

# PAW PRINTS

SEPTEMBER 2018 | VOL 5 | NEWSLETTER 1

## Special Pals

a local, nonprofit, no-kill animal shelter

## MAKE YOUR MARK AT SPECIAL PALS

In 2019, Special Pals celebrates 40 years of saving homeless animals in Houston! Make Your Mark and help keep our shelter going for another 40 (and beyond!) by sponsoring specific areas around our shelter.

So, what do you get when you Make Your Mark? Help us meet our sponsorship goal and you'll receive recognition for your support for the entire 2019 calendar year. Honor a special pet or loved one, showcase your business, or get silly and name a kennel "Kenny McKennelface" - it's totally up to you! Your naming designation will be displayed on professional signage that will hang in your Make Your Mark area to be seen by all those who visit Special Pals in 2019.

As a non-profit private animal shelter, Special Pals depends on the kindness of our community to keep our program running... from feeding our pals and tending to their medical needs to paying our electric bill, every single penny is put to work. We hope you will join us to celebrate 40 years of saving lives.

Don't see an area you'd like to sponsor on our list below? Contact us with your ideas; we'd love to help you support Special Pals in your own unique way!

### MAKE YOUR MARK OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2019

Make Your Mark a permanent one! Lifetime sponsorship opportunities are also available for each of the areas listed below. Contact Melissa at [president@specialpalshelter.org](mailto:president@specialpalshelter.org) for more information on Make Your Mark sponsorships.

- Catio: \$3,000
- Meet & Greet Patio: \$2,000
- Four Seasons Retreats (3 available): \$1,000/each
- Wellness Clinic: \$500
- Kitchen: \$500
- Play Yard (3 available): \$300
- Bathrooms (2 available): \$250/each
- Kennels, interior adoption (55 available): \$150
- Kennels, outdoor adoption (28 available): \$75
- Throw Us a Bone! (wooden sign hung on front fence): \$40 large/\$10 small



### PIPPA

We found Pippa tied to our front gate one morning in February 2017. She was confused and terrified, and when we got her inside the shelter, she hid in her kennel for many days. Because her trust has been broken by her abandonment, Pippa is fearful of new people and new situations. It took her almost two months to understand that our Sunday walks were supposed to be fun. She is a spunky 2 year-old American Bully mix who has a lot to learn, but is incredibly loyal.

A quiet family with older children would be best for Pippa. A lot of activity and noise is overwhelming for her. Pippa she would do best as the only dog in the household. She does not like cats at all! Because of her escape artist tendencies, Pippa's home must have a yard that is very secure. Pippa needs kindness and patience. Her new family must believe in and practice positive reinforcement training. She will need time to adjust to living in a home. Once she learns to trust someone, she will love them like no other and be the ultimate friend for life.

### SHELTER STATS 1/1/18 - 8/31/18

356

#### INTAKES

- 167 dogs
- 50 cats
- 69 puppies
- 70 kittens

325

#### ADOPTIONS

- 180 dogs
- 72 cats
- 42 puppies
- 31 kittens

637

#### TOTAL SPAY/NEUTER SURGERIES

957

#### WELLNESS CLINIC ENCOUNTERS



Adopt &  
Spay &  
Neuter &  
Love. Special Pals



281.579.PETS (7387) | [SpecialPalsShelter.org](http://SpecialPalsShelter.org)

## FurHaven Bed Fundraiser

During the month of September, FurHaven Pet Products will donate one of their super soft, snuggly pet beds to Special Pals for every bed purchased online using the promo code **PALS40 (code good for 40% off regular priced beds)**. Buy a bed for your pet and give a bed to a shelter pet!

For more information visit their website <https://www.furhaven.com>

Promotion valid in September only.

You buy a pet bed for **40% off**, then we donate a bed. It's that simple.



## Napoleon: 1,100 Days and Counting

In September 2015 we first introduced you to Napoleon, a street dog we rescued from Houston's Corridor of Cruelty with the help of local volunteers. While we are thrilled to have saved Poli from a hard life on the streets, we're sad to say he's still living at the shelter. He's officially been in our program for more than 1,100 days.

When he came to us, Poli was a feral dog. While he's come a long way over these past few years, his ability to trust humans takes time. He is shy and timid and would benefit from a trainer or long-term foster. He's recently gotten over his fear of the leash and is an active participant in our weekly dog walks...a HUGE step for him. While he is safe in our shelter, being in a home would be ideal. Poli doesn't know what it means to live in a home. It will take a special person with patience and time to help Poli become the companion animal we know he can be.

If you would like to donate to Poli's care or be a long-term foster, please contact Elizabeth Trick at [director@specialpalsshelter.org](mailto:director@specialpalsshelter.org). Together, we can get him out of the shelter and into a forever home!



