

*Save a Life,
Adopt a
Homeless Pet*

**Special points of
interest:**

- Feral Cat Solutions
- Using a Trainer
- Featured Pets
- Success Stories

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Bulverde Area Humane Society



Volume 2, Issue 1 Spring 2011

www.bulverdeareahumanesociety.com

Spring Means Kittens

It's almost spring. Around here that means LOTS of kittens. If it's anything like last year, we will have kittens, kittens, and more kittens.

Most people are responsible cat owners. Their cats are spayed or neutered, or they keep their cats indoors (a good idea—outdoor cats have a much shorter life expectancy).

The main problem is feral cats. Many neighborhoods in the Bulverde area are at a loss as to what to do about their growing feral cat population. Should you

feed them? Should you dump them somewhere else? Should you just hope that nature and predators will reduce the population?

The answer to all the above is no. So what is the answer? Read the article on page 4 by Jennifer Burgess, an authority on feral cats, and find out.



Kittens come with spring.

*Cassie Wedding
Newsletter Editor*

Adoption Report for 2010

Great news! We had a record year at the Bulverde Area Humane Society. Here are the stats:

ADOPTIONS IN 2010:

- Dogs and puppies adopted: 250
- Cats and kittens adopted: 141

Thank you for choosing to adopt.

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, March 5, 12-4 pm

What: Monthly Petsmart Adoption Event
Where: Evans Road Petsmart

Saturday, April 2, 12-4 pm

What: Monthly Petsmart Adoption Event
Where: Evans Road Petsmart

Saturday, May 7, 12-4 pm

What: Monthly Petsmart Adoption Event
Where: Evans Road Petsmart

Saturday, June 4, 12-4 pm

What: Monthly Petsmart Adoption Event
Where: Evans Road Petsmart

PLEASE ADOPT ME!



Jewel
who just wants someone to love and be loved by.

Jewel was a stray who was afraid of her own shadow when she arrived. With some love and patient attention, she has really blossomed. She loves people and likes playing with other dogs.

Jewel is about 7 months old and will stay on the smallish side. She's not rambunctious like most puppies. She is a sweet, gentle girl

Her name fits—she's a real jewel and just needs a home to really shine.

Meet Floyd, a St. Bernard/golden retriever mix. He's a big goofy guy who loves to play outside. Look at the short video on our website to see him showing off his obedience skills. He has a lot more to learn but is eager to please.

Floyd is a big-hearted, happy-go-lucky boy. He would be OK outside when you're not home, and would greet you with a waggy tail when you return.



Floyd

Won't you come out and meet Floyd? He might be the perfect addition to your household.



Cisco

Cisco Kid is a little guy who won't get bigger than the 11 pounds he is now. He is affectionate and friendly once he gets to know you. Check out the video on our website and see Cisco make a running leap into the arms of one of our volunteers! Give him some time and love, and he'll be leaping into your arms, too.

Just being by your side—better yet, in your lap—would make him the happiest dog in the world. If you're looking for a lap dog who will love you forever, this is your guy.

Come out and meet the Kid!

Did you know....?

Our website now features videos of some of our dogs!

Look under the **Adopt Me** tab, then choose **Dogs**, then click on a dog to see him show off obedience skills and do tricks.

*"My little dog—a heartbeat at my feet."
Edith Wharton*

Boy Scout Builds Bridge

One again, the Scouts have come through for BAHS.

Boy Scout Bryan Chapman of Johnson High School and friend Tyler George spent several weekends building a much-needed bridge on the grounds of the Bulverde Area Humane Society. The building of the bridge required serious engineering and construction skills, plus a lot of plain hard work.

The bridge solves a drainage problem and provides dry, level

access to a large fenced area on the property.

This project was the last requirement needed by Chapman to become an Eagle Scout. We are glad he chose BAHS to be the beneficiary of his skills and wish him the best in his future.



Bryan Chapman (r) and friend Tyler George

Stone Oak Orthodontists Come through Again

Back in the fall, Stone Oak Orthodontists chose the Bulverde Area Humane Society as their chosen charity to benefit from their annual Halloween Candy Buy-Back program.

Once again they have chosen BAHS to be the recipient of their generosity. Ginger and a co-worker came out recently to donate dog food they had collected from their dental clients. They posed for a

photo in front of their SUV loaded with dog food and other helpful supplies. Ginger holds one of our puppies for the photo shoot.

Thanks again to this great local business for supporting us.



Stone Oak Orthodontists donate food.

MAKE SHELTER ADOPTION

YOUR FIRST OPTION!

The Kitty Corner



Dealing with the Growing Feral Cat Problem

Guest article by Jenny Burgess, San Antonio Feral Cat Coalition

The problem of over-population of outdoor cats is one that has been growing for forty to fifty years. During most of that time people either did not notice the growing problem or used inhumane killing or illegal dumping to gain control.

