one of the most outspoken supporters of the new program. "The Forensic Veterinarians at Houston

Humane Society add valued insight to our animal cruelty investigations," she said. "From analyzing injuries to determining the cause of death, their expertise helps us to interpret evidence involving animals, and bring animal abusers to justice."

In a recent incident, a harrowing scene was discovered as Harris County Pets officials executed a seizure. Four neglected dogs, desperate for sustenance, had jumped over a fence to search for food and water and were dragging trash back into the yard for nourishment. Tragically, an adult dog in the same home was found lifeless. Five puppies were also discovered, with one surviving and four deceased. The surviving puppy was in critical condition, lacking food, water, or shelter.

Following the rescue operation and forensic findings, HHS was granted custody of the five surviving animals. They are receiving ongoing medical care and undergoing comprehensive rehabilitation, addressing both medical and behavioral needs, as they prepare to begin a new life.

As we continue fighting animal cruelty and neglect, HHS is committed to aiding our law enforcement partners in pursuing justice. **With your support, we can continue to make great strides toward a world where every animal is treated with the dignity and care they deserve.**

We're Better Together

Your 2023 Impact



52,102

Number of pets cared for



10,245

Number of spay and neuter surgeries performed



3,088

Number of wildlife admitted to the HHSWC



2,744

Number of adoptions



1,164

Number of animals fostered



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