



Saving Shelter Pets, Inc annual report



Saving Shelter Pets, Inc.
PO Box 71
Three Oaks, MI 49128

www.savingshelterpets.com
e-mail: info@savingshelterpets.com

A Letter from the President

Dear Friends of Saving Shelter Pets,

On behalf of the hundreds of animals assisted by SSP in 2007, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our supporters for their commitment to making our programs a success the past 2 years.

In addition to our supporters, there is a small group of very dedicated volunteers working hard behind the scenes. I would like to thank all of you for so selflessly donating your time, for working as hard as if it were a paying job, and most importantly for believing in SSP and our mission statement.

I am proud to present to you the 2007 Saving Shelter Pets annual report. This report highlights our achievements over the past year, along with a few special dogs rescued from Georgia shelters last year.

Sincerely,



Jamie Vijayaraghavan
President



Who We Are

Saving Shelter Pets (SSP) is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) animal welfare organization. We are 100% volunteer-based, and have supporters located throughout the US, Canada, and beyond.

Saving Shelter Pets helps domestic companion animals in need through our programs. Our Rescue & Transport program moves adoptable companion animals out of high-kill shelters and into pre-approved, no-kill rescues in large-scale efforts (20-30 animals at a time). Most of the kill shelters we currently help are located in Georgia, where animal overpopulation is a huge problem. Most of our "receiving rescues" are located in New England and the Northeast – where there are generally waiting lists to adopt animals from rescues.

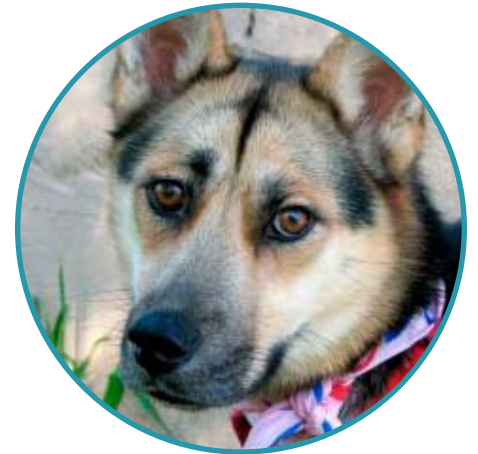
Our unique, innovative Puppy PromisesSM program keeps newborn puppies out of the stressful and unhealthy environment of a shelter. The Bernie's BuddiesSM heartworm fund provides money necessary for treatment and boarding for our heartworm positive dogs. Our Spay & Neuter program provides access to services and financial assistance to low-income households, for spay and neuter surgeries on their pets.

More information about Saving Shelter Pets and our programs is available on our website: www.savingshelterpets.com

A Brief History

After Hurricane Katrina, animal rescue volunteers from all over the country went to the Gulf area to assist with rescuing and caring for displaced animals in that region. As a result, they became aware of the severity of pet overpopulation in the southern US. Those who followed the animal rescue work through Internet forums realized it too. The Saving Shelter Pets organization was created by animal lovers, connected by an online discussion forum, who wanted to help homeless pets in the Atlanta area.

SSP established an interstate rescue program early on, coordinating efforts to move animals out of high-kill shelters in Georgia and in to safe rescues in the Northeast. We forged relationships with shelters and developed a network of "receiving rescues" in New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Vermont, and New Hampshire. Protocols for vetting and quarantine were developed, in order to ensure the health of the animals before travel.



SSP realized that the shelter environment was potentially lethal for young puppies, and created the Puppy PromisesSM program to help them, and also to spay their mother, thus preventing future litters. Also, SSP created a special fund to finance the cost of treating dogs with heartworm, a common canine ailment in the southern US.

And so, the foundation was laid for SSP to be a successful, well-rounded animal welfare organization. Saving Shelter Pets continues to grow and serve animals in need, and strives at all times to maintain the best interests of those animals in our care.



Our Mission Statement

Saving Shelter Pets strives to eliminate euthanasia as a method of population control for homeless companion animals, by providing no-kill alternative solutions and proactively addressing the problem of pet overpopulation.

Our Activities

- Saving lives of shelter animals in danger of euthanization, by moving them to safe, no-kill rescues.
- Providing access to services and financial assistance for proactive pet population control methods, i.e. spay/neuter surgeries.
- Promoting educational opportunities to increase awareness of the problems and consequences associated with pet overpopulation, pet abandonment in shelters, and inhumane treatment of pets.
- Providing an online discussion forum and social networking sites for friends and supporters to communicate information about animal rescue work, animals in need, special events to benefit animals, etc.



