



NETWORK NEWS

SPAY/USA...Saving Lives By Preventing Unwanted Litters!
www.spayusa.org

Summer 2001

Coping With Too Much Of A Good Thing!

Part I: Operation Catnip *by Dr. Julie Levy*

Operation Catnip celebrated its 10,000th feral cat sterilization last month, a heady accomplishment for a program that started neutering a handful of feral cats each month alongside friendly cats destined for pet rescue foster homes. Volunteers for Second Chance Pet Adoptions in Raleigh, NC, began neutering feral cats in 1994 when foster space was full with friendly cats waiting for new homes. Neutering and returning feral cats to their colonies seemed like the best option for the unsocialized cats. As word spread about this nonlethal effort to control feral cats, more and more feral cat caretakers came forward to request veterinary care for the cats they fed. By 1997, demand was so high that Operation Catnip, a free spay/neuter program for feral cats, was born as a separate organization. The group had a very simple mission, to reduce the feral cat population by neutering as many as possible. A trip to view operations at a Feral Cat Coalition clinic in San Diego was instrumental in designing a high-volume, inexpensive clinic run completely by volunteers in borrowed

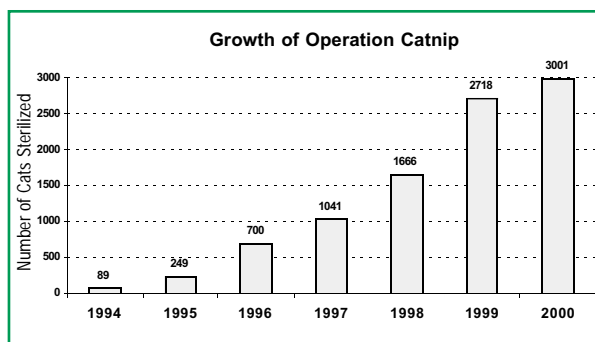
facilities. A year later, a second chapter was created in Gainesville, Florida.



The clinics are designed to sterilize as many cats as possible in a single day. To accomplish this, a team of approximately 50 volunteers, including 6-10 veterinarians, is assembled to operate a MASH-style clinic. Feral cat caretakers borrow humane traps from Operation Catnip

prior to the clinic. Cats must be in individual traps when they are checked into the clinic at 8:00 a.m. This allows for the injection of an anesthetic while the cat is still in the trap. The cats are not removed from the traps until they are asleep, generally within 3 minutes of the injection. At the end of the clinic, cats are returned to their traps before they recover. This procedure completely eliminates the risks of escape and injury that may accompany handling attempts of conscious feral cats. Once the cats are safely asleep, they pass through a number of stations to be sterilized, vaccinated (FVRCP, FeLV, Rabies), and ear-tipped. Each cat also receives a dose of Revolution for flea and parasite control. By 2 p.m., the cats are ready to be picked up by their caretakers, who will keep them in their traps overnight and release them back to their colonies when they are fully recovered.

Clinics are held monthly at the Colleges of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Florida and North Carolina State University. The average clinic size is approximately 150 cats,



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Letter From The Editor . . .



Spring has been busy, with two terrific conferences back to back. The first took place in Istanbul, Turkey – the fourth International Companion Animal Welfare Conference in mid-May. Once again, dedicated people from around the world converged to share ideas, problems and solutions. People who had attended earlier conferences reported remarkable progress in addressing companion animal overpopulation in their countries. People from Russia, Hungary, Greece, Italy and Israel (which has now formed SPAY/ISRAEL in conjunction with our program) are all working on spay/neuter programs to reduce the surplus of dogs and cats in their countries. Warehousing these strays in shelters is costly and cannot address the large numbers of animals now on the streets. Cutting the numbers makes sense to them, and they are busily training vets in speed spay and early spay techniques, looking for sources of affordable supplies, and working to build small spay clinics where possible. The spirit of these people working with so little is truly inspiring, and readers who wish to help them should contact us for ways to channel supplies or funds to some of the neediest places.

On May 17, I was pleased and honored to be asked to hold a workshop on "What's New in Spay/Neuter" at the annual meeting of the National Animal Control Association in Daytona Beach. With me was the dynamic Animal Control team from Ocala, Florida – the Marion County Animal Control Department. Obviously dedicated and hard-working, they shared with the audience why they decided to invest in a large, modern clinic-on-wheels called The

Neuter Commuter – and exactly how they went about getting it. They prepared a powerful presentation for the County commissioners which they shared with this audience. The Neuter Commuter was on site for tours. It has proven to be a wonderful public relations "vehicle" for the department, and is booked solid for months in advance.

