



# Tracks

Winter 2017



The Tulsa Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Newsletter

## Events:

**December 9, 2017, at 2pm**

Tulsa Christmas Parade  
*Downtown Tulsa*

**December 17, 2017**

Barnes & Noble Gift-Wrapping Booth  
*8620 E. 71st Street, Tulsa*

**April 7, 2018**

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

**Summer 2018**

Tulsa SPCA Paws & Pictures Movie Night  
*Admiral Twin Drive-In*


**July 21, 2018**

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

**Visit [tulsaspcapca.org](http://tulsaspcapca.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.


 [tulsaspcapca.org](http://tulsaspcapca.org)  
(918) 428-7722


 Tulsa-SPCA    @Tulsa\_SPCA  
 Tulsa-SPCA    tulsaspcapca


## Fostering Happy Futures

As the popular TV campaign says, "you don't have to be perfect to be the perfect parent." While intended to raise awareness for foster children in America, the same slogan applies to fostering animals. Foster parents play a critical role at the Tulsa SPCA by increasing the intake capacity while providing temporary, safe and nurturing homes for rescued animals. With fostered animals having an increased chance of adoption due to the time and care of their human counterparts, foster parents play a critical role at the Tulsa SPCA.

### Not familiar with fostering? Here is everything you need to know:

 Not all dogs and cats that come to the Tulsa SPCA are adoption ready. Instead, they require additional time in a nurturing environment before finding their forever home. Foster parents provide animals a second chance and allow the Tulsa SPCA to increase the number of animals we can shelter.

 Becoming a foster volunteer does not require a financial investment in the animal, as the Tulsa SPCA provides all necessary supplies (food, crate, toys, etc.) and medical care.

 The average fostering time frame is two to four weeks and varies based on the individual needs of each animal. Additionally, our volunteer manager will work with you to find the right fit—big, small, dog or cat we will work with you to find the right match.



Already have pets of your own? Don't sweat it. Most of our foster parents do. Our team will evaluate your current situation and ability to foster animals in conjunction with your own pets.



To ensure all animals are placed in safe and nurturing environments, all interested foster parents must be 18 years old and meet set criteria (view full list on website).



Ready to give it a go? Our application process is easy.

1. Complete the Foster Pet Parent application (visit website).
2. Participate in Tulsa SPCA interview and orientation.
3. Gain approval and be added to the foster roster, indicating your preferred animal.
4. Wait for an email requesting foster placement.
5. Welcome and enjoy your new furry friend into your home for two to four weeks.

With many ways to volunteer and get involved with the Tulsa SPCA, foster parents are critical to the Tulsa SPCA's mission and success.

**To learn more, visit:**  
**[tulsaspcapca.org/become-foster-parent](http://tulsaspcapca.org/become-foster-parent).**



# A Letter From Mindy...

Dear Tulsa SPCA Patrons,

Everyone always tells me how lucky I am to have this job. I agree wholeheartedly. Some of the reasons are obvious—puppy breath, kitten cuddles, knowing I'm making a difference, etc. Some of the reasons aren't quite so easy to see (or remember, sometimes). Many involved in animal rescue can occasionally be heard remarking, "I like animals way more than I like people," or something similar. We have to get past that feeling.

The truth is, as difficult as it can sometimes be to get everyone to cooperate, I consider working with all these passionate, creative, caring, hard-working people one of the best things about my job. Because of them, I have witnessed (and been involved in) situations where disagreements led to great ideas, collaborations or just a better understanding that we're all working toward the same basic goal—even if we don't take exactly the same path to get there.