These old methods to control outdoor cat numbers don't work long-term. When you find that a method is not working, isn't it time to stop spinning your wheels and try something new? Animal control agencies in towns, cities and counties where they have embraced and endorsed TNR (Trap, Neuter, and Return) as the method of controlling outdoor cat populations are showing remarkable success.

To understand why TNR works while other methods do not work, you have to understand the territorial nature of the cat. A cat exists in a world of scents. Its home is wherever it was born or abandoned. This could be your backyard or a ranch or behind a restaurant dumpster. Through scent, the cat recognizes and accepts the other cats that live in its territory. It uses scent to mark the boundaries of that territory. The cats that live within the area know the boundaries, and, just as importantly, the boundaries are recognized and respected by cats that live outside the area.

This marking or spraying to denote the territory boundary is one of the nuisances that we humans hate but TNR addresses this problem too. In fact, by implementing TNR most of the nuisance behaviors associated with cats are solved or at least

greatly diminished.

Removing cats from their territory leave it unpatrolled. The old, stale scent markings tell cats in the surrounding areas that the territory is vacant, and they move in. The new cats are unsterilized and unvaccinated, and so the reproduction process continues.

The San Antonio Feral Cat Coalition advocates trap, neuter, and return so the cats remain in their own outdoor home but stop reproducing. After they have been sterilized and returned to their colony, the cats will still mark their boundaries (although it is less pungent now) and thus stop unsterilized cats in neighboring areas from moving in. Your managed group of cats will diminish over time through natural attrition, since no more kittens are being born.

By attending a free class you can learn the process, borrow traps free of charge, access the VERY low-cost spay/neuter surgeries, and receive help and support from us as long as you need it.

Act now! Spring kittens are on their way!

For more information please go to www.sanantonioferalcats.org or contact me at rescue@gvtc.com.



How Cat Populations Multiply

To give an idea of how rapidly a cat colony can flourish, look at the reproductive cycle of just one female. Mama cat can have three litters a year. Let's say each litter is 50% male and 50% female.

This is how Mama cat's year goes:

January—She is pregnant.
March—She has six kittens.
May—She is pregnant again.
August—She has six more kittens.
October—Mama cat is pregnant yet again.
December/Jan.—She has six more kittens.

January—The female kittens from the first litter have their first kittens, usually only two apiece.

So in a single year, one cat has multiplied to 25! In two years those 25 cats can multiply to more than 100.

And all because mama cat was not spayed when we saw her last January.

— Jennifer Burgess, San Antonio Feral Cat Coalition



HAPPY ENDINGS!

Here are a just a few great adoption stories...

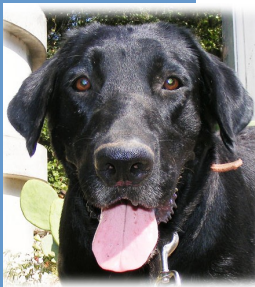
Charlie Brown came to us because his family lost their house, and they knew he wasn't the right dog for apartment living. Charlie is such a nice boy. He loves wrestling and playing with kids.

But for some reason he languished here at the shelter for months. No one seemed interested in poor Charlie Brown. His photo tells it all: a dog who didn't understand why he didn't have a family anymore and had lost some hope. Charlie had another common problem: he needed to learn some manners. He was eager to please, but he needed some basic training. One of our volunteers with knowledge in training found an eager pupil in Charlie. He quickly learned to heel,

sit, and lie down. A video of Charlie doing his "tricks" went onto the website.

A 12-year-old boy saw the video and came to meet Charlie. They hit it off. That day Charlie Brown left for his new home with a very happy young man.

Charlie Brown finally got a great new home.



Athena

Venus and Athena were strays found roaming together. They looked so much alike that we figured Athena, the older dog, was probably the mother of Venus. They are goofy, lovable black lab mixes. But "large" and "black" put them in the hard-to-place category. Small dogs are more readily adopted than large ones. For some reason, it is more difficult to place black dogs than brown, tan, white, or red dogs. So months passed, and Athena and Venus remained homeless.

But eventually every dog has its day. Finally the right people came along, and they were adopted within a month of each other.

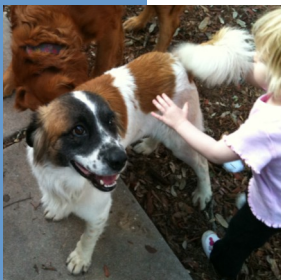
It's gratifying when the hard-to-place dogs find someone who will love them, especially when they are as deserving as these two lovely gals.



Venus

Peter Pan was adopted in December. Here is what his new family had to say:

"We are really enjoying our new dog Peter Pan! He has really adjusted well to our family and our home. The girls love petting him and playing with him and he gets along great with our golden retriever. Thanks for doing what you do and for the opportunity and privilege to adopt Peter Pan into our family."



Peter Pan with new family member.