Florida is an interesting state in that Animal Control Departments in at least four counties (and humane societies in at least two others) have taken the initiative to prevent unwanted litters by purchasing and running mobile spay clinics. Nearly a third of Florida is covered by these large, well-equipped vans.

Last but not least, we encourage Southerners to sign up soon for the SPAY/USA Southern Regional Leadership Conference in New Orleans; hotel rooms at the low rate are in short supply, and those wishing to sign up for tours must do so by 8/1/01. See the tour info on page 11.

Esther R. Mechler



L to R: Jill Lancon, Supervisor; Esther Mechler, Director SPAY/USA; LuAnn Miller, Vet Tech; Kathy Thomas, Vet Tech; Jim Limbaugh, Director



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“Animals are individuals who have a value independent of their usefulness to others.”



Operation Catnip

cont'd from cover

although the number has topped 200 on a few occasions. Because the clinics are based at veterinary schools, there is an emphasis placed on research regarding the health of feral cats and the impact of neutering on colony size. In addition, the involvement of veterinary students in the clinics exposes these future veterinarians to the problems of pet overpopulation and gives them hands-on experience in ways that they can help.

For the past year, demand for services has exceeded space in the clinics. Each month, caretakers and their cats are turned away because the clinic is full. To



overcome this, the Gainesville chapter is launching Operation Catnip Outreach, in which local veterinarians will be paid to neuter, vaccinate, and ear-tip feral cats on an ongoing basis in their own clinics. The new program is modeled after the wildly successful Feral Cat Altering Program sponsored by Maddie's Fund and the California Veterinary Medical Association

and is made possible by a \$35,000 grant from the ASPCA and Safe Steps Home. Veterinarians will be paid a flat fee which includes spay/neuter, vaccinations and potential complicated surgeries such as cryptorchids and pregnancies. The local veterinary community, which has already embraced the free monthly clinics, has been highly supportive of the program that will bring more feral cats into their practices.

For more information: www.operationcatnip.org, www.maddiesfund.org, www.cvma.org, www.alleycat.org (sells a 100-page manual for running Operation Catnip-style clinics), www.feralcat.org ✨

Part II: The Fabulous Feral Cat Coalition

by Patricia Howard

Since November 1992, the Feral Cat Coalition (FCC) of San Diego, California, has been hard at work as one of the premier feral cat advocacy groups in the country. The FCC has s/n more than 14,000 cats. Sparked by the vision of Sally Mackler and veterinarian Rochelle Brinton, the FCC began when the two, both looking for a way to address the feral cat overpopulation problem in the area, met at a monthly meeting of the San Diego Humane Society. Brinton had already been doing free sterilizations on feral cats and, with her veterinary connections and Mackler's organizational gifts, they made a formidable team that soon became the FCC.

The key to the success of FCC, says Brinton, is the "strong support from our veterinary community, coupled with our active and very hard working humane

community. Having a veterinarian in charge of the clinics is essential, one who has a realistic concept of the need to perform surgery quickly, efficiently, and in great numbers. Our goal, simply, is to sterilize ferals."

Brinton also recounts how many backlashes FCC had to endure from the veterinary and political communities when they first got started implementing TRAP-NEUTER-RELEASE. "The naysayers are now applauding us, but it was a tough road for about two years. The change in attitude came as a result of the publicity we received – in magazines, in newspapers. It became evident that the number of cats being euthanized at the shelters was decreasing for the first time, eventually becoming less than the euthanasia rate of dogs. Historically, this was a breakthrough, and even though Animal Control

would not give us formal credit, those in charge stated that the decline was due to the efforts of the FCC."

The FCC sponsors a free monthly spay/neuter clinic where 50 to 100 feral cats are sterilized, vaccinated, and vetted. The clinic is moved to different veterinary clinics in San Diego County each month to make it convenient for the greatest number of people. One host veterinarian will offer his or her hospital for a particular month, and as many as five or six other area veterinarians will also donate their time for that particular clinic. As many as 35 or more FCC volunteers are also necessary to make the clinic run smoothly.

