



Save a Sato Director Edi Vazquez with a friend at the 2007 reunion in Gloucester, Mass.

### LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

Happy holidays from all of us at Save a Sato...this time of year always makes us think of the many things for which we are incredibly grateful. We have wonderful supporters and many hundreds of Satos have been saved from the streets and now live in loving homes.

Our fundraising campaign for a new shelter site was very successful. You may remember that a generous family foundation offered to match every donation that came in over the summer up to \$15,000 to put toward a down-payment on a new shelter. Thanks to all of you who contributed--and to this compassionate family--we have been able to put together enough money for a downpayment on a new facility. We continue our search for an adequate site that suits our needs.

But we also had a terrible tragedy on the island. In October, the mayor of the

town of Barceloneta ordered the companion pets removed from a public housing project. This action itself was illegal. But it gets worse. The municipal and/or animal control employees who were charged with removing the animals ended up throwing as many as 80 cats and dogs to their deaths off a 50-foot bridge. There were very few survivors--you can read the story of one of those animals, Yoli, in this issue of Sato Tales.

The entire world was stunned and outraged by this massacre. Media investigations that followed found that animal abuse, such as this, is very common in Puerto Rico. Sadly, we at Save a Sato, are all too familiar with it.

But sometimes it takes a terrible tragedy to make people stand up and demand change. And that's what we're beginning to see on the island now. Many international groups have reached out to help us. We are working on the first island-wide public awareness campaign. One town offered a free spay/neuter clinic. Police stations have agreed to hang posters about dealing with animal cruelty. We know that any social change is slow....but we are heartened by these early signs. You can trust us to work as hard as possible to effect lasting change for Satos.

As always, we couldn't do any of this work without your support and care.

*Chantal Robles and Edi Vazquez*  
Directors

### 2007 SATO REUNIONS

This year Save a Sato took part in three separate reunions! All of these were in Massachusetts where so many of our rescues have gone to live. We were in Salem in August and in Worcester and Gloucester in September.

It was at the Gloucester reunion that famous fine arts photographer, Traer Scott, was nice enough to come along and bring her camera.

Traer has a new book out--which you

can read about here. And she took some great shots of Save a Sato alumni....like the stylish little girl with Edi on the left and the one above of



Save a Sato volunteer Claudia Amaya Ardila planting a kiss on a real cutie pie. Traer also took the photo above of four



very happy Satos. Believe it or not, the brown doggie with the blue kerchief is the mama of these three pups. They were thrilled to be reunited and learn that each one had ended up in a loving, permanent home....



Riggs and Santa

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

This is a wonderful time of year to check in on some of our Satos in their new homes. We receive the most beautiful Christmas cards and wanted to share the holiday cheer.



Here is Lucy in her reindeer costume. Lucy's parents, Erin and Evan Lau, got married recently and rather than spend money on wedding favors for the guests, they made a donation to Save a Sato to help other dogs like Lucy get a second chance.

Lucy has a special connection to the holiday season. She and her three siblings were rescued in December

and her original name was Pascua, which means poinsettia in Spanish.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO:** Cristina Miranda, Magda Capo-Chanbunna, Kim Rennie and Miss Miano's 2nd grade class, Amanda Gunther, and Anne DeCelis.

**IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A SATO-INSPIRED HOLIDAY GIFT...CONSIDER A COPY OF "STREET DOGS"**

Best-selling fine arts photographer, Traer Scott, turns her lens on Satos in her follow up to last year's hit "Shelter Dogs." Traer's magnificent black and white images of these noble creatures will pull at any Sato-lover's heart strings. In making "Street



Dogs," Traer spent time at the Save a Sato shelter in San Juan and visited the notorious dumping ground, "Dead Dog Beach." Street dogs of Mexico are also profiled.

Most of the Satos featured ended up in great homes. Part of the proceeds from the book sale will go to the World Society for the Protection of Animals to support its work in Puerto Rico and Mexico. You can order a copy online at amazon.

**PELITA'S NEW LIFE...** Little Relita was in miserable shape when she first arrived at the Save a Sato shelter. A victim of abuse and neglect, this poor little gal was rail thin with terrible mange. But after a few weeks soaking up the love and treats from



Relita when she first arrived

our shelter manager, Gloria Marti, Relita began to thrive. Soon enough she was ready to fly to the Northeast Animal Shelter in Salem, Mass.

