

Barrio Tails

Newsletter

Winter

Volume 1, Issue 3, February 2013



President's Message

The beginning of the new year brought us a little breathing room after the hectic last few months of 2012 but it did not last. While we tried not to plan too many Barrio Dogs activities for early 2013, the past couple of months have still been very busy.

In January 2013, we began collaborating with Corridor Rescue and Forgotten Dogs of the 5th Ward in an effort we are calling Unity for A Solution. Our goal is to get the city of Houston to fund free and low cost spay neuter for pets belonging to low income residents. To accomplish that, we met numerous times with elected officials and their staffs, traveled to Austin to meet Emancipet's Amy Mills and have our own ongoing planning meetings. We hope that with this effort, we can finally be working towards a long-term solution to Houston's huge animal overpopulation problem.

Another long-term solution is working in our local schools to teach children about proper animal care and the importance of spaying and neutering pets. There are many opportunities for us to work in the schools but we face a volunteer shortage. That is why we are excited about the Carnegie Canine Club at Carnegie Vanguard High; a student developed the proposal for the club, which will support our work by raising money, holding pet food drives and raising awareness among other students. We hope this model can be replicated at other area high schools.

As always, many thanks to our volunteers. We couldn't do it without them and they are working hard to make a difference in their community. Thank you also to our fosters and adopters who are providing loving homes for our rescued dogs.

Earlier this year, we worked with Clear Channel Communications to erect a billboard on Griggs and Telephone Road. We invited our volunteers and



adopters to show up, bring their dogs and take a picture in front of the billboard. As you can see from the picture above, we had good turnout.

Thank you also to everyone for your support, financial and otherwise. It allows us to continue our work of making our East End community a better place to live for both the families and the animals who live here.

Gloria Medina Zenteno

Barrio Dogs, Inc. publishes the Barrio Tails newsletter quarterly

We hope you enjoy this edition of *Barrio Tails*. Please feel free to give the editors your feedback so that we can continue to improve this source of information for our Barrio Dogs' community.

Editors

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Savara McDaniel, savara@barriodogs.org

Barrio Dogs is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit established in 2010 in Houston, Texas to educate, empower and transform Houston's East End by raising awareness and educating the community about proper animal care, leash and tethering laws, the importance of reporting animal neglect and abuse and promoting and when possible paying for spay/neuter of pets.



Unity for a Solution is a collaborative effort by Barrio Dogs and two other established, independent Houston animal welfare organizations, Corridor Rescue and Forgotten Dogs of the Fifth Ward. The goal of the collaboration is to address Houston's animal overpopulation and improve conditions for homeless and unwanted animals in Houston. There are estimated to be between 750,000 and 1.2 million homeless and unwanted animals on Houston's streets.

One of Unity for a Solution's first priorities is to work with Houston's elected officials and the city of Houston to bring free and low cost spay and neuter to areas of Houston that are hardest hit by overpopulation. Often, pets that are not spayed or neutered produce unwanted litters that end up on the streets; offering free and low cost spay and neuter for these animals to their owners is a first step in reducing overpopulation. The group will also work to educate and raise public awareness in the communities we serve about proper animal care and the importance of fixing pets.



Gloria Medina Zenteno and Lynn Rodriguez (Barrio Dogs), Michelle Haberland and Anna Barbosa (Corridor Rescue), Front: Kelle Mann Davis (Forgotten Dogs of the 5th Ward)

The decision to unite grew from our 2012 collaboration in "1st Annual Music for Mutts" and from the realization that together, we have a better chance of helping more of the many homeless and unwanted animals suffering in Houston. Unity for a Solution is also inviting partners who share our vision and goals to join us in this effort.

For more information, go to unityforasolution.org or facebook.com/UnityForASolution.