And they clearly have the clinics down to a science, spaying and neutering an enormous number of cats in an incredibly

cont'd on page 4



Fabulous Feral Cat Coalition *cont'd from page 3*

short amount of time. At their latest clinic held in El Cajon, five veterinarians and 30 volunteers sterilized 61 cats in 2.25 hours.

Brinton says that FCC President Karla Wagner, who organizes and supervises the clinics, does the work of four people and is the reason the clinics and FCC both run at such an efficient level. One reason they can do so many cats is the unique indoor/outdoor set-up they have developed, taking advantage of San Diego's weather. Inside, supervised by veterinarians and the FCC's Laurie Dahl, is where the cats are prepped, anesthetized, and where surgery is performed. Outside, under canopies, is the recovery area where vaccination and ear treatments are done. A climate-controlled SUV serves as the ICU, where cats needing extra care, such as fluids, can be looked after.

To expedite the procedure, cats are placed on Plexiglass boards for surgery rather than on the surgery table. This way, she says, when the surgery is completed, the cat can easily be whisked away to recovery, leaving the table clear for the next cat and cutting down on prep time between cats.

The FCC runs entirely on private donations. The FCC also maintains an emergency medical fund for cases where feral cats are sick or injured and the caretaker is not financially able to provide veterinary care. Because it is easier to find veterinarians who can provide free sterilization than those that can provide free medical care, Project Administrator Linda Kelson said that having this fund was of utmost necessity for the well being of San Diego's feral cats.



Wagner says that FCC also organizes "The Cat Cupboard," a program to solicit donated cat food to help low-income caretakers feed their colonies (and a list of volunteers who may be willing to help feed).

Handling all this requires many volunteers, and the FCC has more than 400 dedicated and willing feral cat advocates. Besides helping out at the clinics, they run 25 trap depots around the county. "We have about 250 traps we lend out," Kelson says, "to anyone who wishes to help feral cats by getting them sterilized and continuing to feed them."

Dr. Julie Levy, who started Operation Catnip in North Carolina and Florida, attests to the efficiency and effectiveness of FCC's clinics. She said that, after spending a day at an FCC clinic in San Diego, she was inspired with even more ideas to streamline and improve Operation Catnip. "Their program was much more efficient in terms of the numbers of cats sterilized and the cost per cat. We realized that a lot of our money and efforts were going into areas

that did not increase the number of cats sterilized."

Wagner is currently assisting a group in Los Angeles to get their own clinics up and running. "If I could pass along just one thing to those who want to do this kind of work, it's "don't give up," Wagner says. "No matter how discouraged you get, just don't give up." To those who object to the concept of trap-neuter-return, she reminds them that, to impound for three days and then kill one domestic animal in San Diego, it costs the taxpayer \$121 (Wagner believes that the cost is up to \$125 per animal). "What we do is not only humane, it's a win-win situation for everyone."

The FCC has produced a video on how to organize and run a feral cat clinic. Friends of the Friendless is available for \$15 from the FCC. FCC's homepage is www.feralcat.com, email is rsavage@feralcat.com, and phone is 619-497-1599.



This article was reprinted from Alley Cat Action, the magazine of Alley Cat Allies.



Letters To The Editor . . .



Esther,

The overpopulation of unwanted animals is worldwide. In Panama, we heard that in the States animals are sterilized as young as eight weeks.

Eager to learn more about it, in March 2001, two vets from Panama, Dr. Anabell Herrera and Dr. Letty Guajardo visited the Spay and Neuter Clinic of the Washington Humane Society and the Maryland SPCA to observe the early sterilization, which is not practiced in Panama. These two facilities have an excellent record of doing things right and they welcomed the visit to share their expertise for the benefit of the animals far away from their area. The two vets returned to Panama to teach other vets that the procedure can be done in young animals. The visit was a success thanks to Esther Mechler, Melissa Manders, Sandra Carrigan, Dr. Eric Johnson, Dr. Schuyler Malachi, Dr. Robert Tishman, Jim Monsma, Kelly Derise, and Denise

Johnson. Our sincere thanks to all of them. From now on, the animals from the Asociación Amigos de los Animales, will be sterilized before being placed for adoption.



We still need to do a lot in Panama – we lack most of the equipment we saw in the U.S. facilities – but little by little we will try to equip ourselves. We are not asking for hand-outs, we want to acquire knowledge. If you would like to be part of our exchange-knowledge-e-mail-network, please write to us at patriciagato@hotmail.com There is always the possibility that we could help you too.