## Taylor Davis Racing for Special Pals



Superstar athlete Taylor Davis is 8 years-old, loves to race in triathlons, and has been competing for more than 4 years! She loves animals just as much as she loves racing and hopes to be a veterinarian when she grows up. Taylor participated in the Cypress Youth Triathlon the weekend of July 28-29 and chose Special Pals as her Reason2Race charity. We are excited to report that Taylor had a fantastic race and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in her age group!

Taylor's triathlon team has organized several food and supply drives for Special Pals and collected supplies for us after Hurricane Harvey. When asked why she chose to support Special Pals through Reason2Race, Taylor said, "They take really good care of all of the animals there. I want them to be able to keep doing what they are doing so they can save more animals and find them forever homes." You go, Taylor!!! You are an inspiration to us all!

## Volunteer Spotlight GILL SNIDER & SARAH POUDRIER



Gill Snider has been "officially" volunteering with Special Pals since the beginning of 2018. Before that, she would check in every now and then to see if we needed things like towels, blankets, and sheets. She would also help clean the kennels and run a load of laundry or two.

As she became more comfortable, she was trained to handle the front desk responsibilities, including answering the phone, responding to emails, and scheduling surgeries and boarding appointments. She also comes in on Sundays for the weekly dog walk to give the pups some love while they get out of their kennels and enjoy the sunshine and fresh air.

Gill has two dogs of her own, both seniors. Bambi, a Chihuahua/Pomeranian mix was rescued from wandering the streets near I-10 and TC Jester. Michael, a good old-fashioned mutt, was actually her neighbor's dog. But he kept digging under the fence into her backyard. She sent him back several times but it was obvious he was lonely and needed someone to love him. So one day, she decided to let him stay and he's been hers ever since.

When asked why volunteering at Special Pals is so important to her, Gill said, "I recently retired after

30 years in the oil industry. It's been a real adjustment. The first year was okay but after that got bored. I found Special Pals and fell in love. Now I feel like I have a purpose and am able to give a voice of the voiceless."

Sarah Poudrier began volunteering with Special Pals around February 2018. Along with Gill, she handles the front desk area by answering phones, meeting and greeting customers, preparing surgery paperwork, and other general administrative tasks. Her favorite part of the job is meeting customers when they come in and interacting with the small dogs that come through the lobby.

While she loves all of the animals at the shelter, she is partial to the small dogs and kittens. Queenie also holds a special place in her heart. Her own pack includes three dogs: two Japanese Chin mixes named Rigz (9) and Tukr (8) and a Pekinese named Haley (18).

Not new to giving back to the community, Sarah has also shared her time and talents by volunteering with the National Fish and Wildlife Service at Trinity River. "Now that I'm retired, I want to leave a good footprint," said Sarah. "I've had dogs my entire life and I have a passion for shelter dogs. A dog's love is consistent with no judgement."

## Meet the Special Pals Staff: Kennel Team

Every day, the dedicated Special Pals Kennel Team spends hours and hours providing direct care for the animals in our program. The Kennel Team's top priority is keeping our dogs clean, comfortable, and provided for with plenty of food and water. The day starts for the Kennel Team with bringing every dog out to our outdoor kennels. Once the interior kennels are empty, each space is scrubbed down, hosed out, and sanitized to stringent standards. After each is cleaned and food and water bowls are filled up, the Kennel Team brings every dog back inside. It's not an easy job: walking some 100 dogs back and forth one by one, and cleaning kennels from top to bottom in between. Most days there are only three fully-trained Kennel Team members on duty, but every single day they get the job done, no matter what. We give a special thank you to the Special Pals Kennel Staff: Shaun Almaguer, Valerie Murray, Allie Walker, Matthew Castelan-Palmer, Aaron Smith, and Natalie Fawcett. Thank you for doing the essential daily care for our animals. You are immensely appreciated and are essential to our efforts in animal welfare.



## Getting By with a Little Help from Our Friends

We would like to give a HUGE shout out to Camp Bow Wow and Pet Supplies Plus (FM 1463 and Highland Knolls locations) for being wonderful adoption partners. They continuously showcase adoptable dogs and cats at their stores and give us lots of love on social media. Because of this, we've been able to adopt a large number of pets into loving, forever homes.



## 25 FOR 25 SPAY & NEUTER DAY

On May 24, Special Pals offered a surgery clinic, charging just 25-cents for a spay or neuter surgery. Thanks to a very generous donor who donated the funds to pay for the surgeries, we were able to spay and neuter 6 cats and 18 dogs. "When it comes to pet overpopulation, we feel that preventing accidental litters by spaying and neutering is the most significant action that can be taken to avoid contributing to the approximately 100,000 animals each year whose lives end with destruction," said Special Pals Executive Director Elizabeth Trick. "The more discounted spay and neuters we can offer the community, the more accidental litters we can prevent."

