



Homes For Pets

Paws In Print



(Schertz Humane Society) Summer 2009

Issue XIIX

Beat the Heat! Protect Your Pet! Beat the Heat! Protect Your Pet!

Summer is a time for both you and your pet to enjoy the sunshine and outdoors, but along with the fun, the season also offers up situations that can endanger your pet. By taking precautions, you can decrease the chance that disaster will happen. The Humane Society of the United States offers these tips for pet owners to keep their furry friends safe this summer:

In summer heat your pet can suffer from heat exhaustion and heat stroke. These conditions are very serious and could cause your pet to die. You should be aware of the signs of heat stress, which could include heavy panting, glazed eyes, a rapid pulse, unsteadiness, a staggering gait, vomiting, or a deep red or purple tongue.

If your pet does become overheated, you need to immediately lower his body temperature. Move your pet into the shade and apply cool (not cold) water over his body to gradually lower his core body temperature. Apply cold towels or ice packs to your pet's head, neck, and chest only. Let your pet drink small amounts of water or lick ice cubes. Most importantly, get him to a veterinarian immediately.

Pets can get sunburned too, and your pet may require sunscreen on hiser nose and ear tips. Pets with light-colored noses or light-colored fur on their ears are particularly vulnerable to sunburn and skin cancer.

Pets need exercise even when it is hot, but extra care needs to be taken with older dogs, short-nosed dogs, and those with thick coats. On very hot days, limit exercise to early morning or evening hours. Keep in mind that asphalt gets very hot and can burn your pet's paws.

Pets and pools can equal disaster. Prevent free access to pools and always supervise a pet in a pool.

Provide plenty of water and shade for your pets while they're enjoying the great outdoors so they can stay cool.

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Word From the President

Thank you to all who helped make our fundraiser, the 8th Annual Doggie Dash, on May 30, 2009, such a success. Wow - what a day!

559 walkers/runners this year, and some very fast times for our runners who came in the first few places! Thanks so much to the runners, walkers and vendors as well as sponsors who helped make this happen. We can only operate with donations and we generated more funds this year than ever before.

We had several professional photographers there. Thanks to you Brad Bailey, with Schertz Tales, for doing what you always do to help get us noticed! The Herald newspaper had a photographer there, too. Wonderful Bea provided the photos for the winning dogs personalized frames, as well as many, many others. Her photos can be viewed at

<http://www.photoshopshowcase.com/ViewFlashMedia.aspx?AID=232054&AT=3>

Andrew Butler, who took over 1000 photos said theirs can be viewed at <http://www.hillcountryrambling.com/thing.php?ID=12101> He very graciously took all of these for us at no charge, and said for any purchases from the site, they will give Homes for Pets/Schertz Humane Society ½ of everything they take in from these photos.

Thanks to our DJ Joe, from Cool Productions, for providing the great music once again! As always, you make it happen! Thanks to Taco Cabana for the breakfast tacos people were so happy about, and to Starbucks for their donated (needed) coffee!

I am forever indebted to Donna, our volunteer, who was much more than just my right arm, taking over registration, dealing with all of the "stuff" that comes along with that, allowing us to use her home as storage, finding lots of people to help with registration so it went smoothly this time. Just for putting up with a lot of things that many people would not have. She even recruited her parents and neighbor to help that day! All of the volunteers, and board members who came to help that day, we could not have managed to pull this off without you!

High praise to the entire city of Schertz staff (some of whom were there at close to 5:00 am!) and city council, also Mayor Baldwin, Don Taylor - city manager, the parks department, the police and EMS, Gail, Sandy, Gloria...you all know who you are...for being there and helping where help was needed, and for just being supportive of what we do! Schertz EMS, a special thanks for helping a vet with the dogs that over did it in the heat that day! We did not know you were also ready for canine assistance! My deep gratitude to all of our shelter volunteers, who care for our one dog residing there, Darla, who has no foster home, as well as the PetSmart caretakers, and our foster homes, who care for these dogs and cats who have no place else to go. We are nothing without you!

There are far too many people to thank individually in this space, but I have to recognize Val and Tony Wilenchik for being the catalyst for this great event that grows larger every year. Val, you never got near the accolades you deserved for this, since you always made it look so easy! Many kudos to Val and Tony for always being there to give advice and a push in the right direction!

I hope to have you all involved next year when the Doggie Dash is even bigger and better!!! My greatest appreciation to you all!

8th Annual Doggie Dash

THANK YOU Sponsors & Participants!

Homes for Pets/Schertz Humane Society would like to thank the following sponsors, supporters and contributors for helping make 2009 the most successful Doggie Dash yet!

