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**COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENT IN HOUSTON'S
THIRD WARD TARGETS ANIMAL OVERPOPULATION
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



Houston, TX, May 22, 2014 – In an effort to bring attention to Houston's animal overpopulation crisis, Unity for a Solution is sponsoring a community outreach event in the Third Ward at “Our Park”, 2604 Alabama, Houston, TX 77004 on Saturday, May 31st from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM. Volunteers will block walk, talk to residents and sign up their pets for free spay and neuter. In exchange, pet owners will be asked to help spread the word that spay, neuter and education are the only solutions to Houston's homeless animal crisis. Only pets belonging to Greater Third Ward residents are eligible for free spay and neuter.

There are estimated to be over one million homeless animals in Houston.¹ The Unity 1000 Challenge hopes to raise awareness of that fact by educating residents and spaying and neutering at least 1,000 pets belonging to low income Houston residents in 2014. Often, owned animals or family pets that are not fixed are allowed to roam and produce unwanted litters of puppies and kittens, some of which end up on the streets. Encouraging residents to fix their pets and assisting those who cannot afford it is a first step in reducing overpopulation. This year's challenge targets Houston's East End, Fifth Ward, Sunnyside, South Union, Third Ward, Denver Harbor, and the “Corridor of Cruelty” (U.S. 59 North). Last year, Unity fixed 843 pets, all with funds they raised from private donations.

“On every street corner, there are multiple stray dogs...sick, starving, and neglected. All of these dogs are breeding and exponentially increasing the homeless dog population,” said Third Ward resident Casey Keller. “Even if we had the time and resources to save them all, there simply aren't enough adoptive homes out there; the problem is too large to adopt our way out of. We must reduce the birth rate if we are ever going to make strides in reducing the suffering; people often want their animals spayed and neutered but don't have the resources to have it done - that's where Unity for a Solution will help.”

“We have rescued as many as we could at our own expense but are tapped out,” added fellow Third Ward resident Estelle Mack. “It is a much better approach to be proactive and prevent unwanted litters by spaying and neutering. Otherwise, the cycle will never end and sadly, too many dogs and cats suffer and die on the streets or end up euthanized at the pound.”

Barrio Dogs, Corridor Rescue and Forgotten Dogs of the Fifth Ward formed Unity for a Solution in January 2013 to try to improve conditions for Houston's homeless and unwanted animals by educating the public and finding ways to provide more free and low cost spay neuter services. Since forming, Unity has brought in additional partners including Barrio Dogs, Inc., Corridor Rescue Inc., Forgotten Dogs of the Fifth Ward Project, Clipped Ear Cat Sanctuary, AARF Houston, Twyla's Friends, Jurassic Bark Rescue, Lucky Dog Rescue, Scout's Honor Rescue, Inc., Texas Litter Control, One Hundred Thousand Hearts, 4 Paws Farm, Star Pizza, South Side Street Dogs, Shaggy Dog Rescue, FMW/FabLab, The Buck Foundation, Christi's Pet Sitting, Winston's on Washington, Paws Pet Resort, Olivine, Martini Hardware, Gratifi Kitchen + Bar, S.A.V.E. Rescue Coalition, Pet Rescue Team, ADORE Houston and Mrs. Wooferton's Dog Walking & Pet Sitting. To learn more about Unity, go to www.unityforasolution.org. To donate or learn more about the Unity 1000 Challenge, go to www.firstgiving.com/unity1000/2014.

¹BARC statistic reported by KHOU 11 News, www.khou.com/news/local/Residents-complain-about-citys-response-to-roaming-stray-dogs-216842061.html, 7/13/13



THIRD WARD PET EDUCATION DAY

TO HELP STOP THE PET OVERPOPULATION CRISIS

SIGN UP FOR FREE SPAY/NEUTER
& VACCINATIONS

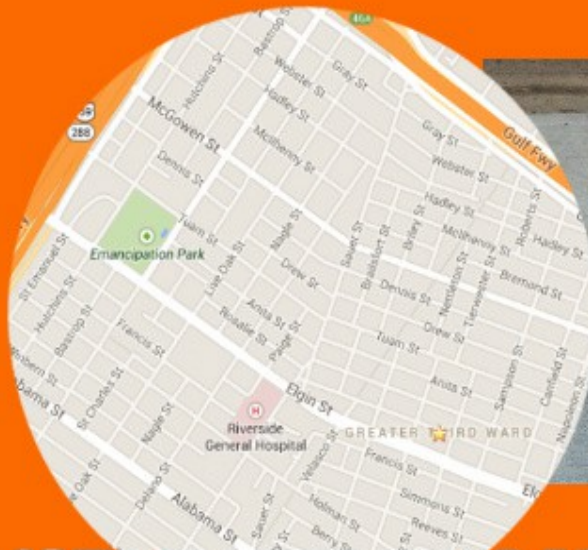


Do NOT bring pets to the event



Our Park 2604 Alabama Houston, TX 77004

Saturday, May 31st • 11:00AM to 1:00PM •



OPEN TO THIRD WARD RESIDENTS ONLY