



HOUSTON
PETSET

ANNUAL REPORT

2020
EDITION

A NOTE FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS

Houston PetSet Friends,

2020 was quite a year, and although 2021 is off to a more promising start, the struggle to care for the animals during this time of economic uncertainty is a growing challenge. Local shelters are still operating with limited intake, accepting only a handful of new animals daily due to a reduction in personnel. Rescue groups and volunteers are at maximum capacity for fostering animals, and there is an increase in newly abandoned pets and owner surrenders.

Through the many challenges facing the animal welfare community, Houston PetSet remained committed to helping families with pets and supporting our shelter and rescue partners.

Over the course of the year, we planned and executed emergency transports of shelter animals to states where rescue pets are in great demand. When Hurricane Laura was closing in on eastern Texas in late August, we worked with national organizations to evacuate dogs and cats from affected shelters and fly them to safety with receiving groups in Pennsylvania and Virginia.

With our mobile veterinary unit, we funded free spay/neuter and wellness appointments for low-income communities where the need is greatest. The long-term solution to animal homelessness is affordable and accessible spay/neuters, and this program directly impacts the number of stray animals on the area's streets.

Most importantly, when the world was faced with uncertainty, your generous support allowed us to pivot our programming to help animals, and their families, in dire need. We were able to work around the clock to ensure that efforts #ForTheAnimals not only continued but were treated as a priority during the pandemic. We are so grateful that we can count you as a part of our Houston PetSet family.

For The Animals,



Tena Lundquist Faust
Co-President



Tama Lundquist
Co-President

COVID-19 PROGRAMMING

In response to the needs created by the pandemic, Houston PetSet developed and expanded lifesaving programs for the animals.



MOBILE SPAY/NEUTER EFFORTS

In January 2020, we partnered with Fido Fixers, Dog Trust Worldwide and Laurel's House to secure and operate a mobile veterinary unit, offering low-income residents in areas of Houston with a high intake of stray animals the opportunity to spay/neuter, vaccinate and microchip their pets for free.



FREE EMERGENCY VET SERVICES

In response to an incredible request for free veterinary resources, we launched a second program on the mobile unit - offering free emergency veterinary services for owned pets in need. The initiative helped keep animals in their homes and out of the shelters.



HOUSTON PETSET PRESENTS:

TAKEOUT & TAKE ME HOME



AGE: 3 | WT: 54LBS
BREED: STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER

HI! I'M BUNNY

Bunny is looking to be a single gal in your home. She is absolutely wonderful with people, but due to her former life, she has a few sensitivities which would be tough in a home with other animals. We know someone is out there waiting for a sweet girl like Bunny to hop into their lives this spring!

I'M IN FOSTER CARE!
TO ADOPT ME, EMAIL:
adopt@animaljusticeleague.org

To view more adoptable animals visit
animaljusticeleague.org/pets.
TO DONATE VISIT: HOUSTONPETSET.ORG

TAKEOUT & TAKE ME HOME

In April, we launched a foster animal adoption initiative, "Takeout & Take Me Home," to promote rescue and shelter pets on the takeout bags of restaurants while also encouraging the public to patronize local eateries. The campaign helped to bring awareness to rescue pet adoption and the many organizations working to save Houston's homeless animals.



COVID-19 PROGRAMMING

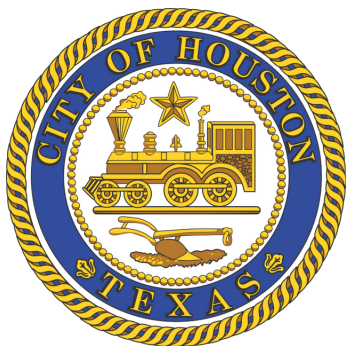
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PET PROTECT

During the pandemic, reported domestic violence cases increased drastically. In response, we partnered with Westbury Animal Hospital and Houston Dog Ranch to launch a free pet boarding initiative for survivors of domestic violence. The program, "Pet Protect," aids in the ability for individuals to flee dangerous environments safely, and with their beloved companion animals, at any time of the day.

FREE SPAY/NEUTERS FOR COVID RELIEF

In December, we partnered with BARC Animal Shelter and Adoptions to host a two-day, multi-location event to provide free spay/neuter surgeries, age-appropriate vaccinations, and microchips for the pets of City of Houston residents impacted by COVID-19. The initiative, made possible with \$200,000 of the City of Houston's federal COVID-19 relief dollars, altered 220 cats and dogs in 48 hours, and more than 1,000 additional surgeries were completed through a subsequent voucher program.