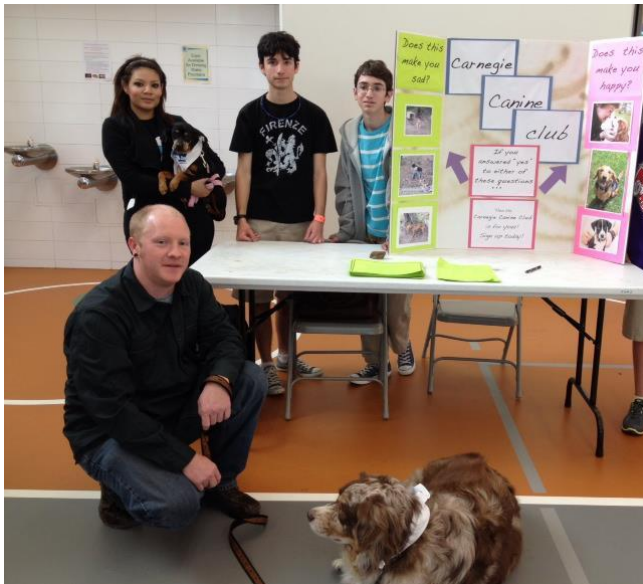
FixIt! East End Spay Neuter Project

Barrio Dogs' final FixIt! spay neuter day took place on December 1, 2012 when we fixed 38 dogs and cats belonging to residents in Houston's Ingrand Park area free of charge. Participants started lining up with their pets at Gulfgate Animal Hospital before they opened at 7:30 AM. In total, we spayed and neutered 205 animals under FixIt! in 2012. We hope to repeat FixIt! in 2013 and spay and neuter even more dogs and cats. Many thanks to the individuals and businesses who donated money to FixIt! and helped make it a reality. For more information, contact us at fixit@barriodogs.org.





Empowered Youth Collaborates with Youth and Paws Program



James (center) and another student along with Barrio Dogs' volunteers Dulce Garcia (with her rescue Orchid) and Jeff Hooge (with his rescue Henry) at Carnegie Vanguard's Rhino Fest

February 1, 2013 marked the start of a new collaboration between Barrio Dogs Youth Program, Youth and Paws (YAP) and an innovative student named James who attends Carnegie Vanguard High School in Midtown, Houston.

James had been trying to come up with a way that he could get involved and approached us with a great idea. He wanted to organize a civic club for Carnegie students in order to support Barrio Dogs' educational work, to raise money and collect food for us. Thus, the Carnegie Canine Club (CCC) was born and introduced to students at the school's extracurricular activities fair, Rhino Fest, on Friday, February 1st.

Carnegie Canine Club is already scouting local elementary and junior high schools to deliver

Barrio Dogs' animal welfare presentations as well as brainstorming fundraising events. Barrio Dogs' Education Team members will be supporting CCC members in all of their efforts and stepping up to help when ever needed.

Although Carnegie Vanguard is not located in the East End, their students come from all over Houston. Since animal neglect and over-population are problems in other communities, we are glad to have a broader reach through this project. Furthermore, these students' sense of civic duty, creativity, and ingenuity are an inspiration to everyone on the Barrio Dogs team. **Go Carnegie Canine Club!**



Do You Want To Build A Movement To Help The Animals In Your Community?

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

A handbook with resources and other information for building a movement to help the animals in your community



March 2013

Animal overpopulation is a huge problem in certain neighborhoods in Houston. Barrio Dogs is often asked to help in other areas but our work by necessity is focused on Houston's East End. However, we are happy to share information and resources with anyone who wants to organize a movement to help the animals in their own community. To learn more, contact us at info@barriodogs.org.



Making a Difference in Our Community

Our Better Communities team has been busy helping East End residents take better care of their pets. We wish we could help everyone who asks for our assistance but we do the best we can.



Solovino wearing his new jacket

At the beginning of the year, we distributed dog food, leashes, collars, dog beds and jackets to families in the Hidalgo Park area. We met these families during FixIt and solicited donations of food and gently used items to give to them. We were well-received by the families and were so glad we could help.



Mrs. Soliz at the vet with one the family's dogs

Last January, we helped the Soliz family who took their dogs to get fixed at the SNAP mobile clinic. Two of the dogs were in poor health and SNAP could not fix them. We got them into Gulfgate and they are being treated for their health conditions and will be fixed soon.



Linda and her companion dog at the vet

In February, we got a call from a friend asking for help for her neighbors. A dog they rescued and adopted was causing major problems by digging deep holes in their back yard. We got the dog, Linda, and her companion dog fixed in the hope that would alleviate some of the digging. We were also going to build a sand box in her backyard for her to dig in. Unfortunately, the family decided they could not keep Linda but their neighbor was able to take her.



Keira was so happy to see her family after spending the night in the hospital

Keira is another dog we spayed during FixIt. Late last month, we got a desperate call from her owners. A disturbed neighbor was tired of her barking and shot her several times. The family thought they were going to have to watch her die because they could not afford to take her to the vet. Luckily, we were able to assist them and Keira is recovering from her injuries.



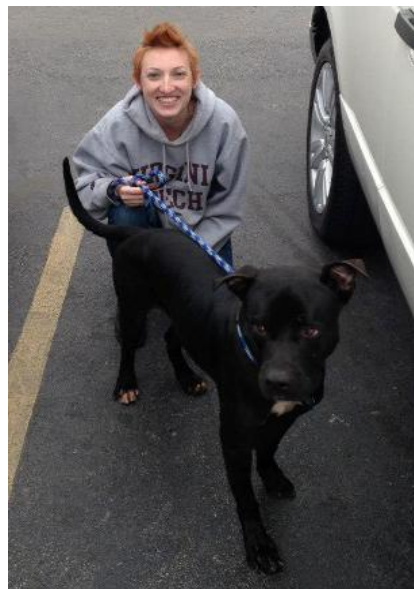
We are happy to report that thanks to the hard work of our A Home for All volunteers, some of our long-term boarded dogs found forever homes in the past few weeks.



