

— SPRING 2026 —

# Tails of Hope

2025 Impact Report Edition



## Luka Was Shot. You Helped Him Live.

When our Animal Cruelty Investigation team arrived at an apartment complex, the scene was almost too much to take in. Six dogs in danger. Two of them shot. One of them was Luka, a young Labrador Retriever Poodle mix who had been trying to survive with a devastating wound while fear and confusion swirled around him. Someone had harmed him in the most senseless way. Still, Luka looked for help and a person who would care.

Thanks to you, help arrived.

Our team rushed the dogs to the Houston SPCA, where our team moved quickly to save Luka's life. The limb with the gunshot wound could not be repaired, so our veterinary team removed it to relieve his pain and give him a chance at healing. Through it all, Luka accepted every gentle touch. He basked in every moment of compassion as if it were a gift he had been waiting for his whole life.

### Thank you for saving vulnerable lives like Luka's.

With time, expert medical care, and patient affection, Luka began to blossom. He learned that people can be trusted. He discovered that he loves to play fetch and chased joyfully after toys. Staff and volunteers fell for him.

When he was finally strong and confident again, Luka got the one thing he wanted most. He was ready



*You gave Luka the gentle care and love he'd waited for his whole life.*

for adoption. Today he is treasured in a home where he'll never suffer from cruelty again.

There is no excuse for animal abuse. Thank you for standing with every animal who needs protection, safety, and a second chance at life. **Your compassion and gifts to the Houston SPCA saved Luka, and so many animals like him.** 🐾



### Also Inside!

**A Pregnant Mom in Need:** You helped Princess fight for two lives.  
**Impact Report:** Take a look inside at your lifesaving impact in 2025.

# With Your Support, No Challenge Is Too Great

Dear Friends,

As we move into spring, I'm reminded that progress ... real, meaningful progress ... is built day by day. Quietly. Relentlessly. Always with purpose.

In 2025, the Houston SPCA continued to stand at the center of animal protection in our region, responding where the need was greatest and the circumstances were often most challenging. Thanks to your support, tens of thousands of animals received care through our programs; animals rescued from cruelty and neglect, injured wildlife given a second chance, and vulnerable pets placed into safe, loving homes.

Behind every number is a moment that mattered. A dog receiving lifesaving surgery. A horse finally knowing consistent care. A wild bird returning to the sky after weeks of rehabilitation.

These outcomes don't happen by chance. They happen because you believe that animals deserve protection, dignity, and compassion, without exception.

This past year also reinforced something we know to be true: our work is growing more complex. The scope of cruelty investigations continues to expand. Wildlife admissions remain at record levels. Veterinary care is more advanced, and more resource-intensive, than ever before. Meeting these demands requires skilled professionals, specialized facilities, and the ability to act immediately when animals are in crisis.

Because of you, we can.

As you review this impact report, I hope you see more than statistics. I hope you see evidence of lives changed, suffering prevented, and futures restored. Your support is not just appreciated, it is essential.

On behalf of the animals who cannot thank you themselves, and the staff who carry out this mission every day, thank you for standing with the Houston SPCA. Together, we are making a difference that truly lasts.



With gratitude,

Patricia E. Mercer  
President & CEO

# 2025 BY THE NUMBERS

**62,587**

Total Animals

**Helped**



**6,732** Surgeries Performed

**17,275** Wild Animals  
Brought in for Care



**9,248**

Animals Adopted into New Homes

**5,561** Reports  
of Cruelty Investigated

**124,066** Miles Driven  
by Investigators



**1,767**  
**Pets Fostered**

**199,623** Miles Driven  
by Animal Ambulance

**11,621** Injured Animal  
Ambulance Calls



Volunteer Hours **50,246**

Calls Answered by our Call Center **87,352**

## Every Day, You're Saving Lives

Behind each of these numbers is a story of hope, healing, and second chances, and you make it all possible. From rescuing pets to wildlife in distress, to providing critical surgeries and finding loving homes, your generosity has created a meaningful impact that numbers alone can't capture.

Each dollar you give becomes a moment of comfort, a chance at survival, a better outcome, and a path to healing for animals who have nowhere else to turn. These are more than just statistics. They're living, breathing testimonies to the power of compassion, with your generosity behind every new beginning.

**Together, we're making a difference one animal at a time!** 🐾

# You Gave Stew a Lifeline

**S**tew's story began in darkness. Four animals left behind in an abandoned property. Trash piled in corners. Floors soaked with urine and feces. No food. In that forgotten place, Stew waited for help.

