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## Texas vodka distiller has a heart for rescue

Sixteen years ago, Tito Beveridge built his vodka distillery and started producing Tito's Handmade Vodka on a large, open field in Austin, Texas. Little did Beveridge know, this field was a makeshift home to abandoned ranch dogs, stray dogs, and feral cats. An animal lover long before he was a vodka distiller, Beveridge made it his mission to help rescue and care for each animal that crossed paths with his company.

To date, Beveridge and his employees have rescued about 30 homeless dogs and cats that have meandered onto the distillery grounds. All of the once-homeless animals have been vetted and adopted by Tito's employees or their extended family.

"Two dogs, Roscoe and Pearl,

even live at the distillery," says Elizabeth Bellanti-Walker, relationship manager for Tito's. Dogs roam the marketing offices and the property, and they feel right at home, she says.

Tito's relationship with animal rescue extends beyond the company grounds. In 2011, Tito's partnered with Texas-based Emancipet to raise \$10,000 for the organization's low-cost spay-neuter program. Tito's is also active in several rescues around Austin, including Love-A-Bull, the Austin Humane Society, and Puppy Mill Awareness Day.

"We have attracted a lot of rescue partners, and any updates about our work culture with dogs might be more popular than even our vodka news!" Bellanti-Walker says. — N.S.

## NEWS HOUND



Tito Beveridge with Roscoe, who lives at the Tito's Handmade Vodka distillery.

COURTESY KNOX PHOTOGRAPHS

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