

# ANNUAL REPORT

### **LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR**

When I first founded Spay Neuter Network nearly 15 years ago, I never imagined that we would grow to be this large or that we'd be able to help as many pets as we did over the past year! None of this would have been possible without the supporters, volunteers, and employees that have dedicated themselves to improving the lives of pets and I am forever grateful for you.

It's such an exciting time to be part of the animal welfare community! With every passing day, the awareness of our needs, our efforts, and our challenges continue to increase and we have launched some incredibly exciting, impactful programs that are forever changing the landscape of animal welfare. Now more than ever, our goals of ending unnecessary euthanasia and ensuring a healthy community for pets and people are attainable in the near future.

This year has been one of the most eventful in our history. A lot has changed, and I'm confident that these changes are going to make SNN more effective than ever before. For instance, we opened a second clinic in Southern Dallas! In doing so, we have been able to increase our annual surgery number by over 40% -- from just over 17,000 in 2016 to nearly 24,000 in 2017!

We're no longer a small non-profit with a lot of heart and big goals; in 2017, our budget exceeded \$4 million dollars! Yet, despite our big impact and our growing budget, we are still a relatively small staff --we only have 28 full-time employees, which is why our volunteers are so vital and deeply appreciated!

As you read trough our first-ever annual report, I hope that you see just how much of an impact your support has made on the community and gain a better understanding of who we are, what we do, and why our efforts are so critical.

Heading into 2018, I am more excited than ever before about the possibilities that are within our reach. I fully expect 2018 to bring even more innovation and livesaving! I look forward to the role you will play in this crucial progress

Sincerely,

Bonnie H

#### **OUR MISSION**

Spay Neuter Network's mission is to eliminate pet overpopulation through subsidized spay/neuter services, while empowering communities to care responsibly for dogs and cats. This mission is accomplished by offering free and affordable high-volume spay/neuter, wellness and vaccination services for dogs and cats in North Texas.



# **OUR HISTORY**

SNN was founded in 2003 as Kaufman County Animal Awareness Project (KCAAP) to address the needs of pets in rural Kaufman county, just southeast of Dallas. It quickly became clear that the need for our services far exceeded Kaufman and we rapidly grew our service area to assist other rural and low-income urban communities.

Since we opened our doors, we've fixed more than 250,000 pets, vaccinated more than 350,000 animals, and educated more than 500,000 pet owners about responsible pet ownership.

KCAAP started as a group of dedicated volunteers working one day-a-week to alter 40 animals. In 2005, we were able to open our first stationary, high-volume clinic in Crandall operating three days-a-week.

In 2010, we built a new, larger clinic which allowed us to dramatically expand our number of annual surgeries to 17,000 and to offer walk in wellness services five days-a-week. In 2011, we mobilized our first Mobile Animal Surgical Hospital (MASH) unit to take our hospital services to the poorest parts of North Texas. In 2014, SNN was able to purchase our current MASH unit (The Hope Mobile), which is able to house up to 50 animals at a time. The addition of The Hope Mobile allowed us to increase our services in rural communities and Fort Worth.

*Today, SNN alters up to 500 pets each week and altered more than 24,000 pets in 2017!* With your help, we hope to fix more than 30,000 pets in 2018!



### WHO WE ARE

We are the spay/neuter specialists. Spay Neuter Network (SNN) is nationally recognized for its expertise in high-quality, high-volume spay/neuter services. Each year we conduct more free spay/neuter surgeries than any other organization in North Texas, allowing us to prevent the birth of hundreds of thousands of unwanted pets annually and helping to end pet overpopulation and unnecessary euthanasia in our community.

We offer high-quality services at free or affordable rates to low-income and impoverished families across North Texas. As a non-profit clinic, we are able to make our care attainable to these families thanks to support from foundations and individual donors. In fact, we charge our clients less than the cost of each service we provide and fund the remaining portion through generous donations. In 2017, the average out-of-pocket cost to clients for a cat surgery was \$41 and the average for a dog surgery was only \$61.50!

**We use highly skilled, private practice veterinary surgeons** to complete 100% of our surgeries. Our amazing veterinarians contract with us for a few days-a-week to supplement their normal veterinary practice because they support our mission. As a result, our clients receive the same quality care they would at a private veterinary clinic for a fraction of the cost.

