

# Houston's Barrio Dogs and one woman's calling

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Barrio Dogs

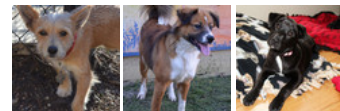


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When Gloria Medina Zenteno moved back to her native Houston, Texas eight years ago, she was horrified at the number of homeless, stray and neglected animals. A native Houstonian who grew up in Greater East End Houston, Gloria was seeing these pitiful animals in one of the most affluent areas. While others strolled along drinking a double latte from Starbucks walking their own Paris Hilton dogs in little outfits, Gloria was devastated by the “pregnant mamas, mangy dogs, dogs on chains and in cages.”

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One more thing...when she returned home, Gloria didn't even own a dog.

Only a rescuer knows the feeling of seeing

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*Barrio Dogs*

bought dogs wearing expensive haute couture. The price of one of those costumes alone could pay for a week of food and medicine for some of the ones nobody cares about.

Gloria saw a huge need and something called out to her heart. It takes a special human being to hear that calling and actually answer it. Gloria was sharp enough to realize how big the problem was and that it was not going to be easy. She saw spay/neuter as key to the answer, if ever there was to be an answer.

Gloria started Barrio Dogs to address the huge overpopulation and neglect cases of animals in low-income neighborhoods. With the tag line 'Educate, Empower and Transform', Gloria and her hardworking unpaid volunteers pushed up their shirtsleeves and went to work. One of the first big jobs was to launch a project called the 'Big Fix in Houston' where Barrio Dogs plans to raise money to spay/neuter 100 dogs in this area for free.

Every day, Gloria and Barrio Dogs put the basis of the program to work, never losing focus, very much like a dog with a bone. Currently, Barrio Dogs is concentrating efforts in Mason/Magnolia Park, what Gloria calls a 'third world country in the middle of the city of Houston'. Education and raising awareness are a huge part of the program as is ministering to the huge numbers of stray and street dogs on a daily basis.

A lesser soul would be a bit overwhelmed to put it mildly. To see some of these sad, dejected and hurting dogs would be almost too much to bear for even the strongest stomach, but Gloria and Barrio Dogs save that one dog...then they go on to the next one, a dog at a time.

Many of these dogs are sick and suffering from heartworm infestation. By chance, Gloria stumbled onto a quick and easy cure which has saved many of these dogs who would have died a horrible death, the previous option being a painful and expensive conventional cure.

This is what real rescue is all about. It's a song from the heart, from one soul to another.

Blessed is he who has found his work....Thomas Carlyle

And blessed are these beautiful precious animals who've found Gloria and Barrio Dogs.

Visit Barrio Dogs on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/barriodogs?ref=ts>

Barrio Dogs on the web:

<http://www.barriodogs.org/>

Consider donating the cost of a Starbucks to help Barrio Dogs save the street dogs of Houston.

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