

Pet Gazette



Spring 2011

President's Pen

Dear Shelter Friends:

As the 2011 board president, I'm thrilled to be working with all our supporters and board members, who are committed to creating another successful, rewarding year for the Central Texas SPCA. We have several exciting social activities, fundraisers, and adoption events planned throughout the year; be sure to mark your calendars so you don't miss out on the fun!

To celebrate the Central Texas SPCA's 23rd year of helping homeless and abandoned pets, we will be hosting our Anniversary Dinner and Silent Auction on Tuesday, May 17, at Austin's beautiful Long Center for the Performing Arts. We guarantee it will be a night filled with wonderful food, music, and fun – all while supporting a great cause. Purchase your tickets now by visiting the Central Texas SPCA website at www.CentralTexasSPCA.org. Also, be sure to save the date for our 9th annual Barktoberfest on Saturday, September 10, at Old Settlers Park in Round Rock. Bring the whole family (including your canine members) for a day of activities, contests, yummy treats, and much more. You'll even be able to get in your daily exercise by participating in our 3K walk.

And these events are just the beginning. To stay up-to-date on all the fun, be sure to Like the Central Texas SPCA on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. On Facebook, select Central Texas SPCA (nonprofit organization). Did you know that social media can raise the awareness of a nonprofit organization and increase its supporters by more than 60 percent? Help the Central Texas SPCA with the click of a button – literally. You will be able to view current news, show your support, share important events with other animal lovers, and even help our cats and dogs find their forever families.

One of our primary goals for 2011 is to increase pet adoptions. The Central Texas SPCA is committed to helping over 200 pets find their forever families this year. We can achieve this objective only through the help and generosity of our volunteers and donors. Please help us reach our goal. Here are some ways that you can help:

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1) Join our **Foster Care** program – The more social interaction animals have, the more likely they will get adopted. You can help by fostering one of our pet residents. Fostering will give them the opportunity to become socialized and learn basic manners, which leads to a greater chance of adoption.

2) Participate in our new **Doggie Day Out** program – Help our canine friends with their social skills through our new program. You can take one of our dogs off-premises for an hour or even the whole afternoon. Spending the day at the park? Let one of our furry friends join in the fun. Working on some home improvement projects? Get your shopping done at the Home Depot with a canine companion by your side. They'll love exploring the smells, and they may just get the chance to meet their future pet parents.

These suggestions are just a few of the ways you can get involved with the Central Texas SPCA. To learn more about these – and other — opportunities, contact us at info@centraltexaspc.org.

Thank you for your support.

–Octavia Gibson, 2011 President

We Love Our Volunteers!

About Us at Central Texas SPCA

Our Mission

The Central Texas SPCA, a privately-funded **no-kill** animal shelter, finds forever families for homeless dogs and cats.

Staff

Desiree LaVigne, Shelter Manager
David LaVergne, Senior Cat Caretaker
Sarah Ewing, Dog Caretaker
Celt Chamberlain, Dog Caretaker
Amber Flynn, Dog Caretaker
Andrew Nierenberg, Dog Caretaker

2011 Board of Directors

Octavia Gibson, President
Brian Cunningham, Vice President
Michael Cummings, Treasurer
Michelle Zoeller, Secretary
Laura Cairns, Immediate Past President
Yolanda Frederick
Beth Mandell
Warren Orr

Adoption Dept. Office Hours

Monday & Friday, Noon – 7 pm
Saturday & Sunday, Noon – 5 pm

Contact Information

909 S. Bagdad Road
Leander, Texas 78641
512-260-SPCA (7722)
info@centraltexasSPCA.org
www.centraltexasSPCA.org

Mailing Address

P. O. Box 98
Cedar Park, Texas 78630

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The year started out with several groups coming out to the shelter for various projects. It's been a great start to 2011 to get so many tasks done within the first three months of the year! Special thanks to each of the following groups:

The University of Texas Undergraduate Business Council sent two groups out to the shelter, the first group on February 5 and the second on February 26. The students bathed dogs, socialized and played with several of the shelter dogs and cats, and helped with yard work and general cleaning throughout the shelter. Thanks to everyone in these two hardworking groups.

Another group donated its time and talents to the shelter on March 5. Special thanks go to the high school youth group at Unity Church of the Hills. The students painted awnings and porch steps and pruned the hedges around the shelter property. Their hard work certainly beautified the grounds.