It is fitting that Peter Pan now has a family full of kids. We hope they will keep one another young forever!

*"I like a bit of mongrel myself...; they're the best for everyday."
George Bernard Shaw*

LOOK, HONEY, I'VE BEEN TRAINED!

By Monika Czerwinski

An obedient dog involves training BOTH dog and owner.

My "aha!" moment came last fall while volunteering at BAHS. A professional dog trainer was giving her time to teach handling of some of our larger, let's say, more *exuberant* dogs. And it was working.

After this enlightening session ended I spoke to Jan, of *A Better Dog Training*, about specific behaviors with my own dog that were causing concern. I adopted Sally Ride a few years back when she was an adult dog. I justified some of her poor behaviors with, "Well, I didn't have her from the beginning, and she's got three years of bad habits." We live downtown in a high-rise, already a challenging environment for a dog. A doorbell would send Sally Ride into barking and snarling fits. If I knew when someone was coming over, I'd just put her in another room. Walking her gave me great arm tone; passing another dog on the sidewalk would produce the same scrabbling and snarling, and I had to keep her leash short and tight. I would never consider taking her to a dog park because of her aggression toward other dogs.

My biggest concern was an upcoming two week visit from my parents and their dog, Scooter, a dog Sally Ride had already attacked the previous summer at my parents' home. I had resigned myself to two weeks of Sally Ride being locked away in our bedroom. What fun.

Jan and I agreed to work with Sally Ride on our home turf. The first session lasted two hours. I wondered why my dog responded to Jan better than me. Same dog, different results. Hmmm, maybe the problem was me. Jan was endlessly patient

with the both of us, and by the end of the first lesson I felt much more confident. Jan is also part mind-reader. I was thinking, "My dog is going to hate me for demanding all this," and Jan admonished me, "Do not feel sorry for your dog. She wants a leader!"

Our next lesson was a few weeks later and was three hours long. I'd asked Jan to bring one of her dogs so we could work with real-life situations. Through practice and consistency we'd already made progress I was proud of. Yup, consistency. Let your dog slide just one time and you have to work three times harder to get back to where you were. But through calmness and control, Sally Ride was allowing another dog into her territory. I was ecstatic!

I've learned to interpret Sally Ride's body language and can nip trouble in the bud. Scooter came and went with no incidents. They weren't best buds, but détente had been declared. Best of all, demanding good doggy citizenship from her did not put a strain on our relationship. In fact, instead of disappearing all day to take her naps, she now follows me around room to room to take her snoozes. Jan was right; taking the leadership role gives my dog security.

Moral of the story: Your dog will give you what you demand. Now when there's an unwanted behavior, either at home or with a dog at the shelter, I look to myself first for a better result. Who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks? I've been taught!



**"Hmmm,
maybe the
problem was
me."
-- Monika**

Call (210) 788-6157 or email Jan at janthedogtrainer@hotmail.com.
See www.abetterdogtrainingtexas.com for more information.

**Save a Life,
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Homeless Pet**

Bulverde Area Humane Society
3563 Kingsnake
P. O. Box 50
Bulverde, Texas 78163

Phone: 830-980-2247
Fax: 830-980-6901
email: bahs@yahoo.com

Powered by Volunteers



OUR MISSION

The Bulverde Area Humane Society is a non-profit organization that provides a caring and secure environment for homeless and surrendered dogs and cats. Our purpose as a no-kill shelter is to assist in the pet life cycle through education, spay/neuter assistance, and promoting pet-forever families. BAHS is powered by volunteers and tax-deductible contributions.

Our Board

President: Richard Lindell

Vice President: Lynda Binkley

Treasurer: To be filled

Secretary: Christine Touw

Director: Lori Osuna

Director: Tom Blacklock

Director: Barbara Barban

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

We are always looking for adults or students to help out at the shelter or at adoption events.

We offer a safe place for kids to take part in group projects, earn community service hours, or just spend a few hours learning empathy and kindness.

Please look on our website for volunteer information and application. Show up with application in hand any Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday at 10 a.m. for orientation.

EVEN A FEW HOURS A MONTH HELPS!

Thank you to Local Businesses

We thank the following businesses that have been so kind to us. Please support them whenever you can.

- HEB
- Petsmart
- Tractor Supply
- Cragg's Do It Best
- Bulverde Community News
- The Hill Country Times (web paper)
- Smithson Valley Animal Hospital—Dr. Madigan and Staff
- Bulverde Animal Hospital—Dr. Kirk Kothmann and Staff
- Texas Veterinary Hospital—Dr. Mike Mixon and Staff
- A&C Health Service
- Mumme's
- Picadillo Mexican Restaurant
- Petspaw
- Pedernales Electric Coop
- Schering-Plough
- Frost Bank
- Canine Comforts

HOURS OF OPERATION

The Shelter is open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10AM - 1PM.

www.bulverdeareahumanesociety.com