

Special Pals Paw Prints

Volume 4 • Newsletter 1

MAY 2017

**Saving More
Lives than Ever**
1/1/17 - 4/30/17

Number of adoptions:
195 total:
97 dogs, 42 puppies,
31 cats, 25 kittens

**Number of
spay and neuters
performed:**
399

Total Intake:
233 total:
113 dogs, 47 puppies,
39 cats, 34 kittens

**Number of
pets seen in the
wellness clinic:**
634

Special Pals Up for Adoption

Demi, a two-year old American Staffordshire terrier, came to Special Pals on April 6 as a stray. Missouri City Animal Control sent out a plea for her rescue via their Facebook page and Special Pals stepped up to the challenge. Demi had almost no hair with open lesions and scabs covering the majority of her body. She was diagnosed with demodex mange and is currently being treated for that as well as secondary skin infections. Demi is expected to make a full recovery and has already gotten so much better during the three weeks she has been in our care.

Demi will flourish in a home with older children. She can be apprehensive about making changes in her daily routine, but after she gets the hang of something new, she settles in fine. Demi needs a family with patience who can offer her the time and love she needs to feel at home.

Demi has brought so much joy to our staff. We've watched her grow from a frightened, exhausted dog in pain to a lady full of life and energy with a beautiful soul. Whoever is lucky enough to adopt her must promise to keep us updated with pictures and stories on her progress. Demi will be available for adoption in June.



Demi

Copper, an 11 year old terrier mix, was dumped at Special Pals this past February. When our staff found her tied to the gate, she was cold and hungry because she had been there for many hours. Copper was wearing a temporary vet clinic collar so we called the number and learned she had been seen recently for a glucose test. The vet clinic gave us her owner's information. When we called we were told she was abandoned because the family "didn't have the time for her anymore". This poor baby was lethargic, almost totally blind, and scared to death. We started her on insulin and she improved greatly over the next few days. She is currently in medical foster care with a staff member. She will need insulin shots twice a day, most likely for the rest of her life.



Copper

Despite her age and medical issues, Copper is full of life and an angel to be around. She is good with children, cats, and other dogs. She loves to snuggle and is a wonderful lap dog. If you are interested in adopting or fostering Copper, please come by the shelter and meet her. Special Pals will pay for Copper's medical care and food while she's in foster.

Spicy, a domesticated shorthair tabby, and her five kittens (Chili, Nutmeg, Salty, Pepper, and Basil) were brought to the shelter in April. She had been living on the streets of Pasadena for at least two years. After watching Spicy with her babies, we knew she was an excellent mother. We introduced three orphaned kittens (Freddie, Sam, and I Carly) to her litter and she took them in as her own. So now she's nursing seven kittens and is doing a great job! Spicy is affectionate, calm, and delicately social. Spicy's job right now is caring for her babies, and we will assess how she gets along with children and dogs when her important work is done. Spicy will be ready for adoption at the end of May and the babies will be ready for their forever homes in mid-July.



Spicy and Babies

Volunteer Spotlight



Katy Girl Scout Troop 16460 worked hard to give our front entrance a bright new look. They painted tires in fun colors and turned them into flower beds. What a welcomed sight to see when driving up to our front gates!



Katy Girl Scout Daisy Troop 129155 made “warmies” out of rice and tube socks. Our staff uses warmies to help keep newborn puppies and kittens as well as pets recovering from spay/neuter surgery warm. The warmies hold heat for a long time and fit perfectly around the animals to keep them comfy and cozy.

PUPS (Prevent Unwanted Pets) has played a crucial role in adopting many Special Pals cats into loving homes. PUPS volunteers care for our cats in the Petco Rosenberg Adoption Center.



Thank you PUPS for your support and friendship!

Are you and your crew looking for fun group volunteer projects? Special Pals needs help with projects like painting, landscaping, organization of supplies, and shelter clean-up....perfect activities for groups large and small!
Youth volunteer groups please email Heidi Gibson, Volunteer Coordinator, at heidig@mobilelinkusa.com.
Adult Volunteer groups, please email info@specialpalsshelter.org

Meet the Special Pals Staff – Heidi Gibson



Heidi Gibson is the Volunteer Coordinator at Special Pals. A volunteer herself, Heidi works to mobilize and coordinate individual volunteers and volunteer groups to complete projects in and around the shelter. She began working with Special Pals in November 2016.