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Here is an update on Okinawa! The spay/neuter situation is still bad; and with most of the veterinarians on temporary duty, it's almost impossible to get one's pet fixed. I have two females at my house getting ready to go into heat, and I can't get them an appointment . . . been trying for three weeks now. I wish we could have civilian vets help out over here – sort of like missionary dentists; give up a couple of months in exchange for visiting our "tropical paradise." Many teachers here try to find people to house-sit while they're in the states for the summer. The visiting vets could have housing and help out at the clinic days. Please contact me, Linda Cobb, at Linda_Cobb@pac.odedodea.edu 🌟



Stamp Out News Flash!

by Hope Tarr, Project Coordinator

May 30, 2001. There appears to be some very exciting news for Prevent a Litter Coalition's (PaLC) Pet Overpopulation STAMP OUT Project. On Friday, May 25th I received a call from Postal Headquarters confirming that The Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee (the Postal body that reviews potential stamp subjects) has recommended that the Pet Overpopulation Awareness Stamp ("Spay/Neuter Your Pet" Stamp) be issued as a commemorative stamp in 2002 pending the approval of the Postmaster General. [Source: Stamp Development Office, U.S. Postal Service].

Effective May 31st, William Henderson will resign from the position of Postmaster General. John E. Potter, a career Postal employee, will take the helm as the nation's 72nd Postmaster General on June 1, 2001. To learn more about Mr. Potter, visit USPS's website at www.usps.com and enter a keyword search for "Potter."

The Postal Service will issue its official announcement of the U.S. Stamp Program for 2002 in October 2001. However, as in previous years, a preview of the selected stamps is slated to appear in an August issue of Linn's Stamp News, the country's largest philatelic magazine.

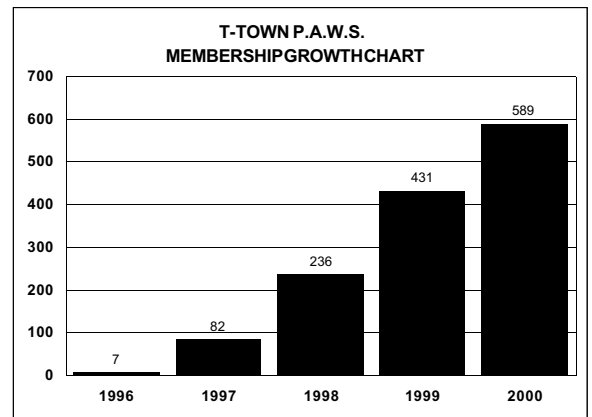
Lest we forget, the average print release for a U.S. commemorative stamp is 80 million. Yes, 80 MILLION SPAY/NEUTER stamps for sale in the nation's 40,000 post offices. Talk about high-impact!

So, while it may be a tad early for a full-scale fête, we at PaLC invite you to join us in a glass of cyber-champagne as we toast the achievement of this very important milestone – and all the collective hard work and goodwill contributed by our thousands of supporters around the country, including YOU! And, while you're cyber-sipping, please do peruse the PaLC website, www.palc.org, for new information as well as the fascinating history of the STAMP OUT Campaign. For the very latest, up-to-the-minute reports on the status of the stamp, we encourage you to sign up for our online STAMP OUT newsletter. From the PaLC homepage, click on newsletters for you, and then subscribe to the STAMP OUT newsletter. And, above all . . . Keep the Faith!



News From Alabama

Karen Ray has been the President of T-Town PAWS for the past five years. She has now been appointed Executive Director, working with twelve board members. The organization started with only seven board members in 1996. The first year the board members concentrated on the legalities of forming an organization. PAWS spayed/neutered only one animal that year. The Board soon grew to ten board members. Karen Ray and Sherry Romain (President) began attending conferences on Animal Welfare, the first being in Little Rock, Arkansas. With the information they gained, PAWS began publishing a quarterly newsletter to educate the public on Animal Welfare and to let people know what T-Town PAWS is all about. In 1997, the memberships grew to eighty-two members. By 1998, T-Town PAWS was spaying/neutering two animals a month and memberships grew to 236 members by the end of the year.



