



Healthy Tails

Issue 1

10/1/2011

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Spay/Houston Expands Transportation Services

Spay/Houston provides transportation to and from the low cost, spay/neuter clinic into several areas of Harris and Montgomery Counties. A van was donated to the clinic a year ago and we have been testing transportation services to and from Conroe. The transport service has become so popular, the clinic has decided to increase the number of transport pick up/drop off locations.

The idea is to make it easier on pet owners to get their pets to and from the clinic and still be able to make it to work and to save on gas. The price of all services are the same for pet owners whether they are using the clinic or the transport. There is just a \$5.00 fee for the ride. The clinic is open to the general public. You do not need to be on public assistance to use it. All pricing, services, and transport schedules are listed on the website: www.SpayHouston.org.

Transportation is provided

to and from the following 6 locations:

- Conroe
- Tomball
- Spring Cypress/Tomball Parkway
- Westpark at Wesleyan
- Town and Country
- Hwy 59 and Aldine Mail Route
- Porter

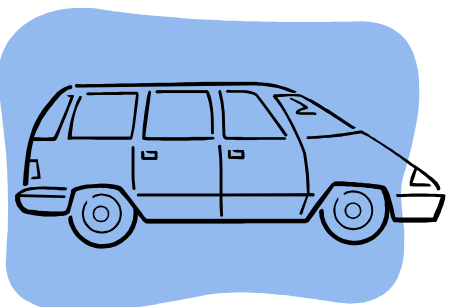
Pets are typically picked up at 6:30am and dropped back off at 4:00pm. Pet owners wishing to use the transport service simply need to call and schedule an appointment (281-260-0015). If room is available, walk-ins for cats are welcome. The van is pre-loaded with kennels by size for dogs, so walk-ins for dogs is usually not possible unless someone does not show for their appointment.

Pets must be in good health. Cats must weigh at least 3 pounds and puppies must be at

least 3 months old. Tame cats need to be in hard sided carriers and feral (wild) cats need to come in traps.

"We hope this service will encourage pet owners to spay and neuter. It can be difficult to get a pet fixed with a busy work schedule since most clinics only perform surgery Monday through Friday," said Deana Sellens, Executive Director. "This service also helps pet owners to avoid fighting traffic and dealing with the high cost of gas."

If you think your community can use a transport to your area, please contact the clinic. Spay/Houston will run the van to your neighborhood if you can get 10 animals on board.



Spay/Houston Calendar

- 10/15: Wellness Clinic at Jed's Hardware
- 10/22 & 10/23: Wellness Clinic at Petfest
- 10/23: Feral Cat Day with the Feral Cat Assistance Program
- 11/12: Wellness Clinic at Kingwood Barktoberfest
- 11/13: Fix a Feline for Free
- 11/19: Wellness Clinic at Jed's Hardware
- 12/11: Feral Cat Day with the Feral Cat Assistance Program
- 12/17: Wellness Clinic at Jed's Hardware
- 2/11: Murder Mystery Dinner and Gala
- 2/28: Nickel Neuter/National Spay Day

TNR Tales: Fitzgerald and the Rat

Anyone who is involved with TNR knows the stories of our great adventures are always colorful. We thought we would share some of the best ones...

One of our Cat Wranglers received an email from a concerned citizen that a cat was hanging out in a parking lot on the side of FM1960 and Champions. The cat reportedly had a terrible injury to its tail.

The trapper showed up to look for the cat and to her surprise the cat was following the email description to the letter.

"At 7:15pm the cat crossed from Jason's Deli into the bushes in the center of the drive way, then crossed over to the next parking lot." It was as if she were in the middle of a Winnie the Pooh story.

Sure enough the cat's tail was seriously injured. Other than the tail, the cat was in great shape for a little stray. He was laying in the middle of the parking lot not at all concerned about the traffic.

The trapper decided to set the trap with fried chicken. The gray tabby watched attentively while the trapper loaded the trap and made a nice little trail up to the pressure plate. *The pressure plate is what the cat steps on to trigger the trap door to close.*

As she left the cat got up, stretched and ambled across to the trap. He carefully cleaned out every bite of the chicken taking

great care not to step on the pressure plate. He then returned to his resting place to watch what the trapper planned next.

Trap Neuter Return is the practice of catching stray and feral cats, having them sterilized and returning them to where they were found.

The same thing happened when the trapper put out the sardines and then again when she put out canned cat food. He cleaned every morsel of food and then laid back down to watch her.

The cat seemed to feel he had watched enough stupid human tricks for one night and decided to make his rounds at the strip center. As each shop closed for business, the cat would check out the dumpsters and under tables. He had Mexican Food, American Deli, Asian Cuisine, and even ice cream.

The trapper patiently followed him down the way. She finally gave up when he seemed to have vanished somehow escaping between bushes and cars.

Just as the trapper was pulling into her subdivision, the security guard for the complex called to tell her that the cat was now asleep in front of the Sleep Number store. Coincidence? Makes you wonder!

By the time the trapper got back, the cat had moved under the bushes right next to FM1960. He stared at the trapper as if to say, "Good grief lady, I got tired of messing with you and hour ago."