Accomplishments for 2007

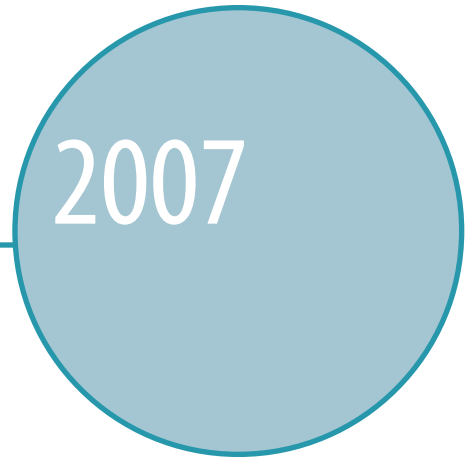
Our second full year of operation was one of growth and expansion, and an increased emphasis on programs that take a pro-active approach in the fight against pet overpopulation. In 2007, SSP continued the success of our existing programs – Rescue & Transport, Puppy PromisesSM, and the Bernie's BuddiesSM heartworm fund. In addition, we launched our Spay & Neuter program, to address the root cause of pet overpopulation. And 2007 also gave SSP several opportunities to grow our supporter base and increase awareness for the causes we champion, through online fundraising contests.

The Rescue & Transport program successfully completed 19 transport efforts in 2007. In doing so, we saved the lives of 668 homeless animals (660 dogs, 8 cats) from Georgia shelters. We have continued to refine and grow this program during the past year, building upon our existing network of shelters, vets, and boarding facilities in the greater Atlanta area. Also, we developed relationships with a number of new "receiving rescues" for our animals. And, we recruited several new volunteers to carry out the important work of this program.

Among those 660 dogs rescued last year were 65 litters of 351 Puppy PromisesSM puppies. Thanks to SSP and the Puppy PromisesSM program, these unwanted puppies never entered the shelter system, and instead went to no-kill rescues. All 65 mother dogs from these litters were spayed as well, with SSP paying 100% of the bill for these surgeries. We continued our existing Puppy PromisesSM program partnership with Murray County Animal Control, in Chatsworth, GA, throughout 2007. And, in April, we expanded the program to include a second area, by partnering with a rescue group in Blairsville, GA, that serves Union and Cherokee Counties and neighboring parts of North Carolina.

In 2007, the Bernie's BuddiesSM heartworm fund provided boarding expenses and life-saving treatment for 23 dogs that were taken in to SSP's Rescue & Transport program. This important fund allows us to honor our commitment to save all the dogs we rescue from the shelters, including the ones that must be treated for this disease.

One of our proudest accomplishments for 2007 is the launch of SSP's Spay & Neuter program. SSP believes strongly that spay/neuter is *the* answer to reducing pet overpopulation, and we recognize that a Spay & Neuter program is an integral piece of a responsible pet welfare organization. For the first half of 2007, the program served Dougherty County, GA, through a certificate program – distributing certificates that were redeemable at participating vet offices for significant discounts on the surgery cost.



Accomplishments (cont'd.)

In July and again in November, we collaborated with the Humane Society of Columbiana County (OH), and co-sponsored two weekend spay/neuter events with the RASCAL mobile surgical unit, at the HSCC facility in Salem, OH. In October, we sponsored a Spay Day For Cats at the Murray County Animal Control facility in Chatsworth, GA, providing a full day of pre-arranged spay surgeries at no cost to the cats' owners. All together, SSP provided access to services and funding for spay/neuter surgeries on 177 dogs and 101 cats in 2007.

SSP saw significant growth of our supporter base in 2007. At this time we have over 12,000 friends following our activities on MySpace (the online social network). In the fall we initiated a presence on the socially conscious Razoo online network, and have amassed almost 200 supporters there. In late 2007 SSP ventured onto the Facebook social networking website. There we currently have almost 100 members on our Group page, and over 1,200 supporters of our Fight Against Pet Overpopulation Cause.

Much of this growth came as a result of our participation in three online networking and fundraising contests during 2007 – in March, September, and October. In the process of reaching out to spread the word about the work that SSP does, we made many new friends as we collected donations. We were given cash awards by the contest organizers (Network For Good and Razoo) for our efforts in two of these three contests.

SSP's other fundraising efforts include our on-going participation with the iGive online shopping program and GoodSearch, which pays SSP when our supporters use their web search engine. We have partnered with Amazon, eBay, a magazine subscription company, and a car donation organization. (Note – please visit our website at www.savingshelterpets.com if you would like more info about any of these programs.) A number of authors, artists, and artisans regularly contribute proceeds from the sales of their works to SSP. And we collaborated with online merchants in several special event sales to benefit SSP.