Originally from Bettendorf, Iowa, Heidi moved to Texas when she was 19. She lives in Katy with her husband and fur babies: a South African Mastiff named Vegas Bobalou, a lab mix named Sergeant Major, and a tuxedo cat named Aspen Chloe. In her “day job”, Heidi is a sales manager and a corporate trainer in the wireless industry.

Heidi’s #1 goal for 2017 is to increase the number of volunteers at Special Pals. “Volunteers are necessary to the shelter and provide support to the animals and staff,” said Heidi. “Every volunteer has special talents and gifts. When we bring these gifts together, we are able to make a larger impact.” Along with increasing our volunteer numbers, Heidi is determined to expand our reach into the community. Increased community awareness equates to higher adoption numbers.

“I absolutely love working at Special Pals, not just because of the animals, but also because of the staff. They work tirelessly to ensure every animal is safe, happy, and healthy. It is hard work but I wouldn’t trade it for anything,” said Heidi. “I am honored to be a part of the Special Pals team. I cannot begin to express how much I love the animals here. I will continue to work diligently to ensure we can provide for the shelter by building strong relationships with the community.”

We are so grateful to Heidi for everything she has done for Special Pals in the short time she’s been with us. She is a valuable part of the team and we are honored to work with her!

Katy Kids Can

Shelter Dogs Help Build a Love of Reading

Katy Kids Can (KKC) is a volunteer group founded by Lacy Roberts. Lacy believes a person of any age with a helping heart can make an impact on their community.

KKC members visited Special Pals to read to our pups and practice their reading skills. “When a child reads to a dog, there is no judgement. No one is telling them they’re doing it wrong,” said Lacy. “Instead, their ‘audience’ is listening intently and loving the one-on-one time. The dogs are happy to have the attention and the child is building a love of reading.”

In addition to bettering their reading skills, children learn compassion. “Our kids learn that not all dogs have homes,” said Lacy. “Some dogs lost their family, some were hurt or abused, or some were abandoned. You never know what a dog has been through.”

We are so excited to have KKC a part of our volunteer family! The love they show our dogs means the world to us! “Working with Special Pals has been so much fun and has given me a new love for volunteering,” said Lily O., a KKC member. For more information on Katy Kids Can, visit www.facebook.com/KatyKidsCan. Membership is open to anyone with a Katy address or who is attending a Katy ISD school. Thank you, Katy Kids Can!



Celebrate Your Birthday at Special Pals



Looking for a fun and unique place to celebrate your child's birthday? Special Pals is ready to party! Birthday parties at Special Pals are held on Saturdays from 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. or 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Each private party is two hours and includes face painting, balloons, party plates, cups, forks, table covers, streamers, and a goodie bag for every child. Parties are held in our Four Seasons Dog Retreats.

Guests will receive a quick introduction to the shelter, including a few ground rules to keep everyone safe. Our party staff offers face painting, tours of the shelter, fun activities with a pet-related spin, dedicated time to play and snuggle with some of our adoptable cats and dogs, with plenty of time for birthday cake and presents.

We also provide a tent, tables, and chairs for adults to relax in while the kids play. We can accommodate up to 15 children per party. Each two hour party costs \$250. Longer or larger parties are available for an additional fee. For more information or to book your timeslot, please contact us at info@specialpalsshelter.org or call 281-579-7387.



Kaycee Carlton recently had her 10th birthday party at Special Pals. She and her friends had a great time playing with the puppies, getting their faces painted, and making cat toys out of tube socks, catnip, and crumpled paper.

Thomas Rieder-Lujan *Young Leader Making an Impact*

Thomas Rieder-Lujan is a senior at Cy-Falls High School. He lives in Houston and is a Boy Scout in Troop 61. Thomas chose Special Pals as the beneficiary for his Eagle Scout Project. He built permanent outside covers for the kennels on the adoption side of the shelter. Now our dogs have a shaded place to rest and relax while enjoying the fresh air.

"I have always been passionate about the wellbeing of stray and neglected animals but I had never done much for the cause," said Thomas. "A few months ago my Scoutmaster, Mr. Mike Viator, introduced me to Special Pals. After meeting with the staff, I knew Special Pals was the perfect choice for my project. Ms. Trick stressed the need for a cover for the outside kennels so I knew just what to do."