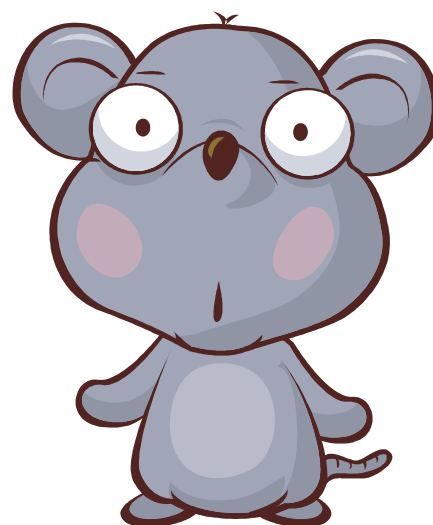
He walked up into the bushes and the trapper set the trap with the

stinkiest tuna fish she could come up with. The cat walked over to the trap and looked it over for a few seconds then dove into the bushes. About a half a minute passed and the cat emerged from the bushes with the biggest rat you've ever seen.

Well friends, in case you did not know, rat trumps tuna. Now the trapper is convinced the cat will never be hungry enough to go into the trap. She couldn't retrieve the trap and go home because the cat had decided to eat the rat with his body half way in the trap. She was afraid if she tried to get the trap, the cat would run into FM1960.

After the cat completely finishes off the rat, he decided to take a nap right where he lay, half in and half out of the trap. His slumber lasted about 45 minutes. The trapper banged her head on the steering wheel of her vehicle as she waited for him. By the way, it is about midnight at that point.

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Meet the Staff

Spay/Houston employs a full time vet, 3 full time techs, a receptionist, the Director, and several part time employees.

Dr. Rajan, DVM has been our primary vet since August 2010. He is a graduate of LSU School of Veterinary Medicine and is licensed by the State of Texas. Dr. Rajan has previously worked at Houston SPCA and SNAP.

His upbeat attitude and the fact that he loves his job makes him a huge asset to the battle against the pet over population in Houston.

He starts the day off with a big

smile and some inspirational words for the staff.

The staff takes their jobs very seriously while maintaining a laid back atmosphere. "We are doing a huge service for the community, so we should be having a great time," explains Dr. Rajan, DVM.

"The Spay/Houston staff believes in treating each animal as if they are our own pets. We focus on educating pet owners about the preventative health care their pets



need," says Sarah the Spay/Houston Prep Tech.

90% of our business is through referrals, so our motto is...

If you loved our service tell 10 people. If you didn't love it, tell us!

Fix a Feline for Free was a Great Success!

Spay/Houston and the Homeless Pet Placement League (HPPL) partnered and provided free spay and neuter services for cats on September 11th. 61 cats were altered for people who were on public assistance. These services were underwritten by a grant from the Petco Foundation to the Homeless Pet Placement League of Houston.

"The day was a huge success and we are hoping to get to do more of this!



Spay and neuter is so important for our community. Cats can have as many as 4 litters per year. Our shelters simply cannot absorb all of these kittens," said Deana Sellens, Executive Director. "Houston is number two in the nation for killing animals in our shelters. We have just got to do better!"

The next Fix a Feline for Free Day will be on November 13th.

How you can help!



out the generous support of the community.

Spay/Houston subsidizes the cost of the surgeries with donations. We could not survive with-

You can still help even if you cannot donate monetarily. We use volunteers at events and at the clinic. We work with several groups who perform Trap Neuter Return on stray kitties. This is both rewarding and challenging.

Spay/Houston also receives cash for recycling. We take paper, ink jet cartridges, and old cell phones.

The thing that helps us most of all is spreading the word! Many people in Houston do not know our clinic is here. Become a fan on Facebook. Print and forward our flyers. Help us get the word out that the clinic is here for everyone!

Thank you for your continued support!



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Adopt A Cat, Inc.

Reggie Says, "Neuter is cuter!"

SpayHouston.org



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The cat finally woke up and sat looking around when suddenly the tuna seemed to catch his nose. He seemed to be thinking that tuna might be a great dessert after 10 restaurants, fried chicken, sardines, cat food, and a rat.

To the trappers disbelief, he actually set the trap off!

Upon examination, the cat's tail was beyond saving so Dr. Rajan gave him a nice little bob tail. He couldn't go back to that parking lot, so he is in sanctuary at one of the Adopt A Cat foster homes. His name is Fitzgerald and he's loving having other kitties to play with!



Adopt A Cat, Inc. is a shelter and sanctuary for cats and kittens. It was created in 1994 by Dr. Beverly Harper, PhD. Many factors went into the decision to create a cat-only, no-kill rescue. At the time of our creation, only one small group of volunteers existed that provided a no-kill alternative for unwanted companion animals.

In keeping with the no-kill model, AAC is a free-roaming cat shelter. Cats and kittens are kept in cages only when newly accepted, ill, or to relieve the stress of shelter

living that some exhibit. There are several colony living areas in which they can move about and find places to perch, sleep, relax, play, eat and perform other needed activities. The facility service as a temporary shelter for those who find permanent homes and a life-long sanctuary for those who do not.

Since its founding, AAC has accepted thousands of cats into the program. Adoptions are held at various Petcos and Petsmart stores.

While there are many small rescue, foster-based and 2-3 small no-kill shelters in the Houston Area, the city remains second in the nation for the number of animals killed in area shelters. As the years pass and new rescue groups emerge, we see no reduction of the number of unwanted cats. For this reason, our 2009 mission became to create a high quality, low cost spay/neuter solution for cats, dogs, and rabbits for the general public in North Houston.



FREE RABIES VACCINATION

With purchase of any spay or neuter surgery.

Offer not valid with any other discount offer.

Spay/Houston

412F N Sam Houston Pkwy E; Houston 77060

Call/visit our website for appointments.

281-260-0015 www.spayhouston.org

Offer expires 10/31/11