**We have a very low rate of surgical complications** thanks to our highly specialized medical team and cutting edge industry best practices. Our streamlined processes and expertise allow each of our surgeons to fix between 30-50 animals in a single day while still providing them with top-notch care.

### WHO WE SERVE

SNN focuses our efforts on helping those with the greatest need — impoverished and low-income pets in veterinary deserts (areas with limited access to veterinary care).

We believe that all pets deserve quality medical care regardless of their owners ability to pay, which is why we offer free and affordable, high quality services. Most residents in the communities we serve can't afford spay/neuter surgeries for their dogs and cats and as a result, their pets continue reproducing and contributing to our pet overpopulation problem. We do not cut corners or skimp on services to save money – donations from generous foundations and animal lovers like you allow us to offer these lifesaving services to the pet owner.

SNN serves 13 counties and more than 1,300,000 residents in North Texas with an emphasis on Fort Worth, Dallas, and rural communities surrounding the DFW-Metroplex. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the annual income threshold for poverty is \$12,082 for an individual and \$24,036 for a family of four; on average, 31.5% of our clients make less than \$15,000 a year with another 29.5% making under \$35,000 annually.

We operate on the principle that people will do the right thing for their pet if we work to:

- 1. Make it affordable.
- 2. Make it accessible.
- 3. Educate owners of the tragic results of pet overpopulation, but also the life-saving health benefits of spaying and neutering their pets.

Our success over the last 14 years proves this philosophy to be true.





### UP TO **87%** OF PETS IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES ARE IN TACT



# **NORTH TEXAS' PET CRISIS**

North Texas is in a state of crisis. Our shelters are flooded with homeless animals, our streets are full of roaming dogs and intact cats, and most of our population is unvaccinated and susceptible to rabies.

That's why SNN's focus is not only to end unnecessary shelter euthanasia, but also to make our community a safer, healthier place for both animals and people.

Nationwide, the number of animals euthanized each year is decreasing dramatically; the ASPCA estimates it has decreased from 2.6 million in 2011 to 1.5 million in 2017. But here in North Texas, despite the hard work of hundreds of animal groups, there is still a long way to go. Why? Well, the first reason is very clear -- a lack of education and resources.

Our staff routinely interacts with pet owners who have never heard of spay or neuter or who have misconceptions or misplaced fears about the procedures. Still others believe that their pets can't get pregnant until they're 6 months or a year-old, when in fact pets can begin reproducing as early as 4 months. This is why our community outreach and humane education efforts are critical -- without education and access to resources, pets inevitable breed.

For pet owners that are educated, the reasons get more complex. Common reasons include lack of money, transportation, or time. That's why SNN continues to be a pioneer, creating new programs designed to remove those barriers and make spay/neuter accessible to all pet owners.

But don't get discouraged! Together, through education and spay/neuter, we can transform North Texas into a place where all healthy, adoptable pets find homes.

### **TEDDY AND ROSA'S STORY**

Confusion and sadness - those were the first things Teddy felt when he was abandoned by his family. Alone and scared, Teddy roamed the streets looking for food and longing for human contact, but everything seemed hopeless - until he met Rosa.

Rosa is a devoted animal lover who lives in a Southern Dallas neighborhood full of loose and abandoned dogs. Once her neighbors noticed that she was trying to rescue the homeless dogs passing her property, dogs began being dumped directly into her yard. Rosa worked hard to provide each of the dogs with proper care and to find them a new home, but she was becoming overwhelmed, especially when the females went into heat.

That's when Rosa met Jay, our Director of Community Outreach, who explained that SNN was offering free spay/neuter surgeries, microchips, and vaccinations for dogs in her area. Rosa shared her story and introduced him to the five dogs, including Teddy, that were currently in her care, all who were in desperate need of our services. Jay immediately booked appointments for all the dogs at our Dallas Clinic and even scheduled a special transport to take the dogs to and from the clinic.

Together, Rosa and SNN continue to save helpless dogs from the streets and prepare them for wonderful new homes! In fact, Rosa has become one of our most dedicated advocates and volunteers, helping to spread awareness of our services and improve the lives of pets in her community.