We are so proud of Thomas for his hard work and thank him from the bottom of our hearts for giving us this wonderful gift! He truly is an inspirational young man on his way to great things!



Upcoming Events

**Houston World Series
of Dog Shows at NRG Park
July 19-23**

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.houstondogshows.com.

**Strut Your Mutt Dog Walk
at TC Jester Park • October 14**
Check our website in September for registration information.

**St Paul's Fall Festival and Craft Show
Oct. 17 • 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
5373 Franz Rd., Katy**



Upcoming Clinic and Spay/Neuter Surgery Dates

5/26: S/N Surgeries (by appt. only)

5/27: Clinic 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
(walk-ins welcome)

5/31: S/N Surgeries (by appt. only)

6/2: S/N Surgeries (by appt. only)

6/3: Clinic 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
(walk-ins welcome)

6/5: S/N Surgeries (by appt. only)

6/7: S/N Surgeries (by appt. only)

6/10: Clinic 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
(walk-ins welcome)



Upcoming Adoption Promotions

Check our website to learn more about the discounted adoption rates associated with each promotion.

June Adopt a Cat Month

July 1-4 Best Friends Independence Day Weekend Adoption Event

August 1-31 Best Friends End of Summer Adoption Event

August 19 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Telemundo "Clear the Shelters"

National Adoption Days at Petsmart
September 15-17 and November 10-12

November 24-26 Best Friends Black Friday Adoption Event

December 3 Pictures with Santa
(location TBA)

Special Pals Offers Boarding Services



If you're planning a trip this summer and need a safe place to board Fido while you're away, Special Pals can help! Our kennels are larger than most kennels in other boarding facilities. The inner kennels are air-conditioned during hot weather to keep your pooch comfy. Dogs are kept in the outside grassy kennels during the morning hours and are walked at least twice a day. Our rates are very affordable and we offer discounts for two or more dogs.

To board your pooch at Special Pals, he/she must be between 8 months and 7 years old and current on all vaccinations.

We offer convenient drop-off and pick-up times

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday:
12:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Friday: 2:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For rates and more information, please email info@specialpalsshelter.org.

\$10 OFF Any Service
at Special Pals

Good for:

**Wellness Clinic Services,
Flea and Tick Prevention,
Spay/Neuter Surgery,
Boarding, or Merchandise Sales**

Special Pals offers prescription flea and tick prevention at prices much lower than most other clinics or veterinarian offices! Save money on your furry friend's medication while supporting homeless pets!

Email clinic@specialpalsshelter.org for more details.

Become a Special Pals Volunteer

Special Pals holds a volunteer orientation every other Sunday at 2:00 p.m. (45 minute training and shelter tour). Please check our website for open orientation training dates

Once orientation is completed, volunteers can sign up for shifts by emailing info@specialpalsshelter.org or by signing up in volunteer calendar at the front desk.

Volunteers ages 12-15 must attend an orientation and shift with a parent or adult sibling. Volunteers ages 16-17 must attend orientation with a parent but may work shifts alone. Volunteers ages 18+ may schedule their first shift immediately after attending orientation. The summertime is the perfect time to volunteer...we hope you'll join our volunteer team!



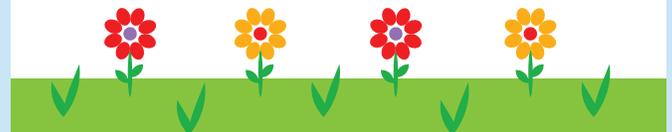
Current Volunteer Opportunities

- Foster puppies, nursing mamas and babies
- Bottle baby feeders (kittens)
- Bathing dogs on-site
- Walking and socializing dogs at the shelter
- Attending off-site adoption events
- Socializing and caring for cats at off-site adoption centers
- Transporting cats to and from off-site adoption centers



Summer Wish List

- Wet kitten food
- Paper towels
- Wet puppy food
- Clay cat litter
- Soft toys and stuffed animals
- Treats and cat nip
- Trash bags with drawstring handles



**Adopt &
Spay &
Neuter &
Love.** Special Pals

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281-579-PETS (7387) • SpecialPalsShelter.org

