



HOUSTON HAS A HUGE PROBLEM WITH HOMELESS AND UNWANTED ANIMALS

Many homeless and unwanted dogs wander the streets or live in parks and abandoned buildings in Houston's East End and other parts of the city. Some have been homeless for generations while others were more recently dumped by their owners, former pets that must now fend for themselves. Adding to the problem are local residents who fail to spay or neuter their pets with the result being litter upon litter of unwanted dogs that often end up on the street. Thousands of these dogs are euthanized each year in Houston and Harris County shelters. Rescue groups try to save others but there are just too many to save. The only solution to Houston's animal overpopulation problem is more spay neuter of pets and stray animals.



WHAT IS BARRIO DOGS' FIXIT?

FixIt is Barrio Dogs' large scale spay neuter event that kicks off in October 2012 in Houston's East End. Our goal is to spay or neuter at least 250 dogs whose owners cannot afford it. We will utilize local vet clinics and either transport the dogs ourselves or have the owners transport them. In exchange for the free surgery, we will ask residents to contribute by distributing literature, talking to their neighbors about proper animal care and volunteering at our events and activities.

So far, three spay/neuter days are scheduled for 2012; each day will be preceded by a Community Education Day the week before where we will sign residents up for the spay/neuter and provide information about proper pet care. We will schedule more dates in 2013.

LOCATION	COMMUNITY EDUCATION DAY	SPAY NEUTER DAY
Hidalgo Park 7000 Avenue Q, 77011	Saturday, October 20, 2012 10 AM – 1 PM	Saturday, October 27, 2012 Drop off 7 AM; pick up 4 PM
Mason Park 541 S. 75th St, 77023	Saturday, November 3, 2012 10 AM – 1 PM	Saturday, November 10, 2012 Drop off 7 AM; pick up 4 PM
Ingrando Park 7302 Keller, 77012	Saturday, November 24, 2012 10 AM – 1 PM	Saturday, December 1, 2012 Drop off 7 AM; pick up 4 PM

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- **Donate money.** Barrio Dogs is raising all funding for FixIt. To donate, go to barriodogs.org/donations.html.
- **We are also accepting donations of leashes, collars, dog beds, dog food and other items to distribute to FixIt participants.** For information about where to donate, contact us at fixit@barriodogs.org.
- **Donate your time.** We need help with marketing, community outreach, signing dogs up for spay/neuter, transporting them to the vet clinic and follow up with their owners. Email us at fixit@barriodogs.org to volunteer or join the mailing list.
- **Help us spread the word.** Distribute our posters and literature throughout your community and inform your neighbors, friends, family and coworkers about our work. Discuss FixIt at your church or civic association meeting. Contact us if you would like for us to attend a community meeting to talk about FixIt.

IMPACT

A 2010 Health of Houston survey by the University of Texas School of Public Health found that stray animals are the biggest neighborhood public health concern for 61% of East End residents; crime was a distant second at 33%.¹ When looking at the enormity of the homeless and unwanted dog problem in the East End, spaying or neutering 250 or even more dogs may not seem like much. However, for those dogs the endless cycle of reproducing will be stopped. More importantly, we are raising awareness about the need to spay and neuter not only pets but also stray animals. We want to convince East End residents that spay/neuter is the norm, not the exception, and is the only humane solution to the homeless animal problem they witness daily.

¹sph.uth.tmc.edu/research/centers/ihp/health-of-houston-survey-2010

For more information, contact us at fixit@barriodogs.org or go to barriodogs.org/fixit.html