In 1999, the applications for spay/neuters were pouring in. We had to increase our fundraising efforts to help all of the applicants needing our help and to cover spay/neuter costs. By the end of our 4th year we had 431 memberships, and by the end of 2000, we had 589 memberships and they continue to grow each day. We are now sending out over 100 spay/neuter applications each month and in the year 2000 spent over \$39,000 spaying/neutering animals. We have come a long way since 1996, but for us to continue our education programs and our spay/neuter program, we still need help from our members and the community. Please help us to reduce the overpopulation and abuse of our animals in West Alabama. If you would like more information about T-Town PAWS, write to T-Town P.A.W.S., Inc., P.O. Box 861403, Tuscaloosa, AL 35486-0012; or call Karen Ray at (205) 339-8186; or visit our Web Site at www.t-townpaws.org. ❀

News From Texas

The Texas Coalition for Animal Protection (TCAP) has been formed to serve as a resource to Texas animal shelters and independent animal welfare organizations. As part of its mission, TCAP will help organizations establish their own low-cost pet sterilization programs. The organization will work with animal shelters and independent animal welfare organizations to evaluate the needs of their communities, to establish new programs, and to foster support for their efforts from city leaders. TCAP is capable of providing ongoing public relations services and support for established programs. TCAP will also work to promote neuter before adoption and early pet sterilization policies and procedures in Texas. The organization will also create a Texas directory that identifies existing programs. TCAP's goal is to enable citizens to make a difference within their own communities. To achieve its goals, TCAP is now forming a veterinary advisory board and a spay/neuter task force.

TCAP is also working to obtain discount pricing on necessary clinic supplies for its members. TCAP's goal is to serve as a full-service, one-stop resource for sterilization program advice and implementation. TCAP is currently working to obtain at least one mobile sterilization unit to allow the organization to begin servicing the state immediately. TCAP has targeted needy Texas areas and hopes to begin implementation later in the summer. For those interested in the organization's goals or to discuss new Texas programs, call the Texas Coalition for Animal Protection at (972) 463-7000, visit its Web site www.texasforthem.org or write to TCAP at Post Office Box 2203, Rowlett, Texas 75030. ❀



News From New Mexico

No More Homeless Pets of New Mexico's mission is to reduce the number of cats and dogs born in New Mexico until every cat and dog is guaranteed a loving home. This mission will be accomplished through:

- accessible and affordable spay and neuter opportunities
- increased pet adoption opportunities
- advocacy and educational programs

No More Homeless Pets of New Mexico's (NMHPNM) participants come from many areas of the state and include governmental agencies, private shelters, advocacy groups, educational organizations, and interested individuals.

For many years the solution for pet overpopulation was euthanasia. People across the country are beginning to address the real cause of the problem - too many animals, too few homes. NMHPNM believes that solving the problem requires innovative thinking and collaborative efforts, including cooperation between government shelters and private organizations.

NMHPNM sponsored the Neuter Scooter Too program in Albuquerque during October 2000 by raising \$5,000. This year the program was extended to female cats as well as males and 400+ cats were neutered and spayed. The surgeries were offered to the public for free and veterinarians were paid \$5 per male cat and \$10 per female cat. NMHPNM members in Deming, NM also ran a Neuter Scooter program that spayed and neutered over 100 cats and dogs.

NMHPNM received a \$25,000 grant from a private foundation to fund spay and



neuter programs. This money was awarded to eight New Mexico animal welfare organizations on a matching grant basis to fund spay/neuter surgeries for the pets of qualified low-income clients. Local participating veterinarians performed the surgeries during April 2001.

Organizations receiving the matching grants were:

- Alliance Against Animal Abuse - Albuquerque
- Animal Humane Association of New Mexico - Albuquerque
- Animal Protective Association of Socorro
- New Mexico Animal Friends, in cooperation with Albuquerque Cat Action Team (A.C.A.T.) and People's Anti-Cruelty Association (PACA) - Albuquerque
- Perfect Harmony Animal Rescue & Sanctuary - Chaparral
- S.N.A.P. - Las Cruces
- San Juan Animal League - Farmington
- Valencia County Animal Control - Los Lunas

By making this a matching grant program, NMHPNM turned the \$25,000 into \$50,000 of spay-neuter funds. This created local support for the program and allowed almost 600 cats and dogs to be spayed or neutered.

New Mexico is one of the poorest states, yet it is the fifth largest in terms of land-mass. Several of our counties have no practicing veterinarians. A few other counties have only one or two veterinarians whose focus is livestock veterinary medicine. Frequently people with cats and dogs cannot afford to spay or neuter their animals or do not have easy access to veterinary services. This allows animals to continue reproducing with litter upon litter. NMHPNM estimates that at least 50,000 cats and dogs are euthanized in New Mexico annually. That figure does not include the thousands of other cats and dogs who never even make it into the system and are killed in the streets and fields by causes far less compassionate than humane euthanasia.