### OUR 2017 IMPACT

# 23,728 PETS SPAYED/NEUTERED

### **33,164** PETS HELPED

**38,771** VACCINES ADMINISTERED

# **13,081** MICROCHIPS INSERTED

### OUR 2017 IMPACT



18,037 **PET PARENTS SERVED** 2,848 FERAL CATS FIXED 6,610 **PETS TRANSPORTED** FOR SURGERY

8,869 DOORS KNOCKED



## **SOUTHERN DALLAS EFFORTS**

Free roaming dogs have been a problem in Southern Dallas for years, but in 2016, the loose dog epidemic resulted in the tragic mauling death of Ms. Antoinette Brown. Suddenly, the loose dog epidemic and the plight of Southern Dallas families became main stream news; images of parents carrying sticks to protect their children from roaming dogs flooded news reports.

Aware of the challenges facing this community, SNN has been working to spay/neuter pets in these Southern Dallas neighborhoods for more than six years; however, it is still estimated that less than 50% of dogs in the area have been altered. Why is that important? **Unaltered dogs are responsible for 85% of dog bites and are more likely to roam from their homes in search of a mate.** These statistics made it clear to the animal welfare community that a large scale solution needed to be implemented-- and fast!

To address the problem, the City of Dallas joined forces with SNN, and several other local groups to create a program that focuses on 23 high-risk Southern Dallas zip codes and provides pets in these areas with free spay/neuter surgery, microchipping, and vaccinations. In order to accommodate the area's need, SNN opened our first Dallas clinic in March at the intersection of Buckner Blvd. and Burton Rd.

In the first 9 months of the project, SNN is thrilled to share that we were able to **alter 7,544 pets at no cost to their owners**! We plan to fix more than 10,000 pets in 2018.

### **FIXING FORT WORTH PETS**

Thanks to the addition of our 40ft Mobile Animal Surgical Hospital (MASH), the Hope Mobile, in 2013, SNN has been able to have a dramatic impact on the lives of pets in the highest need areas of Fort Worth.

Through our Fort Worth Takin' it to the Streets Program, SNN fixed 4,181 pets like Piper (pictured right) in 2017 for free! Since the program launched, we've altered 15,487 animals, preventing countless puppies and kittens from being born into homelessness. Each of the pets that participates in our Fort Worth Takin' it to the Streets Program receives spay/neuter surgery, microchip, and rabies shot at no cost. During their visit, we also offer other reduced-cost vaccines, heartworm and FeLV testing, and parasite preventatives.

### **MOBILE CLINICS**

One of the primary reasons pet owners don't alter their pets is that don't have access to affordable veterinary care. That's why SNN brings quality, affordable care directly to them with our MASH. Four days-a-week, our MASH is on the road to a community in need in North Texas, where they alter up to 50 dogs and cats in a single day! We hold these clinics in the parking lots of local business partners, providing clients with easy access to our services.

Interested in making a difference for a high need community? Consider sponsoring a SNN Day of Hope and you'll directly fund a MASH clinic that offers up to 50 free surgeries! Visit www.spayneuternet.org for more information!









## **EDUCATING VET STUDENTS**

A better future for animals requires an increased number of veterinarians trained in high-quality, high volume spay neuter and animal shelter medicine. We are proud to have joined forces with Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences to develop the first animal welfare focused externship program in the state: the **Texas A&M Community Medicine Externship Program.** 

This exciting program provides veterinary students the opportunity to gain first hand knowledge and experience in community and shelter medicine. Each student learns lifesaving, efficient techniques from our experienced veterinarians preparing them for a future in animal welfare. With their help, we can be even more effective in our battle against euthanasia!

### **DISASTER RESPONSE**

Texans are no strangers to disaster and neither is SNN; we are always ready to deploy to assist animals in need. In May, SNN's MASH and veterinary team responded to the Canton tornado, treating 20 animals that were injured by the storm at no cost to their owners.

In September, we sent two separate teams to the Houston-area in response to Hurricane Harvey. Our staff provided medical support to local shelters, transported supplies to shelters and food banks, and even transported an adoptable dog to a Dallas-based rescue group to make room for incoming storm animals.