Our hope is to offer even more low-cost surgery days in the future. But in order to do so, we need corporate sponsors or animal loving donors to help underwrite the cost of each surgery.

For more information on sponsoring a low-cost surgery day, contact Elizabeth Trick at [director@specialpalsshelter.org](mailto:director@specialpalsshelter.org).

# Fall Events 2018



## Pumpkin's Patch

A longtime supporter of Special Pals recently donated the funds to add a beautiful new flower garden in front of our Catio. This new space has been named Pumpkin's Patch and we are thrilled to show it off to our shelter guests. The flowers, plants, and trees chosen will be easy to maintain and we will add soaker hoses to make sure they receive the perfect amount of water. We welcome any and all "green thumbs" to help us take care of our garden space throughout the year!

## We're Hiring!

Special Pals is searching for a certified electrician familiar with high-consumption businesses to ensure we have enough power to run all of our fans, A/C units, etc. Keeping our pups cool in the extreme Texas heat is a top priority!

Special Pals is hiring a bookkeeper familiar with Quickbooks. Estimated time is 10 hours per month. Flexible schedule, offsite work is acceptable. Minimum 5 years experience required. For more information contact [director@specialpalsshelter.org](mailto:director@specialpalsshelter.org)

## Fall Winter Wish List

- New or gently used towels
- Fleece blankets
- Stuffed dog toys
- Cat toys
- Bottled water
- Dry puppy food
- Wet kitten food
- Heavy duty trash bags w/drawstring



**Thank You!**  
Our pals use these things every day.

### Walk-in Wellness Clinic Saturdays in Sept. | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Our clinic offers low-cost vaccinations and medications, heartworm tests, nail trims, and microchipping. Appointments are not necessary but we encourage pet owners to arrive early.

### "Fall, Felines & FUN!" Cat Show Sept. 15-16 | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Jimmy Burke Activity Center, 500 W. 13<sup>th</sup> St., Deer Park

This cat lover's extravaganza will feature pet-friendly vendors, education booths, concessions, veterinarians on hand to answer questions, face painting, and more.

### Strut Your Mutt Dog Walk Oct. 13 | 8 a.m. Stude Park, 1031 Stude, Houston

Grab your walking shoes and join the Special Pals team or build your own team and fundraise for Special Pals. Can't make it to the walk? You can support our pals by donating online. Check our website or Facebook page for more event info and the donation link.

### Bridgeland Howl-O-Ween Fest Oct. 27 | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Josey Lake Park, Cypress,** Family-friendly/dog-friendly festival with food trucks, pumpkin patch, face painting, costume contest, and lots of fun activities. Proceeds benefit local animal rescue groups, including Special Pals. We'll be on site with a few adoptable pals so stop by and say hi!

### 16<sup>th</sup> Annual YMCA Turkey Dash Nov. 22 | 8 a.m.

**Westheimer Pkwy & S. Peek Rd** Put a little gobble in your wobble and spend Thanksgiving morning at the YMCA Turkey Dash! We'll be onsite selling our brand new 2019 **Red White & Rescue** calendar and getting a jumpstart on the holiday happenings. For more info, visit [www.ymcahouston.org/2018/turkey-dash](http://www.ymcahouston.org/2018/turkey-dash).

### Black Friday Adoption Weekend Nov. 23-25

Skip the malls on Black Friday and bring home a new furry friend instead! Special Pals will be offering reduced fee adoptions Thanksgiving Weekend to give our pals a chance to find a forever home in time for the holidays. Some exclusions apply.

### Pet-Friendly Santa Pics Dec. 2 | 1-3 p.m.

Santa Claus is coming to town and he's making a stop at Special Pals! Bring your pet(s) to the shelter and take a photo with the jolly old elf himself. For a small donation, we'll email you a digital image you can use for your holiday card, share on social media, or print to deck your halls. We'll have free refreshments and holiday cheer for all!

### Special Pals Angel Tree | Dec. 1-22

Make the holidays merry and bright for our shelter cats and dogs. Choose an ornament from our Angel Tree to be a secret Santa to one of our furry friends this holiday season. Drop off your donations before Christmas Eve so all of our pals will have something to open on Christmas morning.



*Donnie* is quite a looker! He is a larger cat, weighing around 10 pounds. He has a fantastic laid-back personality and gets along with the other cats in our Catio. There isn't much that seems to rattle him. He is about 2 years-old.

He came to Special Pals on April 22 and it's well past time for Donnie to be in a forever home. If you are looking for a handsome fella to snuggle with, Donnie is the one for you! Come by the shelter and say hello.

Special Pals

3830 Greenhouse Rd., Houston, TX 77084  
PO Box 841605, Houston, TX 77284