Women's Council of Realtors/SA Chapter
City Girl Society
In Memory of Echo
Alamo Pet People
Banfield Pet Hospital
Mike and Betty Spain
Allstate - Vince Trevino and Assoc.
C & W Properties
Schertz Animal Hospital
Pearl's Income Tax Service
Starbucks
Taco Cabana
Valero
Four Paws Inn of Converse
Camp Bow Wow
Gourmet Body Treats

Sonic Drive In # 2873 in Schertz
Cool Productions - Mobile DJ Service
The City of Schertz
Ed and Regina Ford
Michelle and Dan Burrows
Southwest Linen
Kid's Dental
Auto Collision Works
SHOGUN - The Last of the Lings
Conkelson Canine Critters: Meg, Lakota, Jaeda,
and Cinni
In honor of Charlie Coggins
In honor of Sydney, Savannah and Lindsey Ryan
In honor of Gretchen Sand
In honor of Freckles Bowers



Photo Courtesy Andrew Butler, Hill Country Rambling



Happy Ending with "Hope"

All of my pets are rescued from the side of the road, kill shelters, or adopted through the Schertz Humane Society (SHS).

My path crossed with a member of SHS in September 2006 in the Schertz HEB parking lot. I was waiting for the mobile SNAP clinic with a feral cat I trapped. That member invited me to a meeting and I have been with HFP/SHS for almost 3 years now. Of the many pets that I have rescued, fostered or facilitated its adoption, my most recent is my favorite. It was a full circle moment that took place over 3 months. I saved her, loved and nurtured her, and finally was blessed for her to be adopted into a forever home.

My story starts on a weeknight in early March. I just finished dinner at Garcia's and came out to see a cat in the bushes. I noticed right away that her left eye was severely injured. It was black, protruding from her head and more than an inch in diameter. I spoke to her and she meowed. I approached her and she ran.

Even though she appeared to be feral, I could not leave her with the injury. I called a member of HFP who had a cat trap. After several hours that night, I was not successful in catching her. After 9 p.m. the second night, I set the trap again in the bushes in front of Garcia's. After many hours of her circling the trap, I called my mom for advice. My mom suggested I try salmon. Within 10 minutes of putting salmon in the trap, she took the bait. She was in the trap and was a very angry cat.

The next morning, I dropped "Hope" off at the vet to be examined. Her name was chosen because all I had was "Hope" that she could be saved. I was blessed when I stopped by the vet later that morning to find out she was very friendly with the technicians and extremely pregnant.

I left the vet with "Hope" and prepared her a place in my guest bathroom. She had three babies 10 days later. Over the next 2 months, my family enjoyed the growing kittens until they were adopted. Then, "Hope" had her eye removed and moved into the Forum Petsmart adoption center to await her forever family. She was adopted almost 3 months to the day I first spotted her injured in the bushes of a busy shopping center. I believe in divine intervention and know I was sent to rescue "Hope" and her precious babies. "Hope" saved me too. It is so easy to become cynical in pet rescue with so many irresponsible people abandoning their pets. "Hope" reminded me why I must save the world one pet at a time! - Dawn Welborn



Foster Home Needed!

Cute Darla is a girl with no place to hang her leash right now and wants nothing more than a family to call her own! For lack of foster space, she has to stay in a shelter cage at Schertz Animal Control, who generously allows us to use one of their cages when we have no other alternative. However, a foster or forever home would be best for her.



Darla is a sweet dog who's good with kids. She is friendly with other dogs, but needs time to get to know them. Darla would do better in a home with no cats. She is medium sized weighing about 50 pounds. Her adoption fee is \$115.00 which includes spay, vaccinations, heartworm prevention and microchip.

She is learning to walk on a leash and some basic commands but would greatly benefit from obedience classes. Do you have room in your home and heart for a new family member? Submit an application at homesforpets.org.

**Special Thanks to
Kathryn Medrano
who donated \$350 of her
own money, gifts she
received from her First
Communion,
to Homes For Pets**

Kathryn with
"Puddy Tat"
adopted from
our group!



Featured Volunteer

What can you say about John Sabo? I met him initially when they adopted two large puppies from us WAY back when. A short while later, he began to volunteer with us, and next thing we knew, he began working with Pia, our dog trainer/behaviorist! Since then John has been an irreplaceable part of our little group in helping the public, adopters and foster parents work out issues with their dogs, or to prevent them from happening in the first place!

John has been teaching and going on many behavioral consults, all over the city, sometimes with a moment's notice, has been recruiting students, over the past five or six years, as well as going to Utah on two occasions to attend specialized training (on his own dime).

