

CHANGING LIVES THROUGH RESPONSIBILITY.



# NEWS.



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5K Run & 2K Run/Walk

**Saving Lives**  
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## On the Cover:

### Scooter

Scooter, a male mixed breed, came to SNIPSA in 2005. At that time, there was no official non-profit status, just a handful of well-meaning Samaritans chasing stray and unwanted animals around San Antonio.

Scooter was just another stray – running with a pack and looking for his next meal. After being detained by the St. Mary's University campus police for traveling without a license, he made his way to the home of two veterinarians where he was scheduled to be neutered. After his surgery, Scooter was placed in an adoptive home. That didn't work out and within a week he was back with the veterinarians. He shredded the blinds, salivated in his kennel, and proceeded to wreck havoc throughout the house. And, he never left...

In 2006, the group officially formed SNIPSA – a local rescue dedicated to saving homeless and abandoned animals from high kill shelters. With the support of an incredible volunteer base and countless hours of work, SNIPSA has rescued and rehomed over 1,000 animals.

### Scooter's Specs

**ORIGIN:** running at large, St. Mary's University

**ETHNICITY:** mixed parentage

**MEASUREMENTS:** 12 inch waist  
18 inch chest  
14 inch collar

**HOBBIES:** listening to XM radio, getting car sick, chasing chickens, attending SNIPSA events

**STYLE:** bringing fuchsia spandex back, Libby Lu headphones, Plush Puppy Volumizing Mousse for a shiny, healthy coat



## First Annual Race FOR THE Rescues

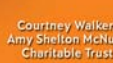
5K Run & 2 Mile Run/Walk with your Dog

09.27.08 @ 7:30 a.m.

Alamo Heights City Swimming Pool  
250 Viesca | San Antonio | TX | 78209

Benefits the homeless and abandoned animals in our community needing specialized medical care as well as spay and neuter services.

Presented by:



For more information go to [www.snipsa.org](http://www.snipsa.org)

## Join us in raising awareness about homeless animals in our community.

Get your running shoes on for SNIPSA's First Annual 5K Race for the Rescues. Not a runner? Bring your dog and participate in the 2 Mile Run/Walk. Water stations and doggie pools will be available for you and your pet.

### Race proceeds will benefit:

#### CRITTERS IN CRISIS

Assists animals with special medical needs such as fractures, heartworm disease, mange, neglect, and nursing mothers.

#### SPAY/NEUTER OUTREACH

SNIPSA will host a clinic for those in lower income areas who would like to have their pet spayed/neutered but cannot because of lack of financial resources or transportation.

# Saving Lives.

## SNIPSA – Changing Lives Through Responsibility

SNIPSA is a non-profit rescue organization founded by a group of veterinarians and caring individuals dedicated to rescuing unwanted and homeless animals from high kill shelters in San Antonio and the surrounding area. Below are two inspiring stories of animals that were given a second chance



### Journey of Faith

Faith, a Labrador Retriever, was rescued from Animal Care Services after being hit by a car and sustaining

a significant degloving injury. Her leg was so badly injured that it had to be amputated. Despite her injury, Faith is thriving. She showered her foster family with kisses and was always on the hunt for food. Faith was recently adopted to a couple with a large yard for romping, a pool for cooling off, and air-conditioning for sleeping. One of her favorite pastimes is retrieving her giant squeaky toy, three legs and all.



### Opie Walks

Abandoned at a local bus stop, SNIPSA volunteers found Opie with severely matted hair, covered in

fleas and unable to use his hind legs due to possible nerve damage along his spinal cord. There was much discussion about the course of action. Should we carry on or had Opie suffered enough?

After witnessing his spirit and determination the decision was made. Opie, along with his devoted foster parents, went to the pool several times a week for physical therapy. Special splints were made to help him stand. In a matter of weeks Opie started advancing his hind legs, swimming laps in the pool and gaining strength daily. After two and half months the splints were removed and he now walks without assistance.

## SNIP-ITS from Adopters

The joy of reading heartfelt messages from adopting families is the driving force of fostering – the reason we open our homes to animals in need. In the end we know any sacrifice is worthwhile.



