Creating a Caring Society with Humane Education
Dear Friends,

At Atlanta Humane Society (AHS), we take in thousands of animals each year who are surrendered to us for a myriad of reasons. People say they are frustrated, don’t have time, didn’t realize their pet would need so much attention...we even find people who say their pet doesn’t match their house decor!

Sad reasons to be sure, but when we look below the surface, we see that there is a recurring theme: they don’t view their pets as caring beings who require care in return and a lifelong commitment. All of us who love animals know that they provide a lifelong emotional connection with us and are certainly to be regarded as much more than one of our belongings!

The key to changing society’s views on the value of animals is through humane education. AHS is committed to helping people, particularly our younger generation, change their views and improve their understanding of what all animals mean to our society and communities. This newsletter will feature a number of unique and interesting ways in which we are bringing thought-provoking programs to youth and adults that encourage them to examine their feelings about animals.

For more information on becoming involved in this wonderful effort, contact our Humane Education Department at education@atlantahumane.org. Thank you for caring about animals and supporting the work of AHS and have a wonderful summer!

For the animals –

Cal Morgan
President and CEO

Who’s in the Doghouse?

The Who’s in the Doghouse initiative involved community leaders to raise both awareness of and funds for eight vital programs and services offered by the Atlanta Humane Society such as the Adoption Program, the Have a Heart Medical Fund, and the Love Train – Shelter Collaborations and Transport. Leaders raised money from friends, family and supporters to get themselves “out of the Doghouse.”

The “Top Dog,” Su Longman, raised more than $20,000 for the H.E.A.R.T. Rescue Team, and more than $46,000 was raised by all Who’s in the Doghouse participants!

CELEBRITY SPOTLIGHT:
Empire Star Marisol Correa Adopts Buddy

In February, Marisol Correa, the actress best known for The Chica Show and Empire, adopted a four-month-old Staffordshire Bull Terrier Mix now named Buddy.

Marisol and her daughter Alyssa visited Atlanta Humane Society (AHS) after seeing an AHS billboard in early January. They wanted to adopt a dog to save a life — but had to wait until they were settled in their new house after moving from Washington, D.C. Visiting the shelter, they saw Buddy and fell in love. He popped his head out of the puppy pen, and they knew that this was their forever pup!
A Festive Spring Gala: Bow Wow Brunch

The inaugural Bow Wow Brunch Gala, chaired by Jennifer Healey, was an event to remember. On Sunday, April 17, 2016, more than 300 guests arrived at The Ritz-Carlton, Buckhead in their spring attire to celebrate the mission, vision and accomplishments of the Atlanta Humane Society (AHS).

This family-oriented gala introduced the children and grandchildren of AHS donors and supporters to the importance of philanthropy and lifelong giving by showcasing the work of AHS. Bow Wow Brunch brought together families of animal lovers who care deeply about the welfare of dogs and cats in our community.

The event concluded with the presentation of the Anne Cox Chambers Humane Heroine Award to Ginny Millner, Founder of Fix Georgia Pets, for her commitment and devotion to the cause of animal welfare.

We would like to thank our Presenting Sponsor, the Anne Cox Chambers Foundation; our Platinum Sponsor, Delta Air Lines; our Puppy Patron Sponsors, the Flood Family Foundation, The Home Depot and National Distributing Company; and our In-Kind Sponsor Katherine Tolliday Events.

EVENT SPOTLIGHT

From Floods to His Forever Home: All That Jazz

My name is Jazz. My friends and I were rescued from Louisiana flood waters by the caring people at the Atlanta Humane Society (AHS), working with some other great rescue organizations. We were so fortunate that these wonderful people found us and wanted to take care of us.

I traveled to Atlanta and within hours I was being examined by a very nice veterinarian who found that because of years of neglect, I had developed corneal scarring and conjunctivitis. That explained why my right eye hurt me so badly, but they said I was a sweet boy, otherwise healthy, and that they would take care of me until I was ready to find a new home.

Getting healthy meant that I woke up after surgery missing my right eye, but at least the pain was gone. I quickly adjusted to turning my head to see visitors with my left eye and soon I was feeling much better. Some nice people checked on me every day to make sure I was healing properly.

Soon, they told me that I was “adoption ready” and that it was time for me to find my new forever home. They moved me into the puppy room and I started getting lots of attention. Some people gave me cookies and patted my head, but it seemed they would leave with other dogs. It made me a little sad that nobody wanted me. After all, I was a good dog, a little shy, maybe, but friendly. I thought I was adjusting well to my new surroundings and even life with just one eye.

Every night one of the AHS staff members came by before he closed up the puppy room and gave me an extra cookie. He said that the best family for me would be patient and understanding, and I would need structure plus peace and quiet.

Then one day it happened. A nice lady was visiting the puppy room and she stopped in front of me. She told one of the volunteers, “I want to meet Jazz.” I tried to hide my excitement, but I could feel it. My name is Jazz! Could this be the moment I had been waiting for? After playing with me for just 15 minutes, she told me she wanted to take me home and be my new Mom - forever.

As soon as we got home, I ran around exploring everything. Now, every day is a new adventure. I love my new home and I really love my new Mom.

My new life is amazing. I live in a world full of love, comfort and adoration. I’m so lucky that AHS found me and gave me this perfect life. I waited so long and I couldn’t be happier.

How Your Support Saves Lives

Triple Match Campaign Coming in August! Watch your mail and email.

Your dollars can go THREE TIMES AS FAR to help homeless animals.

MATCHING GIFT OPPORTUNITY
Creating a Caring and Aware Society with Humane Education

By Jason Taylor, Director of Youth Education Initiatives, Atlanta Humane Society

Photos compliments of Adam K. Thompson

Since 1873, Atlanta Humane Society (AHS) has been synonymous with animal welfare in the city of Atlanta, caring for, sheltering, and placing homeless dogs and cats with forever families year after year, while also advocating for our four-legged friends.