On March 12, we welcomed the Living Dead Youth Group. This group of hard-working students bathed dogs, deep-cleaned the shelter, pulled weeds from the flower beds, helped paint outside shade cabanas, and even repaired a small section of the ceiling in the large-dog room. We truly appreciate the efforts of all the volunteers.

On March 19, several kids and adults from Christ Episcopal Church spent the morning at the shelter completing a variety of volunteer tasks. They pulled weeds, planted spring flowers, walked dogs, and brushed and played with the cats. Our sincere thanks go out to each of them for donating their time and the large number of items from our wish list they donated.

And we can never say thank you enough to our loyal group of regular volunteers. Because they donate their time on a regular basis, we are able to control our payroll expenses while still providing a clean, safe, and loving temporary home for hundreds of animals a year. Those volunteering the most hours in the first quarter **include Sandra Abrams, Beth Cooksey, Traci Cox, Barb Kitamorn, and Dolores Witte**. We hope you know how doggone purrfect you are!



Thank you, volunteers!

Help Us Celebrate 23 Years of Saving Lives!

This year marks the Central Texas SPCA's 23rd year of saving lives in Central Texas. In that time, almost 7,000 animals have been rescued, and our commitment to finding forever families has never waned. We hope you'll join us on May 17 at 6:30 pm as we celebrate our 23rd anniversary with a dinner and silent auction at the Long Center in downtown Austin. Tickets are \$60 per person or \$420 for a table for eight. A portion of your ticket price is tax deductible. The night is sure to be an evening of good food, great deals on wonderful items, and good times with fellow animal lovers from around Austin! Check out our website for more information and to purchase tickets: www.centraltexasspca.org/23rd-anniversary-dinner.html.



Spring Cleaning Garage Sale on May 14

If you're in the neighborhood on May 14, stop by the shelter's not-really-annual Garage Sale. We'll have great bargains on all kinds of items — pet supplies and toys and much more — and every purchase goes directly to support the shelter's adoption program.

The gate will open at 8 am, so get there early for the best selection. We'll stay open until everything is gone or noon, whichever comes first! Shelter dogs will be there to say thanks



Ready for Barktoberfest!

in person. The event will be at the shelter, 909 S. Bagdad Rd., Leander. For information, e-mail us at Volunteer4SPCA@cs.com.

Save the Date! Barktoberfest 2011 Is Coming!

Our 9th annual Barktoberfest will be on Sept.10, 2011. Okay, maybe we should call the event Barktemberfest because this is the third year in a row we've held it in September! But, hey, we didn't want anyone to get confused. It's the same great event you've grown to love over the years. Every year, Barktoberfest gets bigger and better with new additions for your enjoyment and the enjoyment of your four-legged friends. If you're interested in information about being a vendor or sponsor, e-mail us at CentralTexasSPCA@cs.com. Details will be on our website soon, so visit us often at CentralTexasSPCA.org. We hope you'll plan to join us in the Pledge Walk for Homeless Pets and ask all of your family members and friends to support you. There will be great prizes for the top fundraisers, and every penny raised goes straight to our adoption program, which ensures that every dog and cat is spayed or neutered and fully vaccinated before adoption. Come to Barktoberfest on September 10 and help us help homeless pets!

Don't Forget About Me!



Weezer

Weezer

Weezer came to the shelter as a puppy in 2009. He is a very intelligent and independent boy. He is also very curious and likes to be included in everything you do. He is highly treat motivated and does well with his training. Weezer does best with confident dogs. When paired with submissive dogs, Weezer can act like a bit of a bully. The ideal home for Weezer is one with dog-savvy owners who can assume a leadership role, since he needs boundaries. If you're looking for a handsome, intelligent dog, please come to the shelter to meet Weezer.

Minnie

Minnie is 8 years old. She was a puppy at the shelter in 2003 and was adopted quickly, but her family brought her back in 2010 when they adopted a child. Minnie loves attention from people and knows how to sit pretty and roll over. She goes on short walks at the shelter but isn't high energy and seems to prefer her climate-controlled inside crate with soft bedding to long hours outside, especially when it's hot. She was evaluated by a trainer who said Minnie's ideal home is with someone who can help her build confidence through positive reinforcement. Minnie would not be suitable for a home with small children or other dogs. If you're looking for a calm companion, we hope you'll come meet Minnie.



