



Tracks

Spring 2017



The Tulsa Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Newsletter

Events:

June 15, 2017

Tulsa SPCA Paws & Pictures Movie Night
Admiral Twin Drive In

July 29, 2017

Bingo Bash
OU—Tulsa Founders Hall (43rd & Yale)

September 28–October 8, 2017

Tulsa State Fair
Tulsa SPCA Booth
River Spirit Expo Center

November 18–19, 2017

Williams Route 66 Marathon
Supporting the Tulsa SPCA
Downtown Tulsa


Spring 2018


Tulsa SPCA Pranks & Paws Trivia Night
OU—Tulsa Founders Hall (43rd & Yale)

Visit tulsaspc.org for additional event information.

We speak for those who
cannot speak for themselves.


The Tulsa SPCA's mission is to improve the lives of dogs and cats and engage the community to foster mutual well-being.

 tulsaspc.org
(918) 428-7722

 Tulsa-SPCA

 @Tulsa_SPCA

 Tulsa-SPCA

 tulsaspc

No More Bullying!

In 2016, the Tulsa SPCA licensed a bullying prevention program from an animal shelter in Kansas City called "No More Bullying!" "No More Bullying" is an innovative elementary school bullying and violence prevention curriculum. The curriculum and lessons are rooted in a rich history, reinforced by the integration of "daily practice" and confidence building exercises. You may wonder why an animal shelter cares about bullying, but the fact is, hurt people hurt animals and people.

The connection between the various forms of violence has been extensively studied and researched. This research found that children who abuse animals have often themselves experienced abuse or neglect and these atrocities are likely a precursor to future violence. The majority of families experiencing domestic violence report their family pet was also abused by the perpetrator. Studies indicate that victims of violence often become abusive to animals and humans, and the cycle continues through generations.

By combining the human and animal perspective, "No More Bullying" aims to convey the significance of treating all living beings with the care and respect that they deserve. The



curriculum is designed to be taught to 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade classes over the course of five one-hour sessions. "No More Bullying" covers topics relating to responsibility, compassion, self-control, and integrity. Tulsa SPCA staff facilitates the program with the assistance of trained volunteers and all visiting pets have passed comprehensive behavior and medical assessments.

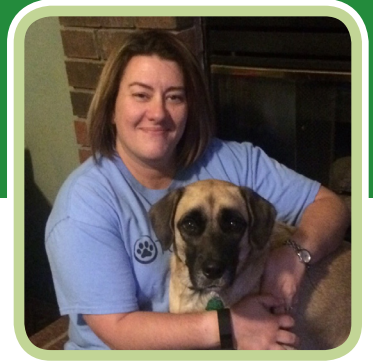
"No More Bullying" has a proven track record and the Tulsa SPCA couldn't be more excited to offer this program to our community!

No More Bullying!™

If you are interested in learning more about "No More Bullying," please call 918-428-7722 ext. 28.



A Letter From Mindy...



Dear Tulsa SPCA Patrons,

One of the questions I ask potential employees is, "What does success mean to you?" As in, at the end of the day/month/year, what needs to have happened for you to feel successful? For me, the answer is I need to feel like I've made a difference. I want to know my actions have made a positive impact on those I encounter. Steps backwards always happen, but as long as I'm moving forward in general and making positive changes, I count that as a success. This is the attitude we promote at the Tulsa SPCA. We want to make positive change and work towards that goal every day.

2016 was a successful year for the Tulsa SPCA. Over 900 dogs and cats found homes during the year — a 50%+ increase from 2015! Additionally, we provided almost 6,000 vaccinations, over 1,000 microchips, and almost 1,000 spay/neuters. Even though the animals we see are often in very poor health, both physically and emotionally, through hard work and excellent care, our mortality rate was only 3%. This is due completely to the dedication and caring of our amazing staff and volunteers. Volunteers provided almost 9,500 hours of service to our agency.

In 2016 we saw a huge increase in hoarding cases — many reported to us by the police. We're thankful to see law enforcement taking animal abuse more seriously than in the past. That trend has continued with our first hoarding call coming the first week of January and resulting in the removal of over 60 dogs.

The Tulsa SPCA was founded to help with situations like the one above. As such, we don't tell you, the public, about every hoarding rescue or emergency. We view that simply as the job we committed to do. If you do hear about something, we hope you know it is because we desperately need help at that point.

In 2016, we began offering spay/neuter services for animals from other rescues. This year we've expanded those services to the public and hope to soon offer a low-cost, basic needs clinic. We recognize the solution to the pet overpopulation problem MUST include better access to spay/neuter services. Rescue, adoption and transport alone will not solve the problem. Additionally, we've changed our hours to better serve our animals and the community. We are now open on Sunday afternoons, and from mid-March to mid-September we're open until 7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

None of the work we do would be possible without generous support from people like you. On average, including a 5–10 day stay in the clinic upon intake, our dogs are at the shelter for 23 days before adoption and cats for 47 days. The average cost per animal we intake is about \$800. This includes things like veterinary care (such as spay/neuter, testing, vaccinations, treatment for any conditions and preventatives), food, housing, cleaning, enrichment, socialization, training and exercise. Taking care of these animals is expensive — especially if done properly.