He now heads up the classes at Four Paws Inn in Converse, where our training sessions are held now – and those classes have really increased in numbers. Last class, he ran two sessions back to back with nine students in each class that graduated. Those eighteen dogs' chances of forever homes have really been "fortified". After all those weeks of attending class and working with those dogs, not to mention all the bonding info given in those classes, the owners are not likely to ever abandon their dogs. The human graduates, when they hear of dog problems, remember their own experiences and recommend our training to troubled owners BEFORE decision making about their dogs. Over the years, we have had foster parents who, at the end of the training, decided to "adopt" rather than let the dogs they have made such good companions, go become someone else's companion!

John especially enjoys the challenge of behavior modification with aggression issues. He is now our Head Dog Trainer and Behaviorist.

John and Pia have always donated all of the income from the public for the training

classes right back to Homes for Pets. So they receive no compensation for this, other than the knowledge that this dog, and his family, have learned how to interact with each other in a way that they can all live in harmony, and stay together, for the dog's lifespan.

There are so many more things to say about this John, and how many lives he has changed, human and canine, but there is not enough room here, so for now, we will just give our heartfelt gratitude and thanks to him for doing what he does so well...keeping the dogs in their homes, as it should be! Thanks. John! We realized long ago, you are a keeper! 😊

President's note: We cannot stress dog training enough. There are so many instances in which, sadly, dogs had to lose their home and it would have been easily prevented with some prior behavior modification for the dogs and their humans. We have help from John, and now, Shannon Schimelpfening, who is going to be stepping in for Pia soon. Please look into some reputable classes upon adoption, no matter how wonderful the dog or puppy may be. It can only help all of you have a more fulfilling life together.



Photo Courtesy Andrew Butler, Hill Country Rambling

Mark Your Calendars

Check our virtual calendar at www.homesforpets.org for more events.

Adoption Events

July 11, 12, 19, 25

August 8, 9, 16, 22

September 13, 14, 21, 23, 27

12 – 4 p.m.

Petsmart in Forum

Membership Meetings

July TBA

August 14

September 9

7 p.m. at GVEC building
on Curtiss Ave. in Schertz



Important Pet Services

Spay-Neuter Assistance Program www.snapus.org
Mobile Clinic providing low cost spay and neuter

Pia's "Good Dog" Training Class 830-626-0618
Experienced dog trainers conduct group classes providing instruction and guidance in developing good "people" manners for your family dog

Alamo Pet People 210-838-7770
Professional in-home pet sitting serving the Randolph Metrocom area in northeast San Antonio
"We love them when you have to leave them."

Special Thanks to Lone Star Pet Supply

for their continuous generous donations of pet food, treats and supplies. We appreciate their continued support of our efforts to rescue and find homes for lost, abandoned, and unwanted animals.

www.lonestarpet.com

Give to our Pets While You Shop

1. Visit this web site:
www.visitourmall.com/homesforpets
2. Choose from hundreds of great stores for your on-line shopping needs.
3. Homes For Pets receives a donation with great thanks to you.

Add goodsearch.com to your search box, and click on Homes for Pets (Schertz) when they ask for the charity of your choice. Each and every search earns a small amount for us, and it costs you nothing!

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated" Mahatma Gandhi

Homes For Pets
P.O. Box 605
Schertz, TX 78154
www.homesforpets.org
(210) 566-7776

DON'T LITTER – SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR PETS!

What is Homes For Pets (HFP)?

Our Mission

To provide emotionally and physically healthy dogs and cats to loving homes, educate the public on proper care and training of their pets and pursue maximum participation in spay and neuter programs.

Homes For Pets is **NOT** Animal Control. Rather, HFP is an all-volunteer, non-profit rescue organization dedicated to saving the lives of abused, abandoned, and unwanted companion animals in Schertz and surrounding areas. The organization is comprised, in its entirety, of volunteers. Its activities are financed by membership dues, fundraisers and donations. All proceeds are used solely to cover adoption events, medical expenses, specific needs and general care of rescued animals. We do not have a facility of our own. Therefore we rely heavily on foster homes to provide temporary care for rescued animals until we can find them permanent loving homes. We strive to meet our goal of decreasing the number of unwanted companion animals through foster care, facilitating adoptions of homeless pets, spaying and neutering our animals and community education.

Interested in joining Homes For Pets, fostering animals or volunteering your time? Visit our website at www.homesforpets.org or call (210) 566-7776 for more information.

Homes For Pets (Schertz Humane Society) is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to companion animal rescue and community education. Your tax-deductible donations are greatly appreciated and any donation, large or small, helps us continue our work.

Can I become a member?

Can I make a cash donation?

Absolutely! Your membership/contribution will be gratefully accepted. Just fill out the form below, cut it out and mail it with a check or money order to:

Homes For Pets
P.O. Box 605
Schertz, TX 78154

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

**I'd like to make a \$ _____
donation to Homes For Pets.**

Individual Membership Fee: \$20/Family: \$30

You can also donate to the HFP via PayPal
on our web site at www.homesforpets.org.