



BARRIO DOGS UPDATES

SUMMER 2023/FALL 2023

Barrio Dogs has worked hard to make a positive impact on the East End since our inception in 2010. Our key goals include improving the quality of life for all members of the community, including pets, and we are dedicated to creating a better future for all.

During the last part of 2023, we were busy with various initiatives like youth engagement at local schools, free spay neuter events and neighborhood advocacy. Our work is aimed at addressing animal overpopulation, promoting pet health and safety, and creating future leaders who will improve the community.

We want to express our sincere gratitude for the support we have received. We couldn't do it without you. Here's wishing everyone a happy, healthy and productive 2024!

Gloria Zenteno, Barrio Dogs Founder & President



YOUTH AND PAWS

In 2023, we visited 12 elementary and middle schools where we made educational presentations on pet care and treatment of animals in general. Our hope is that these visits will inform and inspire young people so that they will grow up to treat animals with respect and compassion.

This year, we welcomed a new member to our team: Hugo! This calm, handsome, well-behaved black Lab mix, rescued and owned by our amazing volunteer Paulette Kukuk, was a big hit with our audience. Welcome to the team Hugo!



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Autumn typically brings cooler weather and more community events for us. Fall 2023 was no exception and we remained busy throughout the season as we participated in as many activities as we could. From National Night Out to the Eastwood Home Tour to Magnolia Park Dia de los Muertos, we engaged with residents, answered questions about animal welfare, and even signed up a pet or two for spay or neuter while there. We are looking forward to an equally active and productive 2024.



NEIGHBORHOOD ADVOCATES

In 2024, we anticipate a significant expansion of our Neighborhood Advocates (NA) program, driven in part by the recent political shifts at City Hall, including a new mayor, city council members, and BARC shelter director.

Our goal remains to empower residents with information and resources to actively address animal welfare concerns in their communities, which often requires working with elected officials and other city entities.

NA's inaugural event for 2024, "What's next for city, county, and state animal welfare?", will bring together area shelter leaders, including the new BARC director. This hybrid event (online and in-person) promises engaging discussions and a strong attendance.





FIXIT SPAY NEUTER PROGRAM

Through our FixIt program, we spayed or neutered 567 dogs and cats free of charge in 2023. We also partnered with East End Kitties to fix an additional 285 cats.

Out of necessity, we began working more with our long-term private vet provider, which has resulted in improved services but at a higher cost. While we are happy to prioritize quality care, increased vet costs strain our ability to maintain and expand FixIt services in the future without additional funds.

We remain committed to promoting responsible pet ownership by providing free spay neuter services; however, this requires us to always remain mindful of the bottom line and consistently raise funds throughout the year.



2ND ANNUAL TAILS & TRAILS



First on the agenda for our busy October was the 2nd Annual Tails & Trails, a fitness and community walk at Mason Park in the East End. We were blessed with perfect weather, a great turnout, and even a partial solar eclipse! We provided eclipse glasses for everyone to safely witness this rare phenomenon, adding a truly unique element to the event's conclusion. Our sincere gratitude goes out to everyone who made it possible: attendees, sponsors, and dedicated volunteers. Your contributions were invaluable, and we eagerly anticipate seeing you all at the 3rd Annual Tails & Trails in 2024!



EAST END KITTIES

In 2023, Barrio Dogs increased its support for East End Kitties (EEK), a TNR (trap, neuter and return) program led by our board member, Darla Berry. Last year, Darla and her team trapped 285 feral neighborhood cats. With our help, those cats were spayed or neutered, vaccinated and returned to the area where they were trapped.

While EEK and other organizations work tirelessly, managing large populations of feral cats remains a challenge in Houston. With your help, Barrio Dogs will continue to provide vital support to EEK in 2024.

BARRIO DOGS SUCCESS STORIES

NOTE: When financially able, we help pets who need vet care but whose owners cannot afford the care they need. We want to highlight this work, which has the added benefit of keeping pets out of shelters and with their families. Here is one story:



Lucy Loo's journey is a true testament to the power of love and compassion. Found in deplorable condition on the streets, Lucy Loo's finder could not leave her behind to suffer; however, the potential cost of her medical treatment was a major concern. He reached out to Barrio Dogs and with our help, Lucy was able to receive the care she needed. Her road to recovery was long but she eventually overcame her ailments. She is now thriving and best of all, Lucy's finder has decided to adopt her and give her a loving forever home.

Please consider donating to support our work. Barrio Dogs is a 501(c)(3) organization and your donations are tax-deductible. To give, go to our website.

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