Then you showed up.

Your donations sent our Animal Cruelty Investigators, and a lifeline for all four animals.

When our team brought Stew to the Houston SPCA, his eyes were filled with uncertainty. He was timid and cautious.

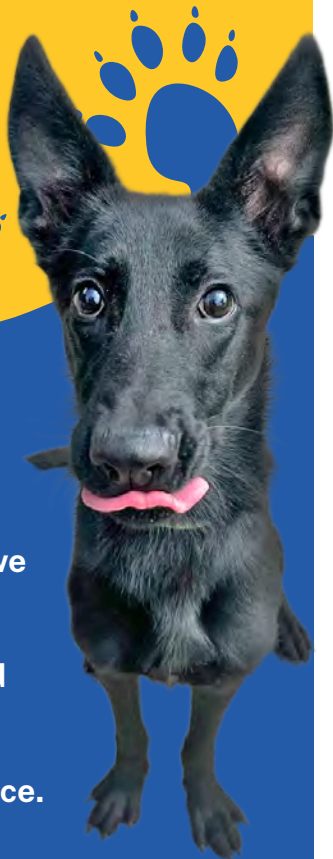
With your support, we could nurse Stew's emotional wounds with love and kindness. He began to look forward to walks. Little by little, his shyness softened into affection.

Today, Stew plays with new joy. He trusts. You pulled a dog from filth and gave him a brilliant future. **Thank you for giving Stew the chance every animal deserves.** 🐾

Thank you for helping Stew overcome his fear.



Here at the Houston SPCA, we have 12 full-time Animal Cruelty Investigators and the area's only Injured Animal Rescue Ambulance.



*Princess had to fight for her life ... and Prince's. Your support gave them a chance.*

## A Mother in Need. A Baby on the Way: How You Saved Princess and Her Prince

Princess should have been a strong, majestic horse. Instead, she arrived in a heartbreaking state. We could see she was malnourished, suffering from severe neglect, and weak with pain and exhaustion.

Princess was also, we would soon discover, pregnant. She urgently needed care, and you made sure she got it.

We placed Princess on a careful refeeding program to give her the nutrition she and her developing foal needed to survive. The next few months were critical, but thankfully, Princess gave birth to a healthy, strong foal. We named him Prince.

Thanks to friends like you, Prince will never know the life of neglect his mom worked so hard to recover from. He'll grow up safe from cruelty, spending his days galloping and grazing peacefully. We are happy to share that Prince has been adopted into a loving new family, a hopeful ending made possible by compassion and care.

Thank you for giving two horses the love and lives they deserve. 🐾

# You Gave Them the Sky

We wish you could have been there: the unforgettable moment when three red-tailed hawks soared back to the sky. The majestic birds had spent months at the Houston SPCA's Wildlife Center, each recovering from critical injuries. You made their return home possible.

One hawk, pictured here, suffered a broken clavicle. Another came to us with devastating burn injuries from an industrial flame at an oil refinery. The third hawk's condition was so extreme that, at first glance, the bird barely looked like a hawk at all. Completely caked in mud, their eyes were nearly hidden beneath layers of grime.

Your donations put each of them on the path to recovery. Through months of careful treatment and rehabilitation in our flight complex, tentative beats of their wings turned into strong, confident flight.

Finally, on a sunny afternoon, volunteers and friends gathered to witness the moment these hawks returned to the wild. The location was chosen for its habitat, nearby water source, low human activity, and open skies free of power lines. One by one, each hawk spread its wings and soared.

Alegra, one of our dedicated wildlife staff members, said: "It isn't sad seeing them go. It means we have done well, and we can celebrate their new beginning. The hard work pays off when you see that they are where they are meant to be."

Thank you for making new beginnings possible for our local wildlife! 🐾



Breaking

## MEWS

There's a new tax benefit you'll want to know about! Starting with your 2026 taxes, you can get a new tax break for your charitable gifts, even if you don't itemize your deductions.

- Single filers can deduct up to **\$1,000** in donations.
- Married joint filers can deduct up to **\$2,000**.

That means your generosity can help animals and reduce your taxable income. Next year at tax time, you'll be glad you gave!

### Want to see (a lot) more?

We've posted a video, photo journey, and more online.

Visit: [houstonspca.org/three-red-tailed-hawks-return-to-the-skies](https://houstonspca.org/three-red-tailed-hawks-return-to-the-skies)



## We Value Your Trust.

Industry Leaders Verify Our Stewardship of Your Gifts.