### **DONOR SPOTLIGHT**

Aimee's involvement with Spay Neuter Network all started when she discovered that an outdoor cat (later named Mr. Kitty) had been abandoned on her property. As educated and responsible pet owners, she and her husband knew they needed to get him fixed as soon as possible to prevent him from fathering kittens.

Aimee began looking for local groups that offered spay/neuter services and discovered SNN on Facebook; she immediately began to research the organization. "I reviewed their website and tax returns; I was very impressed with how efficiently the organization uses its money," Aimee said.

They brought Mr. Kitty to the Spay Neuter Network Southern Dallas clinic to have him fixed and microchipped. After her experience at the SNN clinic, Aimee decided to make a donation to support our mission during the Christmas season. "The experience at SNN motivated me to donate. I was so impressed with their service, kindness and professionalism," she said.

Spay Neuter Network's mission is important to me because their goal is attacking the root of the animal overpopulation problem in North Texas and is saving the lives of thousands of cats and dogs through prevention. This is an amazing organization and everyone I have met from SNN is so committed. - Aimee

After her gift, Aimee decided to begin volunteering with SNN and has since served on the planning committee for the SNN Bone Hunt and assisted at community vaccine clinics! SNN is thrilled to have the support animal lovers like Aimee helping us achieve our mission -- our work simply wouldn't be possible without their passion and assistance!





# **DOOR-TO-DOOR EDUCATION**

In North Texas, the leading reason pets remain in tact is a lack of education and resources. That's why SNN's Community Outreach Team and Spay Squad (volunteer team) play such a critical role in the success of our mission.

In 2017, SNN focused the majority of our outreach efforts on the 23 Southern Dallas zip codes serviced by our SAVE Dallas Project. Utilizing our team of 3 Spay Squad Coordinators and dozens of volunteers, SNN was able to knock on 8,869 of doors to talk to residents about the importance of spay/neuter and provide information on our free services.

In addition to their door-to-door efforts, the Spay Squad also sets up booths at community events and local businesses; develops partnerships with local churches, food pantries and community organizations; and places fliers in local laundromats and apartment complexes.

During their talks with members of community, the Spay Squad's primary goals is to provide **non-judgmental education** on all aspects of responsible pet ownership and help pet owners overcome their unique hurdles to spay/neuter and vaccination. In some cases, this means that a Spay Squad Coordinator will help a home owner trap feral cats or coordinate a special animal transport from a home with a large number of pets directly to our clinic; other times this means providing pet owners with a free collar and leash so that their dog can go outside safely or dropping off pet food to an owner who is facing an unusually difficult period. Everything they do is designed to support the community, build trust, and encourage a healthy life for both pets and the people who love them!

# FIXING COMMUNITY CATS

Feral and community cats are one of the leading contributors to feline overpopulation, but thanks to a process called Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), we can prevent feral cats from reproducing, decrease their nuisance behaviors like marking, fighting, and yowling, and stabilize the cat population in our communities. TNR involves the humane trapping of feral cats who are then brought to SNN where they are altered, vaccinated, and ear-tipped (for easy identification as an altered cat) and then released back to where they were found to live a healthier life without reproducing. SNN offers \$20 feral cat surgeries year-round and fixed 2,848 in 2017! Interested in helping to end feline overpopulation and improve the lives of cats in our community? Contact us about feral cat surgical sponsorship opportunities!

### **SUPPORTING SHELTERS**

Almost all of the animal shelters and rescue groups in North Texas now require an animal be fixed prior to going home with an adopter because this policy has proven to be crucial in the battle against overpopulation. However, not all shelters and rescue groups have the capacity to alter 100% of the animals in their care, especially during "kitten season" and in preparation for large adoption events such as Clear the Shelters.

That's where SNN comes in! We partner with more than 35 local animal groups help ensure that all of the animals in their care are fixed before they start their new lives! In 2017, we fixed more than 3,600 pets for local animal groups at low-rates.





