

PET FEATURE



Mutts & Meows saves approximately 20 to 40 dogs and five to 10 cats monthly



Mutts & Meows volunteer, Ann Smith with a kitten friend



Jorge Lacantara with his new friend



Tiffany Smoke and Tyler Davis with their new puppy Thunder



Hannah Cantiff with her new pup Satuma



Volunteer Amy with a new pup available for adoption



Volunteer Wendy Klotz with Zumba

SAVING MUTTS & MEOWS



Private cat and dog rescue works hard to save local pets and find them forever homes, with a focus on helping mixed breeds

Written by Wendy Teng | Photography by Amanda Walton

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Mutts & Meows Animal Rescue is on a focused mission to save dogs, especially mixed-breeds or “mutts,” and cats in the Houston area. The founding members realized there are more purebred rescues compared to rescue groups for mixes. The rescue’s name, Mutts & Meows, was created by the founding members to reference both mixed dogs and cats. The founding members include Tom Cooper, Mark Dukes, Ramona Kipfer, and Jane Rice.

AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION

Although the organization’s focus is on mixes, the rescue group helps both purebreds and mixed-breeds from high kill shelters. “By pulling from them, we help to free up space for another dog or cat so they don’t have to put down so many,” says Kipfer. The typical ages of the animals taken in are under 5 years old, but they also rescue older animals. Mutts & Meows saves approximately 20 to 40 dogs and five to 10 cats monthly, but these numbers depend on the number of adoptions and foster homes available each month. Right now there are approximately 35 dogs and 15 cats available for adoption or foster.

PAIRING PETS & FOSTERS

There are different reasons behind every foster’s attraction to certain breeds or conditions. Some fosters like to save certain breeds. Other fosters are more sympathetic to situations such as animals being left at the shelter due to their owner’s deaths. Other fosters are more practical and like to

“The scared ones always pull at my heartstrings, especially the little ones in the big, noisy, scary shelter. It is very hard for them.”

Once in the care of Mutts & Meows, the animals will get the necessary vaccines, get spayed or neutered, and treated for medical issues before they are available for adoption.

SUPPORTING MUTTS & MEOWS

The small rescue does not have its own facilities or shelter, and it depends on the hard-working efforts of volunteers and available foster homes that open their doors for the animals. “We try to keep a low profile in order to stay focused on the main goal and get dogs and cats out of the shelter before they are put down. We get them healthy, get them adopted, and repeat,” says Kipfer.

Foster homes from the general public are the backbone to help save the animals. The fosters need to be able to not only take care of the animals, but also help train and bring them to adoption events.



Volunteer Sandy Julian with pup Lachain

work with dogs who have skin issues as it is fairly easy to improve on. If left at the shelter, the skin issues can linger and have the potential to become worse, leading these animals to be the first to be put down. Kipfer notes,

"In order for us to pull a dog or cat from the shelter, we have to have a place for it to go. The more foster homes, the more animals that can be saved. They are the heroes," says Kipfer.

Volunteers are needed to help with adoption events and much more. There are mobile adoption events on the weekends in Katy, Pearland, Missouri City, and once a month in Sugar Land. The group has held fundraisers at Katy restaurants and they are planning an adoption event at a theater this summer where a new dog movie is premiering.

HAPPILY EVER AFTER

It is often nice to hear updates on animals that have adopted and the wonderful lives they are now enjoying. One of the Mutts & Meows rescue dogs ended up in New Hampshire and he is doing agility competitions now. Another dog got to do an ad for the retail sports store Academy. There are many others who have made tremendous health improvements that may otherwise not have been possible if they had not been rescued by Mutts & Meows. **KM**

WENDY TENG is a freelance writer who loves dogs and hopes to help save more dogs in need.



HOW TO HELP



Donate to help them get money for the pets and cover vet costs



Volunteer hours to help transport the animals to events, from shelters, and to foster homes



Adopt or foster a loving pet from Mutts & Meows

To find out more about the Mutts & Meows Animal Rescue, visit muttsandmeowsrescue.com or follow them on Facebook.

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