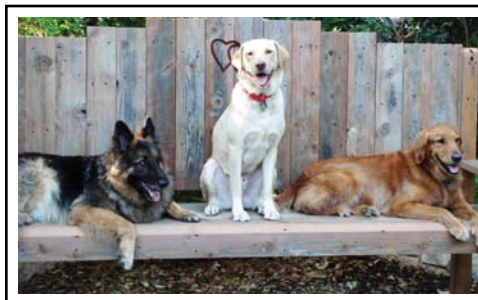
● (L-R) The dogs, Chance, Shadow, Tex, and Rosie, and their family, Eric Rice, Glenda Rice holding Landon Fike, Valerie Rice, Stan Rice, Rebecca (Rice) Fike, James Fike.

### Shadow, Rosie & Tex

Shadow was abandoned with his littermates at Animal Care Services. He was the last of his litter to be adopted as is the fate of many black dogs. Finally a family who had recently lost their beloved dog discovered his picture on SNIPSA's

website. The Rice family, who thought they weren't quite ready for another dog, reluctantly inquired. It was love at first sight and Shadow joined his new family. They convinced their daughter and son-in-law to visit the site and they later adopted two Labrador Retrievers named Rosie and Tex. Chance was added to the Rice family in late August to make four SNIPSA adoptions. What a testament to the world of rescue!

“ We adopted Rosie and Tex the Friday before I took the Texas Bar Exam. I took Rosie with me to Houston for the test and we stayed at my parent's house with their newly adopted SNIPSA puppy, Shadow. Shadow immediately fell in love with Rosie and she endured hours of his attempts at flirting. When the Bar was over my husband, 1-year-old son Landon, and Tex drove over from Austin for a weekend of relaxation at my parent's lake house. Landon was so excited to see a dog that was his size and all three dogs had a blast racing around the lake property. Rosie and Tex have continued to be wonderful pets and show endless patience with Landon – we can't imagine our house without their 130 lbs. of furry love! ” — Rebecca Fike



● (L-R) Bear, Barkley, and Bailey.

### Barkley

Rescued from Animal Care Services after being impounded as a stray, Barkley found a home with two other rescued purebreds. Forty percent of all shelter animals are purebreds.

“ We can't understand why more people don't adopt from a rescue and get something other than a puppy. Barkley was exactly what we were looking for. We get lots of compliments on him and I always tell people exactly where he came from. Thanks for all the hard work you do rescuing from the pound! ” — Bryce Segar

Visit [www.snipsa.org](http://www.snipsa.org) to learn more about SNIPSA's mission or adoption.



# Canine Chatter

## SNIPSA Knows No Borders – Long Distance Adoption

On the surface, long-distance animal adoption seems logistically impossible. Thankfully, that's not the case. A nationwide network of animal rescue groups works together to facilitate adoptions, conduct home visits and coordinate transportation so that animals can be placed in loving homes across the country.



### Trooper's Trip to Bean Town

Trooper, a beautiful Husky, arrived to Animal Care Services with a luxated hip. Injuries such as this preclude otherwise healthy dogs from being adopted. Animal control facilities often lack the necessary resources to offer the extra medical care such animals require.

An animal care employee was making her rounds as Trooper was being sedated for euthanasia. She asked that he be spared and transferred him to SNIPSA.

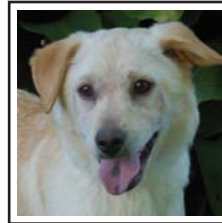
An adoption inquiry was made by the Towle family from Massachusetts after they discovered him on SNIPSA's website. Determined to adopt Trooper, they worked diligently with SNIPSA to make necessary travel arrangements. Anxious volunteers received a late night call that Trooper had arrived safely in Boston and was united with his new family. This is just one example of how important private rescue groups are in changing the fate of these animals.



BEFORE: Laverne and Shirley

### Laverne & Shirley

Laverne and Shirley joined SNIPSA after being abandoned at Animal Care Services in a cardboard box. It was closing day of the old facility and animals were being carted to the new shelter. There was no room at the inn for this litter of puppies. They were riddled with worms and suffered from both demodectic and sarcoptic mange.



AFTER: Laverne

After months of treatment, they were taken to an adoption event. Shirley was adopted by a college student and they moved to North Carolina to attend graduate school.

But, the story doesn't end there. The student's parents were keeping Shirley and fell in love. They contacted SNIPSA in hopes that Laverne was still available. She was, and within a week she boarded a plane and arrived safely in Illinois to meet her new family.