Minnie

PHOTO CREDITS: Weezer, Minnie, Mimi and Mia photos by Nicole Mlakar Photography.

Happy Endings

Living the Good Life

Dear Friends at the Central Texas SPCA,

I'm sorry I haven't written sooner, but I have been busy living the good life in my new home. I remembered that one of the stipulations of being adopted was that I had to send photos! So here are a few that prove I am languishing in the lap of luxury. I have my own window into the yard, and plenty of white furniture to shed on. My new owner confirms that I am the perfect cat, very polite and playful and good at catching bugs.

Please tell everyone at the shelter hello for me, and "hi" to Charlotte, my erstwhile roomie. Thanks again for finding me my "forever home"!

– Shelley (Shelley had been at the CTSPCA for almost four years when she was adopted last summer.)



Update on Mimi and Mini Mi (Now Mimi and Mia)

They have settled into my home very nicely. They play, play, play and are really devoted to one another. I'm so glad that I took both of them as they were meant to be together and I love just to sit and watch them play or groom each other.

Mini Mi/Mia, who you will recall was so small she had to wait until she weighed 3 lbs. to get spayed has grown like a weed. She is still a very tall slim kitty but she has nearly caught up with Mimi. She has also totally come out of her shy shell - she is active, funny, getting more vocal and is developing her own quirks - like running and jumping on the bathroom cabinet so I can draw a little puddle of water in the sink for her to drink.

Mimi is still very sweet and still protective of Mia. Mimi also likes to play with the dog and hide behind the furniture then jump out and chase the dog. The dog loves it. Mimi also loves to take a sunbath. On sunny days, I pull up the blind so sun spots can come onto the floor, and Mimi will lay there as long as there's sun. One day I looked over and both cats and the dog were all snoozing in sun spots.

Thank you for raising such calm well behaved kitties. They are really a big part of my family now.

– Bonnie C

Best Friends Urgently Needed!

Best Friends



Best Friends are critical to us all year, but especially in the spring. Spring means the return of kitten and puppy season. This is the time of year when thousands of unwanted kittens and puppies are born across

the state. No matter how many shelters and rescue groups there are across our communities, there is never enough space for all of them. But we do our very best to take in as many as we can safely and comfortably provide space for, and we need your help to save them.

Oftentimes, kittens and puppies need to be bottle-fed, which is costly. They also are more prone to illness, so our special needs fund is strained. And to ensure we do our part to reduce pet overpopulation, we spay and neuter every puppy and kitten before he or she is adopted. We send the puppies and kittens home fully vaccinated and with a microchip that will provide the best means we know of to reunite them with their families if they are ever separated or lost.

Our Best Friends support our efforts by making a recurring, monthly donation in the amount of their choice. Donations can be changed or stopped at any time. Easy ways to become a Best Friend include setting up a recurring donation through your bank's online bill pay feature or using our Donate Now button online to pay via credit card.

Thanks to Our Partners and Supporters



Special thanks to the Texas Stars Foundation for selecting the Central Texas SPCA as the recipient of funds from their April 3 Chuck A Puck event and to all the volunteers who came out to sell pucks, show off the shelter dogs, and brave the ice to retrieve hundreds of chucked pucks!

Thanks to everyone who voted for the shelter in Austin Pets Directory's 2010 Most Awesome-ist contest. We were so thrilled and proud to be named

Most Awesome-ist Shelter for 2010. We love Austin Pets Directory for all they do for the animals in central Texas.



The Easiest Way to Give

By Jeanette Cacciola, Past President

A few years ago, I stumbled upon a site that donates a portion of my online purchases to the charity of my choice. Of course, that charity is the Central Texas SPCA. The site is iGive.com. I want to share this information with all the shelter's friends and supporters in hopes that all of you will take a few minutes (literally) to check the site out and start supporting the shelter every time you do an Internet search or purchase something online.

How does iGive work? iGive really is as simple as it sounds. iGive members can generate donations by shopping at any of the 800+ stores or by simply using our Internet search engine. There are no costs, obligations, or hidden fees. iGive is a free service to causes and members, and there are great stores like Amazon.com, Apple iTunes, Best Buy, Expedia, Home Depot, Gap, PETCO and PetSmart, Toys "R" Us, and so much more!