As a whole, the work done by SSP in 2007 represents a continuation of the successes from 2006, and provides the framework necessary for the organization to meet future challenges in 2008 and beyond.



A Few Success Stories

Duke

Duke was an adorable little Catahoula mix with beautiful markings, less than a year old, who came to SSP from the Heard Co (GA) shelter. We were a bit concerned about his temperament because he didn't want anyone going near his head, and he cried when anyone tried to put a collar or a leash on him. While he was being vetted, we discovered the reason for his behavior – he had a broken jaw! After surgery to repair that, he was transported in a special padded crate to one of our rescues in New Jersey in January. There he received a second surgery to complete the repair on his jaw, and went on to live with a loving forever family.



Tessa

This poor Yellow Lab mix was being overlooked in the Murray Co. shelter because of a noticeable limp in her rear leg. But SSP could tell that, with her sweet personality and adorable face, she would make a wonderful family pet – if only given a chance. The veterinarian who examined her said that she had a previous fracture in her leg that had not healed well, and that she was not in pain, but would always have her limp. One of our favorite rescues in Vermont saw her potential too, and she went to them in October. Tessa's beautiful face graces the SSP 2008 calendar for the month of November.



Charlie

Charlie was a cute little Retriever/Shepherd puppy from Murray Co (GA), originally supposed to be rescued by SSP, but found a local home instead. Imagine our surprise when he showed up at the Murray County shelter a month later, with his leg broken in four places! Well, SSP couldn't be talked out of taking poor Charlie this time. Thankfully he was young enough that the bones were healing OK by themselves. Charlie was gently nursed back to health, and delivered to a New Jersey rescue in June.



Tiny Tim

SSP came across this sad soul, a Chi/Doxie mix, in the Heard County shelter. He had severe mange, and was missing much of his fur. On top of this, he was extremely malnourished. His vet exam revealed that he had a severe worm infestation, and had probably been starving for a long time. Worse than that, he was only about five months old! SSP saw the beautiful dog that he had the potential to become, and got him out of the shelter and into foster care so he could get the TLC he needed. Tiny Tim was indeed a beautiful and spunky little guy, who was brave enough to befriend a Rottweiler while in foster care! Tiny Tim found rescue through SSP in New Jersey in June.



Velvet & pups

Velvet found herself at the Rockdale Co (GA) shelter, just another homeless black lab mix, alone and very pregnant – in a gassing shelter in Georgia! SSP made plans to pull her, and she birthed her puppies in the shelter the very night before we got her (and her pups) out. Unfortunately, the brief stay in the shelter facility was enough to infect the pups with Parvovirus – that most evil of puppy ailments. Velvet's foster mom worked tirelessly to keep the pups alive, and thanks to her efforts, four of seven survived. Velvet's pups went to rescue in New York in June. Poor Velvet tested positive for Heartworm too, so she stayed with her foster mom for treatment and a spay surgery, then went to that same NY rescue in July.

NOTE: SSP knows that Velvet's story is all too common in shelters everywhere. Puppies born in a shelter are at a very high risk for Parvo or other diseases, and many do not survive. It is for canine families like these that SSP created and continues its Puppy PromisesSM program.



Melba & pups

Melba, a young Border Collie mix, was abandoned and tied up outdoors – along with her five puppies! – when their owners moved. Imagine this poor momma dog, tied up on a rope, with no food, water, or shelter – and with new puppies to feed and care for! The landlord of the property turned this little family in to the NEGAS (Northeast Georgia Animal Society) shelter. SSP was moved by their unfortunate circumstances, and offered them a chance at a new life. The entire family was delivered to a rescue in New Hampshire in April.



Operations & Financial Summary

Revenue for 2007

Direct contributions, individual	77,356.69
Reimbursements, receiving rescues	8,320.00
Fundraising, festivals and special fund raisers	2,675.45
Fundraising, online flea market & eBay	1,115.27
Grants	11,500.00
Affiliate programs	3,640.26
Matching Gift Programs	400.00
Other Income	1,536.93



Expenses for 2007

Rescue, veterinary care & boarding	47,655.48
Rescue, transport	27,648.31
Rescue, miscellaneous	404.26
Puppy Promises SM	12,179.45
Bernie's Buddies SM	5,260.85
Spay & Neuter Program	6,379.67
Administration	1,920.27
Postage & delivery	406.26
Donations to other groups	650.00
Payment service fees	1,719.86
Other Expenses	1,156.62



Note: Saving Shelter Pets is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, as determined by the Internal Revenue Code. As such, it is eligible to receive contributions deductible as charitable donations for federal income purposes.