## Kibble's Korner Cheesy Dog Biscuit Treats

### Ingredients:

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1 cup rolled Quaker oats | 2 tsps. chicken or beef flavored bouillon |
| 1/3 cup margarine        | 1/2 cup milk                              |
| 1 cup boiling water      | 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese             |
| 3/4 cup corn meal        | 1 egg, beaten                             |
| 1 tbs. sugar             | 2 - 3 cups whole wheat flour              |

### Instructions:

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Grease cookie sheet.

In large bowl, combine rolled oats, margarine and boiling water; let stand 10 minutes. Stir in cornmeal, sugar, bouillon, milk, cheese and egg; mix well. Add flour one cup at a time, mix well after each addition to form a stiff dough.

On floured surface, knead in remaining flour until dough is smooth and no longer sticky, 3 to 4 minutes. Roll to 1/2 inch thickness, cut with bone shaped cookie cutter. Place 1 inch apart on greased cookie sheets. Bake at 325 degrees for 35 to 45 minutes or until golden brown. Cool completely. Store loosely covered. Makes 3 1/2 dozen large or 8 dozen small dog biscuits.

## Dogs Go North

Due to a shortage of adoptable dogs in the northern part of the country, PetSmart Charities, in conjunction with progressive shelters, is moving animals north and saving lives.

Approximately 40 animals each month are transferred aboard "rescue wagons" specially equipped with air conditioning and roomy cages. They are accompanied by experienced personnel. Because of the overwhelming demand, most animals are adopted within 72 hours of their arrival.

# Community News



● Mayor Phil Hardberger and Spurs owner, Peter Holt, show their support for the OwnUp SA campaign.

## Where is San Antonio Heading?

San Antonio is mobilizing around animal welfare on several fronts. Under the leadership of Mayor Phil Hardberger, City Manager Sheryl Sculley, and with community input, the city's Animal Care Services (ACS) Advisory Board developed a strategic plan intended to bring San Antonio to No Kill by 2012. No Kill means that every healthy, treatable, or rehabilitable animal is adopted rather than euthanized. The plan calls for greatly increased adoptions, transfer of ACS animals to rescue organizations, and free and low-cost spay/neuter. It has received widespread community support and was unanimously approved by City Council.

To assist in this mission, the San Antonio Area Foundation recently partnered with the city to establish and staff a community-wide Consortium of Partners to bring the entire community around the goal of No Kill by 2012. The Consortium

has contracted a major public relations campaign, OwnUP SA, designed to encourage families to spay/neuter their pets and provide responsible care. Peter Holt, owner of the San Antonio Spurs, is serving as Corporate Chair. Other corporate partners include Clear Channel Outdoor Communications, Rackspace, and WellMed. A city-wide billboard campaign featuring well known locals and their pets will be a visible part of the awareness effort.

AAPAW (Alamo Area Partners for Animal Welfare) is the third component in the equation of No Kill whereby rescue groups and adoption organizations join forces with the common goal of saving lives. AAPAW is focused on neighborhood and one-to-one education utilizing the existing infrastructure of neighborhood associations and civic organizations. Recent mega adoption events have proven to be very successful; placing more than 100 animals per event. Adoption events are held quarterly at accessible and highly traveled locations. The next mega adoption events are scheduled for Saturday, October 4th and Saturday, December 6th at the Rim Shopping Center. Please join AAPAW and support our mission of reaching No Kill.

## Feral Cats and Their Future

**Feral and unowned cats have long been viewed as a forgotten and nuisance population.**

Traditional methods of trapping and killing feral cats have proven to be ineffective. Studies have indicated that by removing a feral cat from its environment, it only creates an ecological void allowing other unaltered cats to move in. Before you realize it, you have an entire population of unowned cats eating out of dumpsters and foraging for food, seeking shelter in alleyways, dense habitat, or anywhere they can establish a safe haven. The cats continue to reproduce and the problem doesn't go away. Cats are incredible survivors and will establish themselves in almost any environment.

The tax dollars spent on impounding, housing, and euthanizing feral and unowned cats is outstanding. Studies have proven that it is far more economical to sterilize and release a cat back into its familiar environment than to trap and destroy it. Low cost spay/neuter clinics are cropping up across the country to address the overwhelming need. Cats are humanely anesthetized through the trap, spayed/neutered, vaccinated, ear-tipped, and recovered from surgery. Within 24-48 hours they are returned to their habitat and are no longer contributing to the problem. Over time, the colony will diminish due to natural attrition.