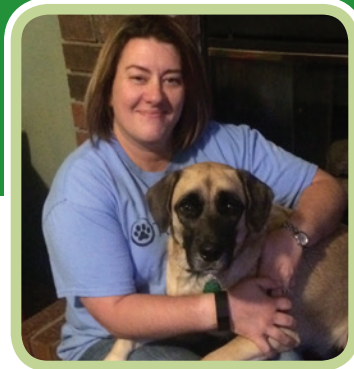
We all say some version of the phrase, "We just don't have enough resources to save them all," probably a thousand times each year. It is a hard truth about what we're facing and is the reason that we have to find a way to like people as much as we do animals. In order to create meaningful change, we need to make sure we're educating as many people as we can about proper treatment of animals.

In addition to changing attitudes about animals and their place in our society, we need to help remove barriers people face when caring for their animals. Spay/neuter shouldn't be cost prohibitive. An injury shouldn't result in a choice between getting your animals treated or buying groceries. Having a baby, or moving, or any of a number of other reasons shouldn't result in re-homing your animal. In order to try and help prevent situations like these, our agency now offers low-cost public spay/neuter services two days per week and has also started a low-cost minor needs clinic one afternoon per week. As resources allow, we hope to continue expanding veterinary services and creating behavior/training resources with the goal of keeping animals in their homes.

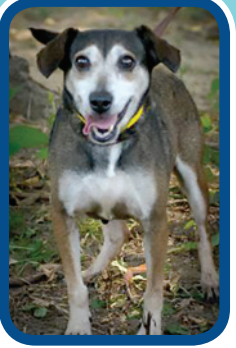
Everything we do—from adoptions, to veterinary services to community outreach (including cruelty investigations)—is only possible because of support from the public. 2017 has been an incredibly busy year for us, and we've seen numbers increase in every area.

Thank you so much for choosing to make our work possible, and stay tuned for new opportunities in 2018!

Mindy Tiner  
Executive Director, Tulsa SPCA



## Helping Our Texas Neighbors



Hurricane Harvey hit Texas in August, displacing hundreds of families and thousands of pets. Immediately, rescue groups and shelters needed to move out animals that were already in their care before the storm to make room for displaced pets and help reunite them with their families. The transported pets were strays or

owner surrenders already waiting to be adopted.

Nationwide, shelters reached out to Texas-area agencies to help. The Tulsa SPCA immediately took in 40 animals and transported 50 more to other organizations. Of these 40, approximately seven are still available for adoption. They are on the Tulsa SPCA website and have "TX" in front of their names. These animals are listed for a "name your price" adoption fee.

Due to the volume of groups helping with the rescue effort, wandering dogs and cats have been picked up and housed in shelters and makeshift

shelters in various places affected by the storm. Rescue organizations say they have been assured a comprehensive lost-and-found database is being developed for all Harvey pets. Until then, there are several sites and tools available for people looking for a lost pet or who want to list a pet they've found.

Any residents who need help recovering pets from their homes or emergency sheltering for their pets should contact their local emergency management agencies.



## From Compassion to Action



**"No one can do everything, but everyone can do something."**

**—Max Lucado**

At the Tulsa SPCA, volunteers play an instrumental role in the day-to-day operations and ability to live out the mission. Whether you have lent a helping hand for decades or recently learned about us and are looking for tangible ways to get involved, there are opportunities for every interest and skill set.

"Volunteers are vital to our success," said Danielle Adams, volunteer coordinator. "Not only do our volunteers provide our animals with socialization and human affection during their time with us, but they also serve as ambassadors of our organization and mission."

Whether you are a dog person, cat person, worker bee or subject-matter expert there is a place for you. Ranging from administrative opportunities to hands-on work

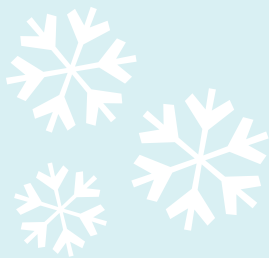
with the animals, the Tulsa SPCA relies on the unique skill sets and talents of its dedicated volunteers.

"Life is busy and often the hardest part of getting involved is taking the first step," said Adams. "We have designed our volunteer program to be as seamless as possible for people to get started, trained, and involved. Fill out the online application, and we will take care of the rest."