A vertical, close-up photograph of a cat's face, showing its eye, ear, and whiskers. The cat is looking slightly to the left.

OUR MISSION & VISION

Mission: To end homelessness and suffering of companion animals.

Vision: A world where companion animals do not suffer and are valued by society.

THE OBJECTIVE

To provide resources to build the capacity of other animal welfare organizations, and to improve the public perception and treatment of companion animals.

We achieve our objectives through a strategic plan that focuses on the following six impact areas:

- **Rescue, Adopt & Transport**
 - Improve capacity amongst rescue, foster, adoption and transport organizations
- **Spay & Neuter**
 - Increase the number of accessible high-volume spay and neuter programs
- **Community Service & Education**
 - Implement and support outreach programs to inform the public of proper treatment of animals
- **Cruelty Prevention**
 - Decrease animal cruelty and fund agencies that protect neglected and abused animals
- **Research**
 - Build and leverage our collection of qualitative and quantitative data to inform lasting solutions
- **Advocacy**
 - Increase engagement to influence public policy and affect legislation at local and state levels

RESCUE, ADOPT & TRANSPORT

Improve capacity amongst rescue, foster, adoption and transport organizations.

Using a school bus outfitted with airline crates, Houston PetSet facilitates monthly transports of animals to rescue partners in the Midwest. Transporting animals provides immediate relief for the shelters, and is a short-term solution until spay and neuter efforts have a long-term effect on animal overpopulation.

In 2020, we received a \$20,000 grant from The Lance McCullers Jr. Foundation to help fund our transport program. Each lifesaving journey costs approximately \$6,000, and since the program's inception, we have transported more than 5,500 cats and dogs to receiving rescue and shelter partners.



35

TRANSPORTS



2,229

ANIMALS SAVED



Houston's streets are a rough and dangerous place for the hundreds of thousands of stray animals that call them home. Imagine how scary that life is for a puppy?

This six-month-old dog, Chip, was found roaming the streets in December 2020. Fortunately for him, a good Samaritan and friend of Houston PetSet saw the 17 lb. dog and got him off of the streets before he could be hit by a car.

Chip is one of the lucky animals who was given the opportunity to know what love and compassion feel like. With your support and generosity, we were able to provide him with the proper veterinary care and boarding he needed. We then transported him to Minnesota, and now his forever family looks forward to giving him the life he always deserved!

SPAY & NEUTER

Increase the number of accessible and high-volume spay and neuter programs.

Houston PetSet partners with local spay and neuter service providers to create a unique, hyper-local collaboration that combines the strengths of each organization to address overpopulation and animal welfare.

In 2020, Fido Fixers gifted Houston PetSet a mobile veterinary unit and we stationed it in the Sunnyside area of Houston. With the program, we offer low-income pet owners in zip codes with the highest shelter intake the opportunity to receive free spay/neuter and basic wellness services. The initiative directly impacts the number of stray animals on the area's streets.

2,909

**ANIMALS ALTERED AT
NO COST TO THEIR
OWNERS**

DID YOU KNOW?

According to SpayUSA, spaying, and neutering (altering) just one male and one female dog can prevent more than 67,000 births in just six years. Altering just one male and one female cat can prevent more than 2,000 unwanted births in just four years.



Houston PetSet supporters made it possible for us to help prevent future homeless animals by offering free spay/neuters to pets in need, like ChiChi.

ChiChi's owners called us because she wasn't moving or eating. Unfortunately, the little dog was suffering from what is known as pyometra, or an infection of the uterus. ChiChi had to undergo immediate, emergency surgery to save her life. However, if ChiChi had been spayed, she could have been protected from this deadly illness.

After her recovery, we spayed ChiChi at no cost to her owners. Now, she's no longer at risk of having future unplanned, unwanted litters.

COMMUNITY SERVICE & EDUCATION

Implement and support outreach efforts to inform the public of proper treatment of animals.



In 2020, Houston PetSet continued to work with a variety of partners to create a centralized website to provide Greater Houston residents with information on responsible pet ownership, resources to help pets and owners in need, and information on how the public can help animals by adopting, fostering, volunteering, advocating or donating to the exceptional animal welfare organizations in our region.

With input from many rescue and shelter partners and financial support from the City of Houston and BARC, we launched Give Our Pets A Hand (gopah.org). The site is intentionally not branded to affiliate with any particular organization in hopes that as many organizations and individuals as possible will share this resource with their contacts and stakeholders.



INTRODUCING
GOPAH.ORG

Your go to resource for pet needs and information.



CRUELTY PREVENTION

Decrease animal cruelty and fund agencies that protect neglected and abused animals.