Cooper had been boarded since 2011 after he was rescued from the streets in Sunnyside. He had scars all over his face and was very thin. He was vetted and went directly into

boarding. We began working with him in May 2012 and he began to flourish from all the attention and love he was receiving. An AFHA volunteer, Buffy, fell in love with Cooper and adopted him. He quickly adjusted to home life and is learning to get along with Buffy's cats.

Derek was rescued in April 2012 when a volunteer found him limping and emaciated on the street in the East End. When he was checked out by the vet, she found a bullet embedded in his paw. The bullet was removed and Derek went directly into boarding where he lived until he was spotted by AFHA volunteer Caitrin who just knew he was the dog for her. Caitrin and Derek got to know each other while he was still



in boarding and after Caitrin moved into a bigger house, she was ready for Derek to join her. He has made a smooth transition from the streets to the boarding facility to a loving home.

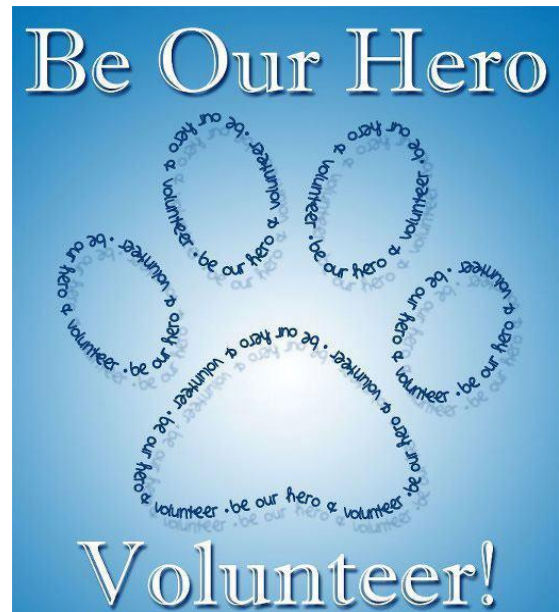
Copper was rescued in early 2011 from a dumpster next to a paint store in Houston's East End. He was still a puppy, in poor health and emaciated. After his rescue, Copper quickly put on weight and recovered from his previous life. However, he had to live in a boarding facility. He lived in boarding until early in 2013 when Chris and his partner saw Copper online and decided to foster him; one thing led to another and they soon decided to adopt Copper. Since then, Copper has been seeing the world; Chris takes him to dog parks and other places around the city. We could not have wished for a better happy ending for Copper.





The Barrio Dogs' family suffered a huge loss with the death of our friend and supporter Norma Zenteno on February 22, 2013. Norma passed away after suffering complications arising from her treatment for breast cancer.

Norma was the sister-in-law of Barrio Dogs' founder Gloria Medina Zenteno and was one of our first and biggest fans. Norma and her band, which includes brothers Ernie, Bobby and Javier, played at most Barrio Dogs' fundraisers and benefits and helped us have fun and raise money. Norma helped spread the word about our work to many of her loyal fans as well as to the larger Houston community. She also wrote beautiful songs to inspire and motivate us to keep going when times were hard. Norma was a beautiful woman with a kind and generous spirit and a great talent. We are grateful for her love and support and will miss her tremendously.



Have you seen a homeless animal in your community and thought to yourself "there has to be something I can do to help." Barrio Dogs encourages you to be our hero and help make a difference! Sign up and become a volunteer. For more information, go to barriodogs.org.

Our volunteers make it happen!



Prevent Unwanted Behaviors: Part 1

By Dulce Garcia, CPDT-KA

Certified Professional Dog Trainer

Start off on the right foot. Our pets fill our lives with joy or in some cases, unintentionally make them more difficult. It is important to note that each dog and situation is distinct from one another. When our dog misbehaves, it is our duty as responsible pet owners to take responsibility for their actions and help resolve their issues. For the owner, a challenge is presented when trying to decipher what is causing the unwanted behavior. Sometimes without realizing it, we send the wrong message to our canine companion so that instead of resolving the problem, it may become worse. Pets are capable of learning many good things if we teach them what we expect from them. Dogs pay more attention to our body language and our behavior than our words unless they know commands. If you own a dog, are fostering or are thinking of adopting a dog, these tips will help you get started on the right foot.



Adopt a pet that suits your lifestyle. Each breed was created with a special purpose in mind. For instance, some dogs were bred to be companions while others were bred to work, hunt or show. Mixed breed dogs are capable of being great pets and can learn to perform specific functions. It is all about the work you dedicate to any dog regardless of breed.

