

Georgetown Animal Outreach

A No-Kill ForEver Commitment



Newsletter – February 2019

Thank You, Friends, For 2018!

GAO had a fantastic year saving as many homeless cats and dogs as we could, with the help of our wonderful friends, donors and animal lovers. Our Foster & Adoption programs are still very active, and we are currently fostering for both the Williamson County Regional and Bastrop animal shelters.

In 2018, we helped rescue 66 dogs from local shelters, and found homes for 59 dogs and 10 cats! Our amazing TNR (Trap-Neuter-Rescue) cat group trapped and cared for 70 community cats in Georgetown, and still help manage 48 cats in 11 colonies in town.

But GAO can't do it alone, and we need more volunteers & fosters. If you can't adopt, please foster, and if you can't foster, please donate. Or join us as a volunteer and be a voice for the voiceless and those who cannot help themselves!

The 2019 GAO Board

The board officers for this year are:

President: Dr. Laura Hobgood
Vice President: Jeni Williams
Treasurer: Bruce Turbeville
Secretary: Dr. Brenda Haile

Board members include:
Christina Bennett, Miguel da Cunha, Amy Gelfand, Rebecca LaBeth, Norma Mantz, and Dr. Jimmy Smith.

Monthly Meeting: Come Join Us!

The GAO board meets at 6:00 PM on the first Tuesday of every month at the Georgetown Public Library. The public is welcome!

GAO Spay & Neuter Program

Georgetown Animal Outreach has been providing partly funded spay and neuter services (S/N) to lower income households for the past 19 years. This year we expanded the S/N program to help fund these procedures with only a \$25 co-pay to pet owners in need. In 2018 we sent out 108 S/N certificates for dogs and 72 for cats (180 total). That means that we may have helped to prevent more than 1,200 animals from being born this year alone! The potential impact of this program is all too readily apparent to anyone who has visited a local animal shelter. And even though these shelters continue to be full, over time the S/N program will continue to help prevent more kittens and puppies from being born, and wind up in local shelters.



In Memoriam

In a year with so much hope and joy for us, GAO also lost several of our four-leg friends. Among those who passed over the Rainbow Bridge were dear old Tucker, a long-time pack member of Happy Trails Kennels, and our wonderful community cats, Mel, Little C, Feather, Hart, Jackson, Caspurr, MLK Mom and Steely Dan. Know that you will all be missed.

Farewell to a Crusading Angel

None of the losses that we felt this year can compare with the great sorrow that we share at the passing of our dearest friend, Suzanne Buchanan, an animal rights crusader and among GAO's long-time members. Suzanne (or 'Crazy Red from El Paso', as she called herself) and her husband, Jim, joined the GAO board of directors in 2005, and Suzanne's many contributions to animal rights over the years simply can't be counted. Apart from her work on the board, Suzanne attended hundreds of public adoption events and helped to rehome dozens of dogs. But perhaps her greatest asset was that of a tireless advocate for animal rights, and in particular the sale of puppy-mill litters at local Petland stores. It was her voice that was heard the loudest during local protests against public puppy sales, and the great success of these protests counted among her proudest feats. So farewell, Crazy Red, and take the walk across Rainbow Bridge. And we will miss you every day!

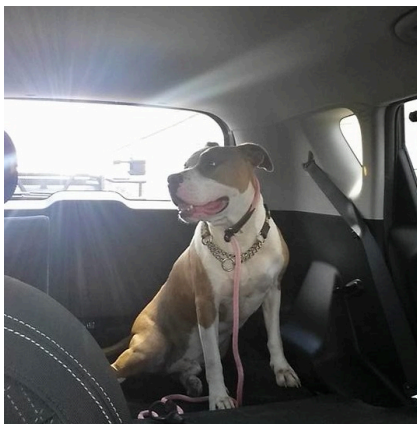


Fundraising and Community

Providing 80% funding for 180 spay/neuter procedures proved to be a costly endeavor for GAO this year. But the generosity of our donors was overwhelming, and we can't thank the community enough for a great fundraising year! Our *Amplify Austin* and *Strut Your Mutt* fundraisers were a great success, and we hope to continue this trend in the coming year. We had some really great events, especially *Wine For Wags* and *Bow Wow Meow*, which were both held at the lovely 'Williams Grove' venue. These events featured live music, food and drink; and it was great fun to get together with fellow pet lovers and share our passion for saving animals. The proceeds from these events provide the bulk of our funding and help maintain our programs through the coming year. So, be sure to check the *Events* section of our Facebook page for exact dates and times of upcoming opportunities.

Dog of the Month: Mojo

What can you say about this big, loveable, squishy guy who loves people, hot dogs and squeaky toys? Yes, we're talking about our long-time, wonderful special-needs boy, Mojo. This is a very special dog who needs the right home and some tender loving care from a good family. Mojo likes his toys, but maybe a little too much, and it is best if he winds up with a solo dog family. He is six years old and weighs about 70 lbs, so he also requires a good handler who understands his breed. But does he ever like kisses! We just hope that the right family comes along.



Community Cats and TNR

You have seen them; cats in the woods, by the river, at the park, behind local stores. You may have wondered if they have homes, or if anyone takes care of them. You go back to look for them, and they seem to have gone; but they are there. These cats live outdoors – they always have and always will; the outdoors is their home. Some folks call them feral and consider them to be just wild animals. But many of these cats lived much of their lives in comfortable homes, with comfortable beds, good food. Then their circumstances changed. And none of it was their fault.



GAO volunteers work tirelessly to help these community cats live a safe and peaceful life, even without the creature comforts of a home. We trap them humanely and provide medical assistance in the form of spaying or neutering, vaccinations, and medical care. Many of them can still be adopted, especially the kittens, but those who cannot are returned to their colonies and will live peacefully as good neighbors in our town.



Their stories are many, and we must continue to commit to the humane treatment of these free-roaming cats. But we need help to manage community cat colonies in the Georgetown area. It is a huge task, with the need for medical services, supplies, shelters and volunteers.

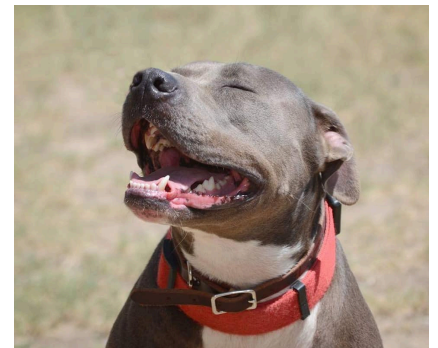
And by working together, we can transform the ways in which our community understands outdoor cats, learns the truth about them, and cares for them. Please support GAO's efforts by donating your time and/or resources!



Become a Foster, Save a Life!

We need foster families to help save dogs and cats of all ages! Even if you already have a pet at home, please help one less fortunate to find a loving home. Foster pets get a chance to socialize, and learn basic commands and house manners. And all approved medical expense for our foster pets are covered by GAO! Foster families just provide basic daily essentials and love for the animals in their care until they are adopted.

If you are interested in becoming a foster family, please contact GAO for more information.



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Contribute on-line at:
www.georgetownanimaloutreach.org

Or check us out on:
Facebook and Instagram!