We are committed to transparency at the Tulsa SPCA. We are proud of the level of care we provide to our animals while they are with us and are always happy to answer any questions the public may have about our agency. Please feel free to call or come by to visit any time.

Thanks again for your generous support of our work.

Mindy Tiner
Executive Director, Tulsa SPCA



The Golden Rule

Tim Geen found himself at the Tulsa SPCA shelter after finding an abandoned litter of puppies in 2011. Working security detail of a city road crew, he found himself at the shelter purely by chance. But as fate would have it, that chance encounter would change the course of Tim's career.

After a brief conversation with the executive director, Tim learned the Tulsa SPCA needed an animal cruelty investigator. With a background in law enforcement, 30+ years of cruelty investigation experience and a passion for animals, Tim was interested in learning more about the Tulsa SPCA. And as they say, the rest is history.

Over the last six years, Tim has completed more than 3,600 cases and helped rescue 438 animals from severe cruelty cases—all of which were cared for at the Tulsa SPCA shelter. As the only cruelty investigator for the SPCA in Oklahoma, there is no doubt the Tulsa SPCA is lucky to have him on its team.

"When I dropped off those puppies I had an epiphany," he said. "From that moment on, I knew I wanted the job. I have a strong love for animals. My job is to protect and serve, just as I did in

my law enforcement career, but this time on behalf of the animals."

For Tim, it is a rewarding profession full of gratification as every animal deserves to be treated humanely, and, with his help, more are being rescued from dire environments across the state.

"I help investigate all complaints of reported animal cruelty," said Tim. "Every case is as important as the one before it, and I make no determinations until I have investigated each case firsthand. It is then my job to make decisions with the animal's best interest in mind."

According to Tim, investigating cases of misconduct is really no different whether it's against humans or animals. Abuse is never acceptable. The biggest difference is the law supports punishments for crimes against man, but does little for the animals. In Oklahoma, animals are still regarded as property. Therefore, if a human hurts or kills another individual he is punished to the fullest extent of the law. However, if a human hurts or kills his/her animal, no punishment exists—and this is what Tim hopes will change.



When asked what one piece of advice he wished he could convey to others in order to curb animal cruelty, his answer was simple—The Golden Rule.

"Treat your pet as you would want to be treated," said Tim. "Would you tie your family member to a fence for their entire life? If you wouldn't want your family member to live that way, why would you implement that care for your pet? Provide your pet with a warm shelter to lie in, fresh water to drink and clean food to eat, and they, in return, will show you unconditional love and a life of complete devotion."

Furthering the Tulsa SPCA's mission one case at a time, Tim is single-handedly making Tulsa a better place for animals to live.



Newsletter Delivery

Are you interested in receiving the Tulsa SPCA Newsletter electronically via email?

Choosing an electronic version not only saves trees, but it also saves the Tulsa SPCA money on printing and postage. If you would like to help us go green, send an email to admin@tulsaspc.org and provide your name and email address. You will receive your first newsletter via email in December.

Thank you for your support of the Tulsa SPCA!



Pets —the only property that will miss you when you are gone

By D. Faith Orlowski

Oftentimes it is easy to decide how your property will be distributed after you are gone—but what about your sentient property!? Pets are living, feeling “property,” yet many people fail to have a plan in place for their furry family members. As an estate planning attorney, I always ask my clients during the first interview if they have pets and if they have a plan for their care should something happen to them. I’m continually surprised by how many of my clients do not have a plan. Additionally, many say their own children and relatives would not be willing to take in their animals once they die.

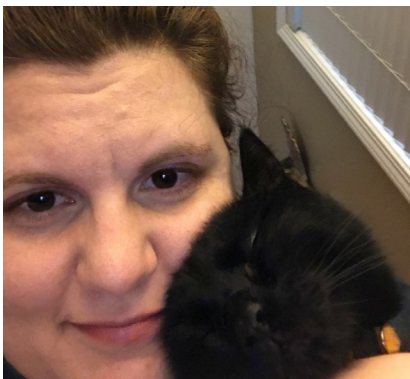
In Oklahoma, animals are considered personal property—like a chair or television. Yet we all know they are much more and the thought of the pound as an adequate

solution is enough to make us cringe. So what is a pet guardian to do if they do not have a friend or family member that they are sure will adopt their animals? Or what if the conditions that the friend or family member are experiencing at the time of your death have changed such that they cannot fulfill their promise? In Oklahoma, there are alternatives.