Currently, volunteers are needed in the following areas: administrative work, mobile adoption center (MAC) and adoption counselors. For a full list of volunteer opportunities, visit [tulsasPCA.org/become-a-volunteer](https://tulsasPCA.org/become-a-volunteer). What are you waiting for?



# Planned Giving Adds Life to Tulsa SPCA



In 2016, the Tulsa SPCA adopted out over 560 dogs and 350 cats. The organization micro-chipped over 1,000 animals, and it provided vaccinations to over 5,800 pets through our Low-Cost Vaccination Clinic.

It is hard to imagine the City of Tulsa without the services of the Tulsa SPCA. Established over 100 years ago, the Tulsa SPCA has provided a safe haven for abandoned, abused or neglected animals. We continue this dedication with an animal cruelty investigation department, adoption services and a wellness clinic. Additionally, we promote a stronger quality of life for domestic animals in our communities, through ongoing

rescue services, rehabilitation, education, advocacy, community service and outreach. Perhaps your beloved family pets—possibly adopted from us—have offered love and companionship that enriched your life immeasurably.

The livelihood of the Tulsa SPCA depends on our donors. If you would like to help us continue to serve animals, please consider leaving a legacy through a charitable bequest in your will or living trust. You can honor your pets and help ensure that the Tulsa SPCA maintains its mission to improve the lives of dogs and cats and engage the community to foster mutual well-being.

These planned gifts provide the resources to create extraordinary opportunities and ensure the future of charitable organizations like ours. Fortunately, through our partnership with the Tulsa Community Foundation, financial advice and direction is provided at no charge to you, to better understand the benefits of planning and designating assets to the Tulsa SPCA. For additional information about how your thoughtful act can make a significant impact in support of the mission of the Tulsa SPCA, please contact our Executive Director Mindy Tiner at [mtiner@tulsaspc.org](mailto:mtiner@tulsaspc.org) or 918.428.7722, ext. 27.



## Giving Pets as Gifts: 4 Tips



For the holidays or a birthday, it can be tempting to give a cute, cuddly pet as a gift. Yet along with the precious purr that won't quit or the fluffy tail that never stops wagging, there comes a commitment to another life for the next 10, 15, even 20 years.

No one wants to give an unwanted gift — especially a vulnerable one that lives and breathes. If you're thinking about giving a pet as a gift, the experts offer these tips to help you make sure that gift is actually a good idea.

**1 Give friends and family a pet as a gift — but never as a surprise.** Pets are a wonderful

addition to life, yet not everyone has the time, energy, money, or interest in having a pet, says Peggy Post, director of the Emily Post Institute, and author of the 17th edition of *Emily Post's Etiquette*.

That's why Post suggests always asking the receiver if they want a pet. "Some people will ask relatives or friends, but often no one asks the recipient," Post says. A surprise may feel more festive, but in the long run everyone — whether they have two legs or four — will be happier if you ask up front.

**2 Pay the pet's adoption fees.** Once you know your recipient wants a pet, tell them you'll pay the shelter's adoption fees for them in advance. If they ultimately decide against adopting a pet, you'll have made a much-needed donation to a shelter in their name.

**3 Give a pet as a gift to immediate family members.** Sometimes a friend might accept a pet as a gift, because they just don't know how to say no. That's one reason experts suggest giving pets as gifts only to your immediate family — husband, wife or kids.

Even then, it's important to make sure it's a family decision, because, ultimately, getting a pet is like having a child. There are a lot of financial, emotional, and time concerns.

**4 Avoid impulse.** Whether you want to give a pet to the kids or to a friend, don't do it on impulse. If you're going to the store for a quart of milk, and you see a child out front with a box of cute kittens or puppies, resist. Acting on impulse doesn't give you (or the recipient) the chance to select the type of pet they want.

This article was originally posted on WebMD.com and was written by Wendy Fries.