### **OTHER PROGRAMS**



#### **VACCINE CLINICS**

Wellness services, which include vaccinations, mircochipping, testing, and parasite preventative medications, are a critical component in responsible pet care. Yet, anyone who has ever owned a pet knows that these services can be costly. SNN's goal is the ensure that all pet owners can provide their pet with the basic veterinary care, which is why we offer affordable wellness services daily at our clinics (including MASH clinics) and hold pop up vaccine clinics in high-need neighborhoods.



#### **MICROCHIP CLINICS**

In June 2017 the City of Dallas passed a new ordinance replacing the ineffective pet licensing program with a microchip requirement for all pets within the city limits. Microchips are the single most effective way to ensure that a lost pet is reunited with its owner, however, we realize that impoverished pet owners may struggle to pay for a chip. To assist pet owners, we are working to offer 5,000 free microchips to Dallas residents in need.



#### **HEARTWORM TESTING**

Texas currently has the 4th highest rate of canine heartworm infection in the country! Spread from dog to dog by mosquitoes, heartworms can result in heart failure and death if left untreated; treatment itself is costly and difficult on the dog. That's why prevention is key. Yet many pet owners are unaware of the dangers of heartworms. To assist pet owners, SNN provides heartworm education, offers \$20 tests and sells preventative for as little as \$35 a year!



#### **EDUCATION EFFORTS**

In order to create permanent cultural change, it is crucial that we educate future generations about compassion, responsible pet care, and pet safety. That's why SNN is developing the first-ever comprehensive humane education program offered to Dallas and Fort Worth ISD's. This innovative program will provide more than 30,0000 elementary school students in key areas with the knowledge and skills they need to be wonderful, caring pet owners and to avoid dog bites. The program will launch in August 2018.



#### **COMMUNITY CAT RETURN-TO-FIELD**

Traditionally, when feral and free-roaming cats entered Dallas Animal Services (DAS), they were euthanized because they're not adoptable. That changed in 2013 when SNN and DAS launched our Return-to-Field Program. The program fixes, chips, and vaccinates these cats, then releases them back to where they were found to live out their lives without breeding. In doing so, we also eliminate many of the nuisance behaviors that annoy residents, which helps our community live in harmony! Since 2013, we've saved more than 2,400 cats!



#### **ANIMAL TRANSPORTS**

For many low-income pet owners, transporting their pets to/from our clinic is a challenge. Pets are not allowed on public transport and many families have one shared car that must be used to transport kids to school and parents to work. That's why we started our animal transport program. Our drivers pick pets up at a location within their neighborhood and drive them to our clinic for surgery, then return them at the end of the day. This program helped us to spay/neuter an additional 6,610 pets this year!



### **HELPING HANDS**

With only 28 paid staff, SNN relies heavily on the support of animal loving volunteers in our community! Without our dedicated volunteers, we would not be able to fix more than 24,000 pets annually!

SNN's amazing volunteers assist with all aspects of our organization. They ensure we have clean laundry and surgical instruments, go door-to-door with staff to educate pet owners, monitor animals as they wake from anesthesia, help customers at our vaccine and microchip clinics, assist at fundraising events, translate conversations into Spanish, and much more. Whether they've been with us since we were a tiny non-profit start up or just joined our ranks this year, our volunteers are some of our biggest advocates.

Even when they're not "on duty" they're always ready to educate their friends, family, co-workers and acquaintances about spay/neuter and how SNN can help. They go the extra mile to help make our vision of a North Texas that's safe for all pets a reality and we are endlessly grateful for their assistance.

This year, we had volunteers donate more than 1,145 hours of their valuable time!

As we continue to grow, our need for assistance grows as well. If you're interested in volunteering SNN, please visit our website -- we'd love to have you!

### **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT**

Resa has always adored animals. That's why, when Katrina hit New Orleans, Resa knew she had get involed and help rescue the dogs and cats affected by the brutal storm. That trip changed Resa's life -- ever since, she has been a dedicated volunteer to a variety of animal groups.

Resa has always been an advocate for spay and neuter, but the more she worked in overcrowded animal shelters and participated in hoarding and puppy mill cases with RedRover Responders, the more she realized just how critical spay/neuter truly is.

