

— FALL 2024 —

Tails of Hope

STORIES OF LIVES SAVED THROUGH YOUR HEARTFELT SUPPORT



Celebrating 100 Years of the Houston SPCA and Friends Like You Who've Made It Possible

From humble beginnings in 1924 to becoming one of the nation's leading animal welfare organizations, the Houston SPCA has spent a century championing the cause of animals in need. As we mark this 100-year milestone, we know it's friends like you who can be proud of this journey — defined by dedication, lives saved, and a community united in its love for animals.

The Houston SPCA was born from the vision of a small group of community leaders who recognized the critical needs of animals in the Houston region. What started as a modest operation run by volunteers has blossomed into a state-of-the-art, 12-acre campus, offering a wide range of services, including adoption, rescue and rehabilitation, cruelty investigations, community outreach and education, and more.

You've played a crucial role in writing our century-long story of compassion.

Over the decades, the Houston SPCA has adapted to meet evolving challenges. From providing emergency shelter during natural disasters to pioneering innovative medical treatments, donors like you have consistently risen to the occasion. Along the way, we've expanded our reach beyond domestic pets to include farm animals, exotic species, and native wildlife, embodying our commitment to all creatures, great and small.



Your generous support powers hope for all animals.

Through it all, donor generosity has been the heartbeat of our organization, enabling us to save countless lives, upgrade our facilities, and launch groundbreaking programs. Every time you've supported our work, you've played a crucial role in writing our century-long story of compassion.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to our founding principles while embracing new opportunities to make a difference. The challenges facing animals may change, but our resolve to protect and advocate for them never does.

Thank you for being an important part of this incredible journey. Your kindness has transformed the lives of millions of animals and shaped the Houston SPCA into the "voice for the voiceless" it is today. Here's to another century of creating a more humane world for all animals. 🐾

Also Inside!

A Fun Relic From the Past! Meet Freckles, the hardworking office assistant!
Rescue Timeline: Here's how friends like you made history.

100 Years Strong:
**Your Support
Strengthens
a Century of
Animal Care**



Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we mark the Houston SPCA's centennial, I'm grateful for the incredible journey we've shared. Since 1924, our mission to promote the welfare and humane treatment of all animals has remained steadfast.

Over the past century, we've rescued, rehabilitated, and rehomed over one million animals. This achievement is a testament to the tremendous support from our volunteers, staff, and you. Thank you for sharing our vision of a world where every animal is treated with kindness and respect.

From establishing Houston's first Animal Rescue Ambulance to leading operations during natural disasters, we've been at the forefront of animal advocacy. Our state-of-the-art campus, launched in 2018, stands as a beacon of light where thousands of animals receive the care and love they need to thrive.

Throughout our history, we've faced numerous challenges, but with your support, we've continuously expanded our reach and impact. Your contributions have not only saved lives but also fostered a culture of empathy and responsibility toward animals in our community.

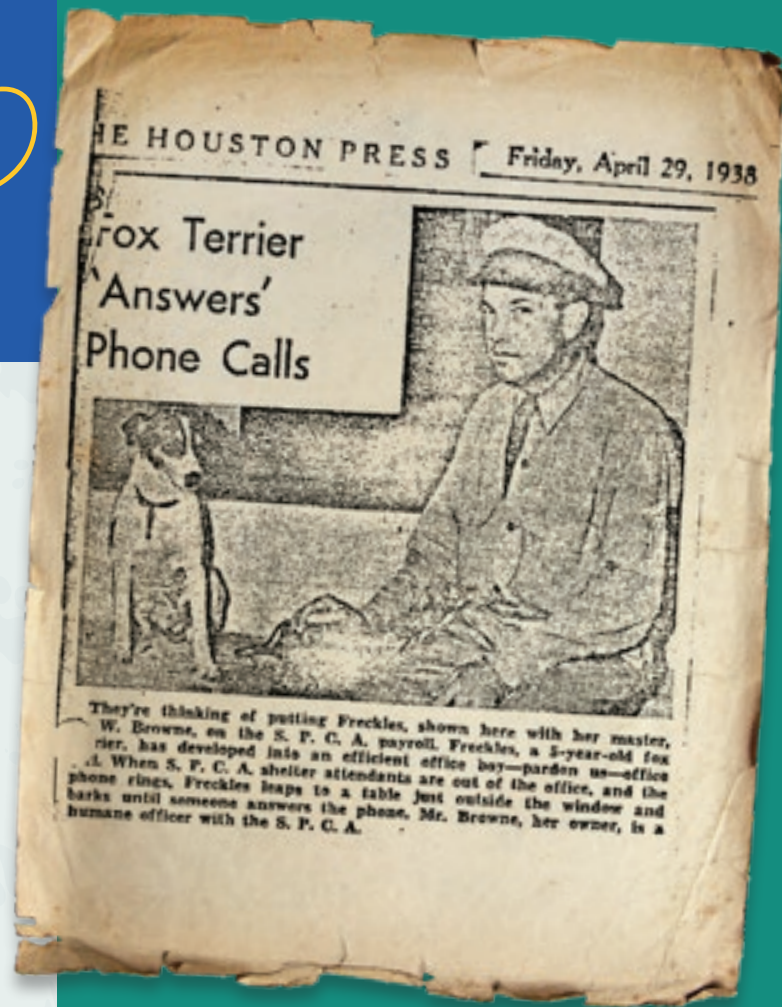
As we look to the future, we remain committed to advancing our mission with renewed dedication. We will continue to champion animal welfare, advocate for stronger protections, and educate our community about the importance of humane treatment.