For shopping, you don't need to enter any codes, notify the store, or notify iGive. When iGive members shop via our special links (starting at the iGive.com website or the iGive Newsletter or installing the iGive Toolbar Donation Enabled), tracking enables us to identify the purchases of each individual iGive member with an ID number. Causes always receive 100 percent of the donation amount, which is advertised on our website. You can create your own list of favorite stores under My Stores.

You can also raise money for the shelter every time you search using the iGive Web tab! When you use the iGive search engine for Internet searching, your favorite cause receives \$0.01 (or more) per qualified search. The money comes from advertisers, so using iGive is completely free for you and the shelter. Only searches performed with the Web tab selected generate a donation.

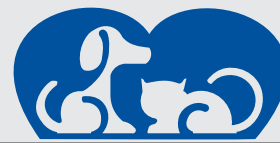
Donation checks are mailed monthly. Every month, the site calculates the funds due your cause based upon

fundraising activities that happened approximately 75 days ago. This time frame allows enough time for returns to be reported and for advertisers to pay us so that they can pay your cause. You can always see how your cause is doing under Cause.

iGive began in 1997, and through word of mouth, has grown to 300,000+ members supporting 50,000+ causes/charities and has raised over \$5 million. I enjoy getting periodic e-mail updates showing how much my online searches and purchases have raised for the shelter and knowing a check is on the way to the CTSPCA. Won't you join me in this easy way to help the shelter save more lives?

Our Wish List

- Unscented clay cat litter
- Milk-Bone dog biscuits (all sizes)
- Paper towels and toilet paper
- Bleach
- 8.5 x 11" white copy paper
- Large kitchen trash bags (unscented w/o draw strings)
- Newspaper (neatly folded)
- Plastic kid-sized swimming pools
- Volunteers!

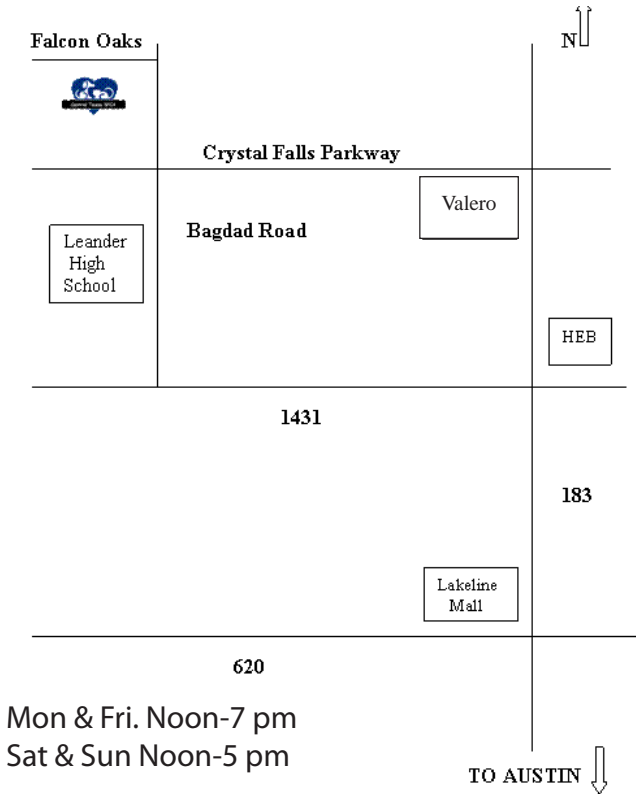


Central Texas SPCA

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Honor Mom with a Donation in Her Name



Does that special mom in your life have everything she needs? Does she love animals? Well, we have a great way to wish her a Happy Mother's Day while helping homeless dogs and cats. Make a donation to the Central Texas SPCA in her name. We'll send her a note letting her know you made a donation honoring her (amount not included). You specify whether you want the note sent by mail or e-mail and let us know what you'd like to tell her. Be sure your donation reaches us by April 30 for mail delivery by May 8.

To donate, go to www.CentralTexasSPCA.org and select Donate and then Advanced Donations, or mail your check with the honoree's name and mailing address, along with your note to her.

www.CentralTexasSPCA.org > **Donate** > **Advanced Donations**