Research breeds and their behaviors or medical history. Note that adopting a puppy may require more of your time than an adult dog. For example, a puppy will likely need to be taught proper training and socialization. Keep in mind that they need attention and daily exercises to help in their developmental stages. If you neglect your puppy because there is nobody to take care

of him all day, he will get bored and find fun things to do like chewing on shoes.

Adult dogs are mature and because they have gone through the puppy stage, they are ideal for anyone who does not have the energy for a young dog. Always adopt from shelters or rescue groups that can assist you in the selection of your new pet; they have many animals that need a home and you will be helping save a life. Adoption fees are worth the cost because they may include initial vaccinations and spay/neuter surgery. Be aware that buying a dog in a pet shop or on the street is highly discouraged and it is very likely that these puppies come from puppy mills or irresponsible back yard breeders. Often, some of these animals suffer from genetic problems and behaviors that reduce their life span. These puppy farms only use dogs to make profits. They are dedicated to producing hundreds of dogs even if that means jeopardizing the health and well being of these animals.



FOSTERS WANTED

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FOSTERS FOR BARRIO DOGS

NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED.

Job Requirements: Must love dogs and have room in your home and your heart for a rescued Barrio Dog.

Salary: Self-rewarding.

Benefits: Endless amounts of unconditional love.

Job Requirements: Must be able to attend adoption events and have the time and patience to take care of a rescued dog.

TO COMPLETE AN APPLICATION, GO TO barriodogs.org/docs/fosterapplication.pdf


barriodogs.org
educate, empower & transform
info@barriodogs.org

Barrio Dogs' Volunteer Profile

Eva Belendez



I am Eva Belendez Soltero. I was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico. I left the island to pursue an education and learn more about the hearing impaired. After completing a Master's degree at New York University, I moved to Houston.

A move intended to be only a couple of years turned into 34. All those years I was blessed with the experience of working in different capacities. It got me close to the people on top and allowed me to "know" first hand that **"it takes a village to raise a child"**.

My love of dogs started as an adult. For many years I was able to get puppies out of the streets by sponsoring shots and neutering/spaying. Rescue groups would then step up and complete the process by fostering and overseeing the adoptions. Although costly for me, it remains rewarding.

I noticed that as the economy started going downhill there were more, and more, and then some more strays and puppies in our East End community. Rescue groups were so overwhelmed they could no longer give a hand. Many people were no longer able to care for their pets (or to make profit from selling puppies) and started dumping them.

A ray of hope came when I started seeing Barrio Dogs literature at Gulfgate Animal Hospital where I take my pets. I inquired and was soon volunteering for Barrio Dogs. I have deep respect for the driving force that gives Gloria the stamina to help create a "village" that is willing to try to right the wrongs, to educate, to create awareness and find solutions. Barrio Dogs is a continually transforming village. As all villages, it also includes negative people who in their negativity inspire others in the village to work harder at maintaining hope and positivism and finding solutions.

Borrowing the platform of Lydia Elder, a lady who runs a small trailer park community in the Eastside and tries to help strays as much as she can: "What is wrong with some people? Why can't they learn that dogs are like our three and four year-old children? That is, for the exception that our children grow and move away. Our dogs remain as happy as our toddlers were but for the rest of their lives; they remain at the mercy of our care while loving us every single day for it! They need to be treated with the same respect, love and nurturing we give our children." This is another way of expressing part of Barrio Dogs education mission.

I am proud to volunteer in this village in which I get to experience the joy of watching loving hands opening to help defenseless dogs. I see people contributing at fundraisers and owners of pets who want to do well for them. . . a village created by Barrio Dogs. It does take a village to raise children and to care for our defenseless four legged children.



Please donate to our cause!

Barrio Dogs is funded entirely by donations. We are also staffed 100% by volunteers and have no overhead costs. All contributions go to our spay and neuter efforts, vetting, care and boarding for rescued dogs and community education efforts. Donations are tax deductible; for more information or to donate, please visit us at barriodogs.org/donate.html.



Thank you to Girl Scout troop 25262 and troop leaders Gina DeForest and Holly Jordan for making dog pillows for us to distribute to East End families.



Thank you to SNAP board member Kate Smargassio who donated the two SNAP truck visits to Barrio Dogs from her birthday fundraiser. The SNAP mobile clinic was at Ripley House on 1/20/13 and 2/10/13 and provided free spay and neuter for 43 pets belong to East End residents.



Thank you to the Garden Villa's civic association for giving us a warm reception when we spoke at the February meeting



Thank you to the Heights Civic Association for inviting us to speak about our work



A big thanks to everyone who donated leashes, collars, toys, dog beds and food so we could distribute them to East End families through our "Adopt a Family" program at the beginning of the year.