As founding members of the Harris County Animal Cruelty Taskforce, Houston PetSet funded the salaries of two dedicated Animal Cruelty Officers with Harris County Constable Precinct 5.

In addition, Houston PetSet assisted in developing and managing the Harris County Animal Cruelty Taskforce Ambassador Program.

To report animal cruelty, abuse, neglect, or abandonment, please visit 927paws.org or call 832-927-PAWS.

4,881

REPORTED CASES



355

ANIMALS SEIZED



In September 2019, The Harris County Animal Cruelty Taskforce seized 15 animals from a dogfighting ring in Grimes County.

In January 2020, only one dog, Wishbone, from the case remained unadopted. He had the opportunity to transport to Minnesota with a rescue group, but he needed training and boarding to prepare him for a successful life.

Houston PetSet paid for the remainder of Wishbone's training and care after applying funds from private fundraisers, in addition to funds contributed by the Taskforce. Wishbone was later adopted by a forever family who adores him.

RESEARCH

Build and leverage our collection of qualitative and quantitative data to inform lasting solutions.

The Rice Kinder Houston Area Survey (2020) found that 64% of the survey participants are in favor of spending more tax money to reduce the number of strays in Houston neighborhoods. In addition, fully one-fourth (25%) said that stray dogs or cats were a somewhat serious or very serious problem in their neighborhood.

To highlight the survey findings, Houston PetSet's Co-Presidents sat down with **Dr. Stephen Klineberg, Founding Director, Kinder Institute for Urban Research Professor Emeritus of Sociology, Rice University**, to discuss the contributing factors to animal homelessness. The interview was included in the 2020 Fierce & Fabulous Soiree program and was featured as a "Conversations For The Animals" segment.



Tama Lundquist, Dr. Stephen Klineberg & Tena Lundquist Faust

64%

OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS
WERE IN FAVOR OF
SPENDING MORE TAX \$ TO
REDUCE THE NUMBER OF
STRAYS

1 IN 4

SAID THAT STRAY DOGS OR
CATS WERE A SOMEWHAT OR
VERY SERIOUS
NEIGHBORHOOD PROBLEM



Man trying to save stray dog hit, killed on 59 near Rosenberg, police say

NOVEMBER 11, 2020 - A man is dead after he tried to get a stray dog from being hit on 59 northbound near Rosenberg, police said Wednesday.

Police said the man stopped to get the stray dog out of the freeway when an 18-wheeler hit the man and killed him at Reading.

ADVOCACY

Increase engagement to influence public policy and affect legislation at local and state levels.



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WE ARE SO THANKFUL TO HOUSTON PETSET AND ADVOCATES ACROSS THE STATE FOR JOINING FORCES WITH THLN TO PROTECT THE TEXAS LICENSED BREEDERS PROGRAM FROM ABOLITION. THIS IS A WIN FOR TEXAS ANIMALS AND MEANS THE PROGRAM WILL CONTINUE IN ITS PURPOSE TO STOP CRUEL AND UNETHICAL PUPPY MILL PRACTICES.

- SHELBY BOBOSKY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF TEXAS HUMANE LEGISLATION NETWORK

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In 2020, Houston PetSet's advocacy priority was to work with the Texas Humane Legislation Network to fight to preserve the Texas Licensed Breeders Program, which stops puppy mills from operating in the state. The Program was up for review by the Texas Sunset Commission and could have been eradicated despite its success to date. Fortunately, the Commission voted to maintain the Licensed Breeders Program under the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation in early January 2021.



State commission deciding if breeder licensing program should stay or go

By Randy Wallace | Published October 1, 2020 | News | FOX 26 Houston

"25 percent of the animals that go through our shelter system are purebred," said Tena Lundquist Faust, Co-President of Houston PetSet. "Anybody that wants a purebred can find it in the shelter system. There's no reason to continue to breed animals in this state."

But let's face it, breeders are not going to stop. Currently, breeders must have a license.

"It gives them some parameters they have to work in and some checks and balances," said Fort Bend Precinct Three Constable Wayne Thompson.

The Sunset Commission is made up of lawmakers that routinely look at state programs to see if they are needed and, if needed, do changes need to be made.

"I believe and I know many other law enforcement executives believe this program needs to be in place and probably be strengthened," Thompson said. "If it was to go away, it would place an additional burden on law enforcement agencies."

Many non-profits, like Houston PetSet, say the program is needed.

"We already euthanize 100,000 animals in the state of Texas anyway," Lundquist-Faust said. "There's no reason for us to not regulate breeders."