## 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](mailto: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!



## Tulsa SPCA Assists with Hoarding Situation



**Hoarding.** Unfortunately, the Tulsa SPCA receives multiple calls for hoarding situations each year and this year was no different.

In September, we were asked by a small rescue to assist with a hoarding situation, involving approximately 60 dogs. Local law enforcement was unwilling to get involved for a variety of reasons. We immediately sent

out a team to assess the situation and within about a week had made arrangements to pull the majority of the dogs from the property. We were able to convince the property owner to voluntarily surrender the animals to our agency.

Taking legal action is always a possibility, but we try to educate and assist on our own first. In most cases, the individuals involved in these situations start out trying to save lives but aren't able to spay/neuter the animals they rescue and quickly are in over their heads. Our experience tells us animal hoarders will just go out and obtain more animals if you remove them all from the home, so instead

we are working on spaying/neutering a manageable number and maintaining contact to make sure numbers don't increase again.

No two rescues are ever the same, and this was no exception. We left for the night, after a long day of catching, loading, transporting, vetting, and finally getting dogs settled, thinking we had a pretty good handle on things, only to come in the next morning to eight fluffy newborns! It was a tangible reminder of exactly how things can quickly get out of control—even for the most well-meaning rescuer.





# happytails Old Dogs Rock!



Sugar came to the Tulsa SPCA as an "older dog," which usually means a dog over the age of six. Lu and Jim were searching the Internet, as they wanted to add a four-legged friend to the family, and Lu kept returning to the Tulsa SPCA website and a dog named Brown Sugar. She always hesitated when she saw the dog was eight-years-old.

Lu found out many people had visited and looked at Brown Sugar but declined due to her age. Eventually, she and Jim went to visit her at the Tulsa SPCA, and it was love at first sight. After discussing with adoption specialists the benefits of adopting an

older dog, Brown Sugar—now simply called Sugar—found a forever home.

Older pets are usually settled and more mannerly than puppies and may exhibit better ability to listen, learn and please. Careful attention to the pet during the visit should give clues about personality and certain characteristics which may be of particular importance to a potential owner. Lu's attraction to Sugar increased, due to the fact she had been overlooked by so many, and she decided she was not going home without her.

Since adopting Sugar, the family has been enjoying walks and jogs together. Both owners strongly support the saying, "Old Dogs Rock!"

# happytails A Deserved Happy Ending

Poor Amos had a rough road to his forever family. He arrived at the Tulsa SPCA with four other cats after the sudden death of his owner. He went from a safe and secure home to a completely foreign environment, all while missing his dear friend. Like humans, Amos had to work through a difficult period of grief and loss.

Amos was obviously distressed and seemed to be constantly looking for someone. Additionally, he came to us with weight issues. Due to his physical and emotional needs, staff brought Amos to an upstairs office in order to give him some special attention.

Eventually, a great match was made for Amos in a loving home with an older gentleman. They were perfect for each other. Bad luck unfortunately struck again when Amos' new owner passed away unexpectedly. After a few additional stops, Amos made his way back to the SPCA once again, where we again addressed his weight and sadness issues.



We were so happy when a young family who had seen Amos online came in to visit with him and fell in love. Amos perked up, and the family couldn't wait to take him home. Just like humans, animals mourn the loss of loved ones and need a little extra attention and understanding to adjust. We're so glad to report Amos is now happy and loving life with his forever family.



ADOPTED PETS



Some of these pets were adopted at the Clear the Shelter event on August 19. Overall, 48 dogs and cats found forever homes during the Clear the Shelters event!







Tulsa Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals  
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**SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 2018**  
**6 p.m. – 10 p.m.**

**OU Tulsa - Founders Hall**  
**4502 E. 41st Street**  
**Tulsa, OK 74135**

**FOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES  
OR TO PURCHASE TICKETS**

**events@tulsaspc.org**

**OR**

**CALL 918-428-7722**

**OR**

**<http://tulsaspc.org/trivia-night/>**