Thank you again for being an integral part of our journey. Your support, whether through donations, volunteering, or advocacy, has made a profound difference in countless animals' lives. Together, we will forge ahead, creating a brighter, more compassionate future for all.

Here's to another century of creating a more humane world for all animals.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Patricia E. Mercer
President & CEO



Meet Freckles, a dog who took her job in the office very seriously!

A Fun Peek at Our **History!**

We had to share this 1938 news clipping about Freckles, the dog who made sure every call was answered by jumping onto a table and barking when someone rang the Houston SPCA! Good girl, Freckles!

While our methods have evolved — from horse-drawn wagons to state-of-the-art ambulances — our dedication to animal welfare remains the same. Thanks to generous supporters like you, we've adapted and grown over the past 100 years, always staying true to our mission of compassion and care for animals in need. 🐾

How Friends Like You Continue to Make History

Caring supporters like you have made our work possible every step of the way.



On The Butler steps, left to right: Mrs. D. E. Johnson, Mrs. George Taylor, Mrs. Grand Lefebvre, Mr. Lefebvre and Ben Weston.

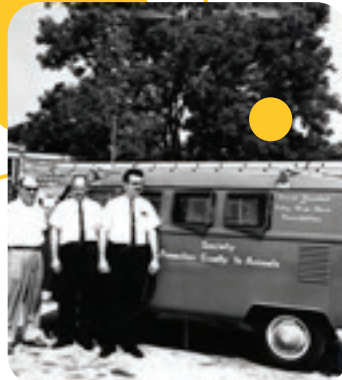
Founding in 1924

The Houston SPCA was established by a group of community leaders — and dedicated animal lovers — to address the critical needs of animals in the community.



Launch of the Animal Cruelty Investigations team (1930-1940)

Our team formed to address urgent needs in our community and got to work rescuing cats, dogs, and horses from cruelty. Thanks to donor contributions, we rescued countless animals from abuse and neglect, leading the way in animal welfare in our region.



Creation of 24/7 Animal Rescue Ambulance Service (1960s)

Donor support paved the way for the city's first dedicated animal ambulance service. This mobile unit has provided round-the-clock rapid response and on-site care for animals in emergency situations across the Greater Houston Area.



Opening of the First Dedicated Animal Shelter (1950s)

Thanks to generous donations, the Houston SPCA opened its first purpose-built animal shelter. This milestone greatly expanded our capacity to care for animals and marked a new era of growth.

Establishment of the Houston SPCA's Wildlife Center of Texas (2007)

With financial backing from supporters, the Houston SPCA expanded its mission to include native wildlife. This center has provided care and rehabilitation for thousands of injured or orphaned wild animals — more than 360 species!



Construction of Our State-of-the-Art Campus (2018)

A major fundraising campaign, powered by donor generosity, allowed for constructing a modern, comprehensive animal care campus. This eight-building, 12-acre facility dramatically improved the Houston SPCA's ability to serve animals and the community.

Looking Toward a Bright Future (2024 and Beyond)

As we celebrate 100 years, your continued support ensures we'll be here for the next century — ready to face whatever challenges come our way.





Build Me Up Buttercup: A Rescue Story

The news was shocking. "A local man faces felony animal cruelty charges after being caught on camera abusing a puppy in a northwest Houston cell phone store."

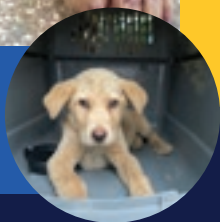
A cruelty report was filed, and we partnered with Harris County Constable Precinct 1 to rescue the pup: Buttercup.

While Buttercup didn't sustain significant injuries, Dr. Westbrook, our chief animal welfare officer, warned that continued abuse could have led to severe harm or death. Meanwhile, the suspect awaits arraignment and could face jail time and fines for his actions.

This case highlights the ongoing need to combat animal cruelty in our region. Countless animals still suffer unreported abuse daily. We must intensify efforts to educate the public, strengthen protection laws, and improve cruelty reporting systems.

Your support is crucial in rescuing animals like Buttercup and working toward a cruelty-free future. Together, we can build a community that values and protects all animals from abuse and neglect. 🌱

Once a victim of cruelty, Buttercup is now safe and thriving thanks to your generosity.



Wildlife Center Responds to Storm Crisis

After a big storm hit Houston in May and then Hurricane Beryl impacted the city in July, more than 2,000 native wildlife were left orphaned or injured in the Greater Houston Area. But thanks to the generous support of our donors, our Wildlife Center sprang into action, providing critical care to a variety of wildlife, including songbirds, raptors, yellow-crowned night herons, and even a bald eagle.

Your donations allow us to offer immediate response and specialized care in times of crisis. Our dedicated team works tirelessly to rehabilitate these animals and release them back into their natural habitats once they recover.

No matter the size, every contribution helps us save lives and protect local wildlife. Thank you for being a crucial part of our mission to care for all animals. 🌱



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Yes, Houston SPCA can contact me via text messages.

Please call (713) 869-7722, ext. 500 or email donorsupport@houstonspca.org to update your communication preferences.

Please send me information on:

- Including the Houston SPCA in my will
- Planning for my pet in the event of my incapacitation
- Purchasing an Engraved Brick on the Houston SPCA campus
- Donating my vehicle

This gift is in Memory or Honor of:

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