



Barrio Dogs reflects on Hurricane Harvey

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www.barriodogs.org

Photo from www.time.com

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After Harvey hit Houston in August 2017, local agencies scrambled to provide shelter for residents whose homes were destroyed. An important question for many was "what will happen to my pets?" Fortunately, County Judge Ed Emmett declared that Harris County shelters would accept pets in the storm's aftermath.

Baker Ripley was in charge of the shelter established at NRG. They reached out to Barrio Dogs for help coordinating volunteers at the animal care area at NRG where most of the pets would stay. We agreed and mobilized our volunteers to provide around-the-clock assistance.





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At NRG, our volunteers checked animals in and out of the pet area, walked and fed them, and cleaned their crates. BARC was instrumental in helping gather supplies including food, crates, kennels, leashes, collars, and other items. Volunteers from other groups as well as a veterinary medical team were present every day. The generosity of our community was fully on display through the outpouring of donations and support.



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It was a challenging experience for everyone. Many of the people we met had lost everything and didn't know what would happen to them next. Their pets provided great comfort and in many cases, were the only connection they had to their prior lives. The animals were traumatized as well, separated from their owners and living in crates or kennels in an unfamiliar place.



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In addition to puppies and dogs of all breeds and sizes, our guests included fish and a few cats. Some pets like Stormy the Cat (pictured above, left) weren't reunited with their owners and were left behind at NRG. Luckily, Stormy found a forever home at Last Wishes Compassionate Comfort Care for Pets and took up residence as their clinic cat.



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Staffing the pet area at NRG was a big commitment for a small organization like Barrio Dogs but we were fortunate to find many wonderful volunteers.

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Two volunteers were especially helpful and gave generously of their time. Marjorie Jackson and Don Ready were there whenever needed, especially during the hard-to-fill overnight shifts.



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After the devastation of Harvey, we were proud and grateful to be among the people working to create a safe and comfortable space for pets displaced by the storm. We hope their owners were able to rest a little more easily knowing their pets were loved and well-cared for during their time at NRG.