(continued on page 5)



## (Feral Cats continued)

Recently, San Antonio has made great strides in its approach to feral cats. In December 2007, city ordinances were changed to legalize trap-neuter-return (TNR) of unowned/ feral cats. Caretakers who have long been feeding and sterilizing cats on their own, finally garnished city recognition and support. A pilot program managed by Animal Care Services and Purr-Fect Haven at Sunken Gardens proved to be an effective method of controlling feral cat populations where aggressive sterilization was its driving force. Carefully selected feeding stations were established high off the ground to allow cats easy access while

prohibiting entry from other small mammals. Caretakers reported a far less number of litters being born during Spring/Summer 2008.

What we as a city need to keep in mind is that this is a community problem which requires community support. By increasing the number of community-based programs that allow cats to live out their lives side by side with the rest of us, we can effectively manage their numbers. Not only is TNR the most humane way to address feral cat populations, it is also the common sense way.



• SNIPSA volunteers having some Summer Nut fun.

## SNIPSA Goes Nuts

SNIPSA kicked off the summer with a backyard barbeque to welcome new volunteers and to thank our current volunteers. Guests devoured burgers grilled by Donald Ikerd and listened to live music by Robert Henry. Everyone gathered to visit while children played games, threw water balloons, and scavenged candy from a pinata. It was nice to finally put a face to some of those we knew only from e-mail.



• Scooter seems concerned about the officiating.

## Hoops and Hounds

SNIPSA recently attended the Hoops and Hounds event at the AT&T Center to support the Silver Stars and OwnUP SA. It was great fun to watch a women's professional basketball game in the company of our canine friends – Chihuahuas to Great Danes. It was also a clever way for a city trying to raise awareness about pet overpopulation to promote friendship between a canine and his owner. A portion of the proceeds benefits the OwnUp SA campaign.



• (Left) Benjamin and Chips, the Animal Care Services Mascot.  
(Above) Claudia and Skylar are seeking adopters for a SNIPSA dog.

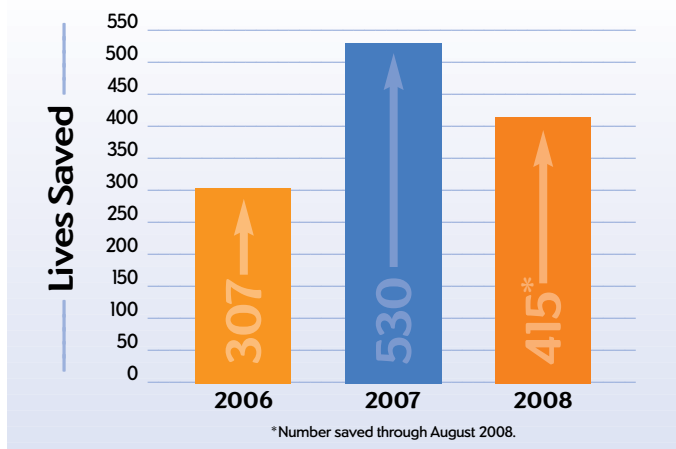
SNIPSA successfully placed two dogs into adoptive homes. One, a pup named Comet, made her way all the way to Ruidoso, New Mexico. A second, Gabby, went home with fans that were seated behind her at the game.

# What Can You Do?

## 1. Donations Welcome

SNIPSA is proud of the number of animals we have saved over the past two years. This would not be possible without our volunteers and the financial support of our community and friends.

Getting an animal ready for adoption is not simple. It requires that the animal be spayed/neutered, heartworm tested, vaccinated, microchipped, and treated for parasites. SNIPSA also assists a large population of injured and sick animals that have had little prior veterinary care. We are often their first stop and treat heartworm infection, skin and dental disease, and orthopedic injuries. With your support, we can continue our mission of saving animals in need.



## 2. Foster Families Needed

Foster families are the single most important variable in the number of animals SNIPSA is able to rescue. We do not have a standing shelter and depend entirely on volunteers to open their doors to house our animals. While in foster care we learn a great deal about the animals' needs and behavior – how they get along with cats, other dogs, small children, any escape tendencies, housebreaking, and general temperament. This helps us make a suitable match between the animal and his new owner. SNIPSA strives to find permanent placement for our rescues.