GRANTS

Since 2004, Houston PetSet has provided nearly \$3 million in grant assistance to vetted animal welfare partner organizations.

Grant Recipients

A Doberman Adoption Placement Team | Abandoned Animal Rescue | ADORE Houston | Albert's Dog Lounge | Animal Aid Brigade | Animal Alliance of Galveston County | Animal Justice League | Animal Shelter Volunteers of Texas | Bailey Animal Rescue Trust | Barrio Dogs | Bay Area Pet Adoptions | Best Friends Furever | Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society | Buster's Friends | CAMO Rescue | Cape Kitty Rescue | Chances Dog Rescue and Relocation | Citizens for Animal Protection | Corridor Rescue | Crime Stoppers of Houston | Cypress Lucky Mutt Rescue | Freedom Collie Rescue | Freedom Street Rescue | Friends of BARC | Golden Beginnings | Good Lif3 Bully Rescue | Great Dane Rescue of Southeast Texas | Greater Houston German Shepherd Dog Rescue | Helping Paws in Chambers County | Homeless and Orphaned Pets Endeavor (HOPE) | Honoring Hope and Faith Rescue | Houston Humane Society | Houston K-911 Rescue | Houston Pets Alive! | Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston | Jacinto City Dog Pound Rescue Volunteers | Joyrides Rescue | K-9 Angels Rescue | LMN Feline Rescue | Lola's Lucky Day | Loving Arms Pet Placement | Magnolia Exotic Bird Sanctuary | Mercy Pet Clinic | Operation Pets Alive | Our Pet Project | Pearland Parvo Recovery Center | Pet Rescue Team | Pug Hearts Houston | Pup Squad Animal Rescue | Red Collar Rescue | Rescued Pets Movement | S.A.V.E. Rescue Coalition | Saving Our Companion Animals Fort Bend County | Schnauzer and Friends Rescue | Scout's Honor | Second Chance Pets | Sonoma's Haven | Southern Comforts Animal Rescue | Spay and Neuter Initiative Program | Special Pals | Stretch for Strays | Texas Litter Control | Texas Old English Sheepdog Rescue | Texas Wolfdog Project | The Forgotten Pet Advocates | The Woodlands Dog Park Club | Three Little Pitties | Unity for a Solution | Wag Again Rescue

THE FIERCE & FABULOUS SOIREE AND THE GIFTING EVENT

On September 11, animal lovers from Houston and across the country tuned in to the first-ever Virtual Fierce & Fabulous Soiree, emceed by Deborah Duncan and with special guest appearances from Lisa Hernandez, KPRC Morning & Midday Anchor, Dr. Stephen Klineberg, Founding Director, Kinder Institute for Urban Research Professor Emeritus of Sociology, Rice University and America's Got Talent Season 13 Semifinalist Christina Wells. Altogether the event raised more than \$200,000 to support Greater Houston area animal welfare groups.

During the 2020 Gifting Event on November 19, more than 200 of Houston PetSet's supporters, donors and grantee partners gathered virtually as we announced that our 70 nonprofit partners would receive the funds raised at the Soiree to help solve Houston's homeless animal crisis.



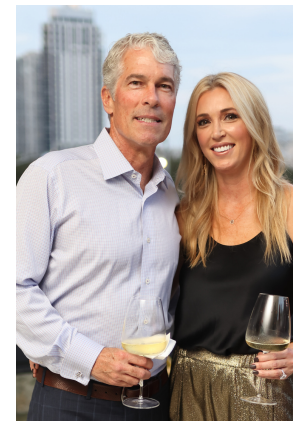
Tena Lundquist Faust, Max & Tama Lundquist



Tracy & Harry Faulkner



Sandra Smith-Cooper & Matthew Cooper



John & Jamie Sparacino



Polo, ADORE Rescue



Tena Lundquist Faust, Deborah Duncan, Lisa Hernandez, Johnny Bravo, Polo & Tama Lundquist