That's where she met Ed LeClair and his grandchildren, Ashley and Austin. The two kids thought that Relita--now Ginger--would be perfect for their granddad. Ed's wife had passed away last winter and his grandkids wanted him to have a special companion to help keep him company. Ginger has been that and more...she has claimed one end of the sofa, loves car rides, and exhibits some really unSato-like behavior in that she is a very picky eater! She goes camping in the White Mountains and takes walks on the beaches in Maine. Seeing her so happy and healthy makes all our work worthwhile. Thanks Ed!



Ginger now has her very own end to the sofa....

**YOLANDA DEFIES THE ODDS**

The recent Puerto Rican Pet Massacre made news around the world. In this appalling mass killing, some 80 companion pets were pulled from their homes and thrown off a 50-foot bridge to their deaths. Leisha Swayne of Animal Protection Network works closely with Save a Sato and was one of the first on the scene. She took several badly wounded animals to a nearby veterinary clinic.

Among the survivors was Yolanda, pictured here with Leisha. Yolanda landed on a tractor and suffered a broken pelvis, back, and ribs: euthanasia seemed to be the most humane alternative. But Yoli's will to live convinced everyone otherwise.

Now, after several surgeries, her outlook is improving. Her broken bones have been set and pinned, but the extensive nerve damage she suffered means it is unlikely that she will regain control of her bladder functions. She is safe now



though and getting all the medical care and love that she needs...You can tell she is feeling better.

If you would like to write or email the Governor of Puerto Rico to demand



that he do more to end animal abuse and suffering and make sure there is never another pet massacre, his contact information is:

Gov. Anibal Acevedo Vila  
La Fortaleza  
P.O. Box 902082  
San Juan, PR 00902

[www.laforaleza.gobierno.pr/anibal04.htm](http://www.laforaleza.gobierno.pr/anibal04.htm)



**SATO SENIORS AT THE SEA**

Mother Lucy (14?) and daughter Ethel (12) are the true Save a Sato trail-blazers. They were the very first Sato rescues to arrive in Mass. in 1996. Adopted by Brenda Murphy, these two have slowed up a bit. They used to climb mountains when they were younger, but now they're more into spending time at their favorite B&B and lounging lakeside--or visiting their local lighthouse to catch the sea breezes.



***I want to support Save a Sato's rescue mission!***

- \$25 (provides food and shelter for one dog for a month)
- \$40 (provides vaccinations and other medical care for one Sato)
- \$50 (covers the cost to spay one dog)
- Other \$\_\_\_\_\_ (goes toward general animal expenses)

Please make checks payable to Save a Sato or charge my credit

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_ Signatu \_\_\_\_\_

**YES!** I want to provide monthly care and hope for Satos throughout the

I authorize Save a Sato to transfer from my bank \_\_\_\_\_ or my credit card \_\_\_\_\_ the amount \$\_\_\_\_\_ each month. In the event that I wish to discontinue my pledge, I will write to Save a Sato or to my bank. A record of each donation will be included on my regular bank statement or credit card statement and will serve as a receipt. I have enclosed a check for my first monthly contribution.

Signatu \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Telephon \_\_\_\_\_



**Fundacion Save A Sato**  
P.O. Box 37694  
San Juan, PR 00937-0694

*To make a donation through our website, please visit us at: [www.saveasato.org](http://www.saveasato.org).*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.

*Gifts to Save a Sato are tax deductible.*



**AMERICA'S NEXT TOP MODELS....**

Satos *Elsita* and *Joey* often end up being models for their photographer dad Steve Bevacqua....but any model will tell you that sometimes you just have to take a break from posing. Nothing does the trick for

these two like a romp on the beach in Nahant, Mass. Both were adopted from the Northeast Animal Shelter in Salem, Mass. You can see more of Steve's work at [stevesphoto.com](http://stevesphoto.com). He has photos from the last sato reunion under his personal work.

*How You Can Help*

If you are scheduled to travel from Puerto Rico on an American Airlines flight to Boston, Harford, Baltimore, Washington DC, or Miami....please consider being a Sato escort. Federal law prevents us from sending our dogs without a corresponding passenger, so we always need volunteers to transport our rescued dogs to their new homes. It's easy. It doesn't cost anything and you don't have to do anything special....just let us know your travel itinerary and we'll do the rest. email [edi@saveasato.org](mailto:edi@saveasato.org) for more information or go to our website: [www.saveasato.org](http://www.saveasato.org).



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San Juan, PR 00937-0694**

*In This Issue...*

**"Street Dogs" by Traer Scott  
Sato Reunions**

TO MAKE A DONATION THROUGH  
OUR WEBSITE, PLEASE VISIT US AT  
[WWW.SAVEASATO.ORG](http://WWW.SAVEASATO.ORG)