## 3. Spay it Forward

**Did you know: For every unspayed cat, her offspring can produce 69,000 unwanted cats in just 7 years?**

Join SNIPSA in sponsoring a spay or neuter and help reduce the exorbitant number of animals euthanized in our city every day. Trying to undo the damage of a breeding animal is an uphill climb. The true solution to reducing unwanted animals is to sterilize your pet. Not only does it reduce their risk of disease, but also unwanted behavioral issues such as marking, fighting, and roaming. Your donation will enable SNIPSA to spay and neuter more animals and increase our chance of reaching No Kill by 2012.

## 4. Adoption – SNIPSA's Barking Black Beauties



### Vincent

This four-year-old male Labrador mix, came to SNIPSA in November 2007 after being impounded by Animal

Care Services. He loves children and does well with dogs his size. He enjoys car rides, swimming, and long walks. He is crate trained, housebroken, and knows how to use a doggie door. Please consider opening your door and your heart to Vincent. Once you meet him, you will appreciate his spirit.



### Hopie

A six-year-old female Labrador/spaniel mix, Hopie was rescued on the side of the road by a Good Samaritan.

She lives for her morning walks and time in the garden. Hopie is docile and does well with other dogs/cats. She has the housebreaking routine down pat. An ideal home would be one with older children as she is uncomfortable with loud noises and sudden movements.



### Macy

A young pit bull/retriever mix, Macy was picked up by Alamo Heights animal control after appearing

on a doorstep. She gave birth to 8 puppies two days later. Following a phone call from the police chief, SNIPSA secured a foster for Macy where she was able to raise her pups in a healthy environment. Macy is an affectionate sweetheart that looks forward to weekend visits from the grandchildren.

For more information on adoption or fostering, please contact Dagi Henry at [snipsa\\_dagi@yahoo.com](mailto:snipsa_dagi@yahoo.com).

## Special Thanks

Your support and belief in our mission has enabled SNIPSA to rescue and rehome more than 1,000 animals.

- Acres North Animal Hospital
- Alamo Heights Kennel Club
- Animal Resource Center
- The Barking Lot
- Camp Bow Wow
- Hill Country Pet Ranch
- Dr. Stephanie Lisciandro
- Perrin Beitel Veterinary Hospital
- Slone + Company Advertising
- South Texas Veterinary Specialists
- Stray Cats Adoption of Texas
- Veterinary Imaging Center

## In Memory Of:

- **Bob Bernhard**  
*Cathy Garison*
- **Rose Blumenthal**  
*Peggy Jane Mahan  
Pamela Wageman  
Jack & Barbara Oster  
Annette Oster  
Consumer Assistance  
Office Metro West, Inc.  
Barry & Judith Milavetz*
- **Morris Bricken**  
*Dr. Mark & Ellen Weinstein*
- **Cally**  
*Raymond & Lizabeth Leach*
- **Crumper\***
- **Caroline Flannery**  
*Patricia Bose*
- **Hallie Harper**  
*Leah Anne Williams*
- **Hannah\***
- **John Haskins**  
*Judy Raines*
- **Belinda Koeller**  
*Kathy Nagel*
- **Mz. Who\***
- **Joe Nickleson**  
*Patricia Steves*
- **Peaches\***
- **Pig\***
- **Patches Ridout**  
*Ronnie Ridout*
- **Rice Rosser**  
*Leah Anne Williams*
- **Senora\***
- **Sallie L. Westbrook**  
*Marian Dryer*

\* SNIPSA family animals.

## In Honor Of:

- **Nancy Billup's dogs**  
*Cynthia Collins*
- **Baxter Bunting**  
*William & Alexandra Bunting*
- **Buster & Benlak**  
*Claire & John Alexander*
- **Shannon & Ben Espy**  
*Peggy & Bill Clark*
- **Caroline Frankas**  
*Dr. Mark & Ellen Weinstein*
- **Kenneth Gindy**  
*Dr. Mark & Ellen Weinstein*
- **Helen, Sunshine & Cinnamon**  
*Juanita Sudolcan*
- **Dr. & Mrs. Johnny Kothmann**  
*Stephen & Margaret Allison*
- **Virginia Munroe & Gaston**  
*Lou Womack*
- **Opie**  
*Annie & Ted Snider*
- **Cindy Stooksberry**  
*C.O. O'Malley*
- **Lori Tips**  
*William & Kathryn Johnson*
- **Courtney Walker**  
*M.T. Edwards Special  
Tom & Felicia Baldwin  
John & Alice Troy*
- **Jennifer, Catherine & Christine**  
*Nancy Zachry*



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