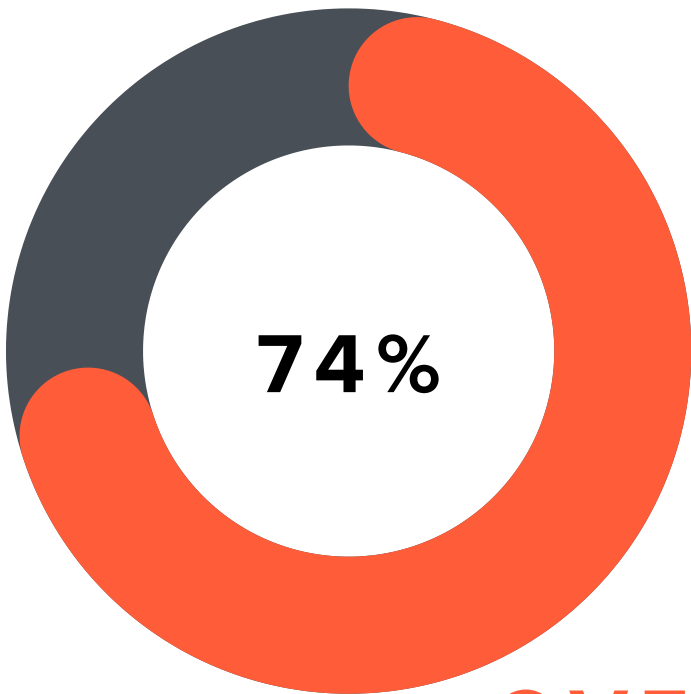


Marge Lundquist & Dr. Jonathan Cooper

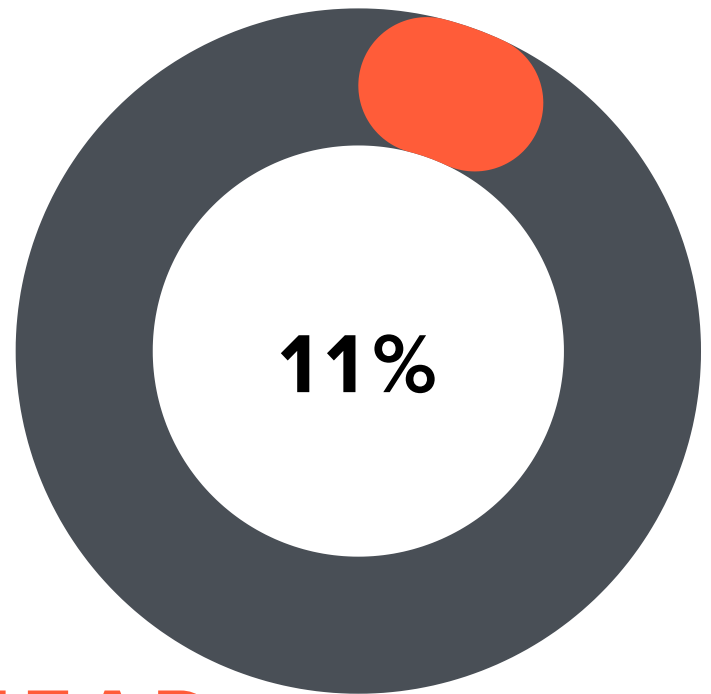
FINANCE

In 2020, 74 cents of every dollar donated to Houston PetSet was spent on critical programming for the animals, including transports, free spay/neuters and emergency veterinary services.

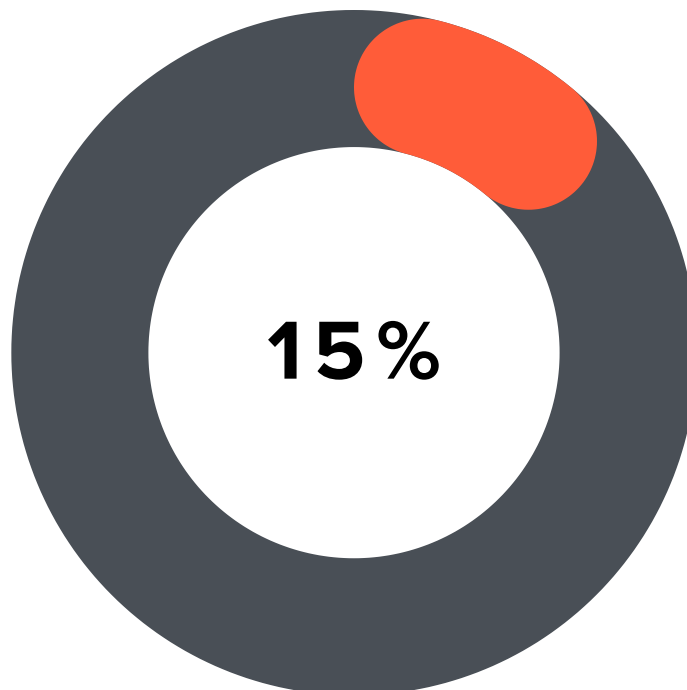
PROGRAMS



FUNDRAISING



OVERHEAD



LEADERSHIP

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Tama Lundquist
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Becky Best
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Manager



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H O U S T O N
P E T S E T
F O R T H E A N I M A L S