When I ask a client about what will be done with their pet when they die I typically receive an uncertain shrug. This is due to a lack of knowledge about alternatives and their options. Visit our website (<http://tulsaspc.org/1433-2/>) for a brief description of ways you can plan ahead to ensure your pets are safe after you are gone. After all, for many of us, pets are family.



Volunteer Spotlight Julia Swearingen



What made you want to become a volunteer at the Tulsa SPCA?

I’ve adopted from the Tulsa SPCA before and both times had a wonderful experience. When I was looking for a place to volunteer, the Tulsa SPCA seemed like an interesting place to help and learn more about animal shelters.

How long have you been volunteering for our organization?

Going on 7 months now!

What is a memorable or significant moment you’ve had while volunteering at the Tulsa SPCA?

The first time I helped adopt out a cat. Knowing I helped someone find a new companion they would love and also help a cat get into a good home is a pretty special feeling.

What do you like most about volunteering with the Tulsa SPCA?

I really enjoy cat socialization. Helping cats to come out of their shells is endlessly rewarding. Plus, there is an endless supply of kittens to cuddle! A couple of hours in the cat room can do amazing things for your blood pressure.

Any special memories or moments you’d like to share that you’ve had with any of our animals at the Tulsa SPCA?

I’d been working with a cat for a while who was notorious for using her sharp teeth and claws on, well, everyone. The first time she got up on my lap and fell asleep with her head on my hand without any violence I felt like I’d won the lottery.

Why would you encourage others to get involved/be a volunteer at the SPCA?

Did I mention all the kitten cuddling? But seriously, the Tulsa SPCA does a lot of great things for pets and pet owners, beyond even adoptions. You get to meet other people who love animals as much as you do while possibly saving a life.

happy tails Road to Happiness



Kaylee's story with the Tulsa SPCA starts when she arrived as an owner-surrender in May of 2015. She was adopted that October, but returned to the Tulsa SPCA less than a year later when her owner developed severe allergies.

Kaylee was not happy in the Tulsa SPCA Cat Room and became a loner, not interacting with felines or humans. She had a tendency to try to bite when petted, most likely because she is front declawed, a procedure not advocated by the Tulsa SPCA. Declawing takes away the claws, which are primary defense mechanisms for a cat. A cat will

often substitute biting as a method for protection.

Due to Kaylee's biting habit, adoptive families were not receptive to her when visiting the Cat Room. Her poor manners were causing people to lose interest.

In December 2016, an adopter looking for a cat to be the only pet in her home came to visit the Tulsa SPCA. She met Kaylee and an instant bond was formed. Kaylee loves her new home with plenty of space to roam. She has become very affectionate and her new owner tells us she is now happy, healthy and understood!

happy tails The Perfect Match

Finding the perfect pet at an animal shelter is a commonality if you have the patience to look around and wait for the perfect fit. Denise Fattig came to the Tulsa SPCA with solid ideas about what type of dog she hoped to find. She knew she had a lot to offer a homeless pet and set out on her mission.

The primary hope was to find a rescue pet that wanted and needed love. Denise had past experience with special needs pets, and she found her perfect match in Jesse.

Jesse and Denise instantly bonded. Jesse was rescued from a horrendous situation of deprivation and hoarding. Denise is a widow with love galore to give and both established a rare understanding of communication that met both their needs.

Jessie is sensitive to loud noises or unusual situations which sometimes cause seizures. Denise watches carefully and provides a calm and reassuring voice and gentle words of love. Jessie returns the favor by laying a head in her owner's lap, wagging a happy tail and giving kisses. No words are needed — just love.

With rescue situations, it is sometimes a guess as to who rescued whom — the human or the pet. Does it really matter? Denise assures everyone that rescue and special needs pets are great companions. "You just need to totally understand and be fully aware of the problem and what it takes and needs to be done for the pet," she said.





Join Us For Clear The Shelters!



For the third year in a row, we will join more than 625 shelters across the country to celebrate the most anticipated adoption day of the year, Clear the Shelters. Originally initiated by animal shelters in North Texas, Clear the Shelters has quickly become the most successful adoption day of the year with over 50,000 pets adopted in 2016.

Not only has Clear the Shelters saved hundreds of lives, the annual adoption day inspired a new level of collaboration between local rescue groups. In 2016, Clear the Shelters in our area managed to find loving homes for more than 400 deserving pets. Several rescues "cleared" their shelter or had a record number of adoptions. The

biggest success of the day came when we heard that the city shelter, Tulsa Animal Welfare, found a home for every animal that was available for adoption.