What if we were able to reduce the generational repetition of homeless dogs and cats by educating the youngest members of our community and giving them a toolbox of critical thinking and empathy? Simultaneously, what if we responded to the community’s requests for a variety of consistent and impactful youth programs?

To answer these critical questions, AHS relaunched its Humane Education program in Spring 2015 to respond to the community’s needs. Our first goal was to create a Humane Education program in Spring 2015 to respond to the community’s needs. Our first goal was to create a Humane Education program in Spring 2015 to respond to the community’s needs. Our first goal was to create a Humane Education program in Spring 2015 to respond to the community’s needs. Our first goal was to create a Humane Education program in Spring 2015 to respond to the community’s needs. Our first goal was to create a Humane Education program in Spring 2015 to respond to the community’s needs. Our first goal was to create a Humane Education program in Spring 2015 to respond to the community’s needs. Our first goal was to create a Humane Education program in Spring 2015 to respond to the community’s needs. Our first goal was to create a Humane Education program in Spring 2015 to respond to the community’s needs. 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Mission of AHS Humane Education

The mission of Atlanta Humane Society’s Education and Advocacy Department is to bring humane education to communities throughout the Southeast, conveying the interconnectedness of environmental, animal (domestic and wild), and social issues. These efforts foster curiosity, creativity and critical thinking, while imparting reverence, respect and responsibility in the youth and adults of our community. We envision a public empowered with compassion, integrity and wisdom to make better, holistic choices for our global community.

Meeting our Mission and Vision in the Community

By framing through the lens of our mission, we are departing from the perception that AHS should simply teach concepts such as animal abuse, neglect or overpopulation.

AH5 is focusing on empathy and compassion, teaching children to love and appreciate animals

David Sobel, author of Beyond Ecophobia, states, “If we want children to Rouse, to become truly empowered then let us allow them to love the earth before we ask them to save it.” We apply this concept to our programming, especially when engaging our largest audience, children in preK through 5th grades – our programs seek to avoid a “burnout” of discussions and activities which affect the students and ultimately our future. Our programs don’t involve puppy visits, but instead align with Georgia curriculum standards, while incorporating our pro-social mission.

What’s on the Horizon

In our first year of new programs, we are excited to have reached more than 2,000 participants in our community. Additionally, 100% of our participants evaluated our programs as successfully meeting our mission goals. During this summer we began our second school year, we pause to look forward to the exciting future of AHS programming. On the horizon we are planning teacher workshops, badge-earning scout workshops, and service learning opportunities.

Perhaps the most exciting opportunity, though, is partnering with schools in impoverished communities where there is direct correlation between animal welfare issues and poverty. Across the country, 87% of the pets in these communities are not spayed or neutered, according to research conducted by the Humane Society of the United States. As we look across the landscape of the Metro Atlanta Area, we have identified several neighborhoods that could benefit from our humane education programs to weaken the link between poverty and animal welfare issues. We are approaching schools in these communities to incorporate humane education programming throughout their school year. These programs are focused on empowering students with compassion and empathy, and also building trust and rapport with students, teachers and the community.

Contact Jason Taylor at education@atlantahumane.org or visit atlantahumane.org/education for more program information.

Campus Tours

Campus Tours are a great way to get acquainted with the inner workings of our animal shelters. AHS tour guides lead participants of all ages through the shelter, discussing the crucial role of our organization within the southeastern United States. The tour culminates with meeting some of our adoptable puppies, which reinforces love and compassion for animals.

Outreach Programs

Outreach Programs are the key to building relationships in the community, allowing us to visit schools and teach students in their classrooms. We are often asked, “What kind of puppy are you bringing to our classroom?”

Although puppies are cute, they actually distract from the quality of the program, discussions and activities which affect the students and ultimately our future. Our programs don’t involve puppy visits, but instead align with Georgia curriculum standards, while incorporating our pro-social mission.

What if we were able to reduce the generational repetition of homeless dogs and cats by educating the youngest members of our community and giving them a toolbox of critical thinking and empathy? Simultaneously, what if we responded to the community’s requests for a variety of consistent and impactful youth programs?

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Protecting Your Family and Your Pets in Case of Fire

In Memory of Rachel Leslie Thorn: 1978 – 2016

Atlanta resident Rachel Leslie Thorn, 37, tragically passed away with her beloved adopted dog Bunny Erica Thorn from injuries sustained from a fire in her condominium building on February 21, 2016. Rachel loved animals, and her family wanted to honor her memory by having contributions made to the Atlanta Humane Society (AHS) in lieu of flowers.

Rachel’s many friends, colleagues and friends of her mom, Elizabeth Gill, formerly President of the Rotary Club of Buckhead, contributed over $10,000. Many hurt and homeless animals will now be rescued and adopted into permanent loving homes because of her legacy. A permanent memorial bench will also be dedicated this summer in the Memory Garden at Howell Mill.

Rachel’s family wanted her story to inspire others to make a plan now about how they will be prepared for a fire. This summer, free Pet Alert clings provided by Subaru will be given to all adopters and available to the public at the front desks of both AHS campuses. It is vitally important that you have a plan for how your family, including your pets, will be able to leave your home safely in case of fire.

National Pet Fire Safety Day is July 15.
For more information on how to create a fire safety plan see: thebark.com/content/national-pet-fire-safety-day.
To read more about Rachel’s life, please go to: atlantahumane.org/rachel.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2016
ATLANTIC STATION

Gather your team, sign up supporters, walk to end animal cruelty, and save the lives of our homeless and hurting animals.
See atlantahumane.org/walk2016