Spay and neuter is the absolute answer to euthanasia in shelters; we will never adopt our way out of the problem. I strongly recommend anyone who is interested in animals to volunteer with SNN, I feel it's the most important thing you can do to help. - Resa

That's why she got involved with Spay Neuter Network in 2013. She admits that at first she was skeptical about our ability to offer high-quality services for free, but after meeting with our team she was "really comfortable about jumping in with both feet."

Since joining our Spay Squad, Resa has done boots on the ground community outreach, assisted at vaccination clinics, and helped with fundraising events. She loves being able to talk to pet owners in need of humane education because she recognizes that SNN is about helping the community -- not just the animals, but the people, too.

I made mistakes with my animals in the past, not knowing that I wasn't doing the right thing, so when I can help someone be a better pet parent, that makes me feel good. - Resa





### **LOOKING FORWARD**

In order to get ahead of pet overpopulation to achieve our goal of ending unnecessary euthanasia in North Texas, it is critical that SNN continue to grow and expand. That's why SNN's leadership team and Board of Directors is focused on strategic planning, innovative partnerships, and sustainable growth.

One of the efforts that our team has been working on for years is about to come to fruition: the SNN North Texas Education Initiative. This program is the first of its kind and will educate more than 30,000 students annually in low-income areas of Dallas and Fort Worth about responsible pet ownership, compassion, and pet safety. Another exciting new project, the Community Cat Craze, focuses on addressing the most common causes of feline overpopulation, including juvenile pregnancy and intact feral cats. We're also preparing to launch a widespread spay/neuter awareness and branding campaign!

In addition to thinking outside the box to launch new programs that address areas of concern, we are also constantly working to improve our efficacy in our current efforts. That's why in the near future, we hope to open a third stationary clinic, which would allow us to alter an additional 10,000 animals per year! For information on how you can help make this clinic a reality, please reach out to our Director of Development at (214) 549-6588.

The lifesaving work by SNN is only possible because of the support of animal lovers like you! We receive no government grants; in fact, 58% of our annual budget comes from foundation grants and the donations of individuals. When you support SNN, you're supporting not only our proven core programs, but our innovative, transformative efforts!

### **OUR FINANCIALS**

We pride ourselves on being responsible stewards of your contributions and providing transparency to our community. As such, our three most recent financial audits and IRS form 990s are available to any interested party on our website at all times.

SNN receives no government grants and as we serve low-income and impoverished pet owners, only a small portion of our revenue comes from service fees. In fact, even pet owners who pay for services only pay a fraction of their procedure's or product's cost. We rely on the generosity of foundations and individuals to help offset the cost of our services and keep our doors open. When you donate to SNN, more than 84% of your donation goes straight to assist animals in need while the remaining helps keep our organization running and expanding to save more lives!

Your support directly impacts the lives of pets in need - please make a tax-deductible donation today at <u>www.spayneuternet.org</u>!



#### In 2017, Spay Neuter Network received support from:



DJ&T Foundation Helen D. and R.E. Wallace Fund JL Williams Foundation Robert & Pearl Knox Charitable Foundation The Stemmons Foundation William E. Dean III Charitable Foundation ... and generous animal lovers like you!

Spay Neuter Network has achieved Guide Star's highest rating. Donate with confidence at <u>www.spayneuternet.org</u>.



# **OUR TEAM**

#### **MANAGEMENT TEAM**

Bonnie Hill, Executive Director Jay Acosta, Community Outreach Director Jacob Carty, Communications and Marketing Director Jennifer Chavez, Operations Director Whitney Hanson, Director of Fund Development Susan Whiteley, Director of Finance & IT VORK

### **2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Carol Shiels, President Mark Rogers, Treasurer Bonnie Hill, Founder Annette Copeland, Esq. Jennifer Lavender, DVM Josephine Durkin Bill Karraker, CPA

### **OTHER STAFF**

Spay Neuter Network is incredibly grateful for the 28 hard-working, full-time staff and more than 60 dedicated volunteers that enable us to accomplish our critical mission!

### **CONTACT US**

### DONATE

**VETWORK** 

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### SOUTHERN DALLAS CLINIC 2223 S. Buckner Blvd., Suite 203, Dallas, TX 75227



# Helping communities care fore pets since 2003.