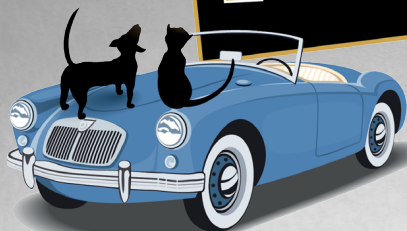
We hope that you will join us for Clear the Shelters this year. If you aren't looking to adopt, please encourage your friends to do so. In the weeks leading up to Clear the Shelters we encourage you to share our posts on social media with your friends and family. Without your continued support, the work we do would not be possible. Thank you for continuing to support the Tulsa SPCA and local rescue efforts.

For more information, visit our website at tulsaspc.org.



Join us for a family and pet-friendly
drive-in movie night!

PAWS & PICTURES



TULSA
SPCA DRIVE-IN
MOVIE NIGHT

JUNE 15, 2017
ADMIRAL TWIN DRIVE-IN

TICKETS:
Adult \$7
Kids \$3 (11 and under)

FOR
SPONSORSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES
OR TO
PURCHASE TICKETS,
CALL 918-428-7722
OR

<http://tulsaspc.org/paws-pictures/>





Bing Crosby



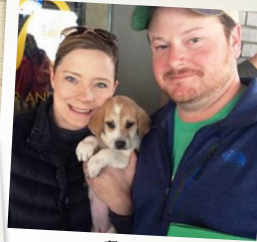
Buttons



Zeppelin



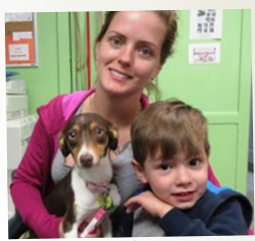
Matrix



Teresa



Roland



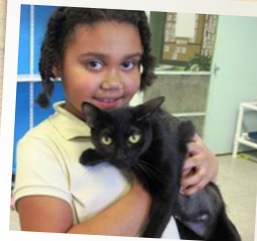
Tulip



Storm



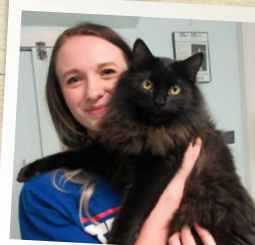
Aragog



Joan Jett



Fantasy



Salvador



George Strait



Reba McIntire



Niblet



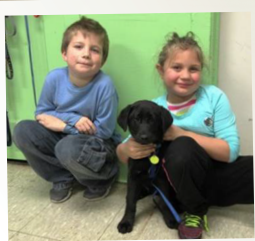
The Tulsa SPCA Brings Together



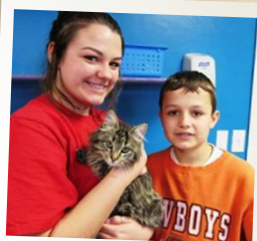
Families



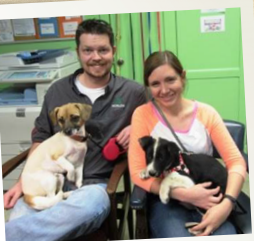
Aunt Bea



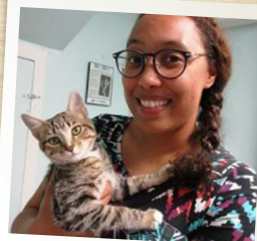
Steven Tyler



Waves



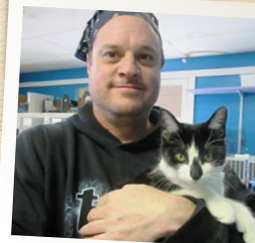
Azalea



Cynthia



Ellie Mae



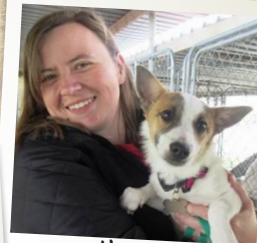
Nellie



Willie Nelson



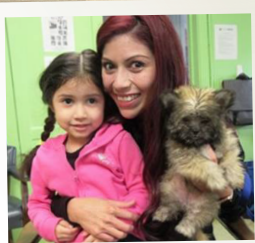
Jebediah



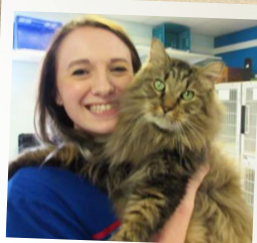
Harper



Apple Pie



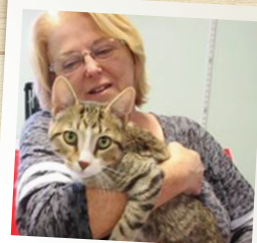
East



Wookie



Johnny Cash



Rodney





Tulsa Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
2910 Mohawk Blvd • Tulsa, OK 74110-1419

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 520
TULSA, OK



Low-Cost Spay & Neuter Clinic

**Call for an appointment
918-428-7722**

**For more information, visit
tulsaspcaspayneuter**