NMHPNM firmly believes our mission can be accomplished through aggressive and directed spay-neuter programs based on statistical analysis with a target number of surgeries being performed annually. Program monitoring and evaluation is a critical component of the plan and the progress of NMHPNM will be charted on a regular basis. We intend to accomplish our mission within 10 years of the full implementation of our spay-neuter program. NMHPNM has contracted with a veterinarian, who has extensive experience in New Mexico animal shelter work and is obtaining a Masters in Public

cont'd on page 9



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News From Connecticut

In 1994, SPAY/USA founder Esther Mechler started The Bridgeport Cat Project along with four or five volunteers. The goal was to s/n and vaccinate the cats of the city regardless of "owners"/feeders' ability to pay. Those who owned or fed the cats, many of whom are part of managed colonies, pay as much as possible per cat, and The Cat Project pays the balance. Volunteers provide help with trapping/transportation when needed. The program was a part of a local nonprofit group, and in 1999 began receiving assistance for spaying/neutering and vaccinating cats from the city's Department of Health. By the beginning of the year 2001, The Bridgeport Cat Project was incorporated separately, elected officers, and recruited a dozen volunteers.

The news is that now cities and towns adjacent to Bridgeport are starting their own Cat Projects. The first one to do so was the Greater New Haven Cat Project, which now has over 30 volunteers. Recently, individuals in Stratford, Milford and Derby started Cat Projects in their towns as well.

And on May 24, the Animal Control Officer of Berlin, Connecticut, Jan Lund, invited Bridgeport Cat Project leaders to an initial meeting of The Central Connecticut Cat Project. Twenty potential volunteers from Berlin and surrounding towns attended this meeting. Also, the Town of Trumbull has decided to have its own Cat Project and has allocated funds to help pay for s/n and vaccinating cats.

Because there are no public shelters for cats in Connecticut, the problem of surplus and homeless cats was long swept under the rug – the problem "did not exist." The good news is that at least in a few parts of the state, government officials are not only acknowledging that the problems exist, they are becoming a part of the solution. ✨

DON'T MISS THE

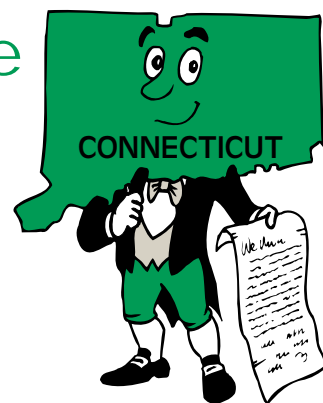
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News From New Mexico *cont'd from page 7*

Health degree, to prepare a comprehensive spay-neuter plan for New Mexico by the end of this summer.

Additional programs being planned by NMHPNM include:

- operation of a mobile spay-neuter clinic to service the remote areas of the state
- partnerships with veterinary associations, city and county governments, and humane service agencies
- grants to local animal agencies with emphasis on providing assistance to low-income households and communities.

NMHPNM is a 501(c)(3) organization run by a Board of Directors. Membership is open to the public by donation. Contact information:

No More Homeless Pets of New Mexico
P.O. Box 94390

Albuquerque, NM 87199-4390

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Helpful Hints for Summer!



Summer is a time for fun and relaxation. Everyone enjoys walking on the beach, swimming in the pool, or taking a day trip out of town – even our four-pawed friends. However, if folks are not careful, it can be a dangerous time for pets. You can help your dogs and cats have a good summer if you remember these simple tips:

- * **NEVER LEAVE YOUR PET IN A PARKED CAR – EVEN IF IT IS PARKED IN THE SHADE AND THE WINDOWS ARE OPEN!** A dog or cat's temperature can rise rapidly and to a dangerous level within a few minutes in a hot car. Heatstroke and even death can occur.
- * Always make sure your pet has fresh, cool, clean water available. Dogs, and even cats, drink more on hot days. Remember water bowls can get knocked over very easily and cool water gets warm quickly on hot days.
- * If your dog likes to swim, do not leave him/her unattended. Bathe your dog afterwards to remove all sand, mud and chlorine. Also, be sure all pool chemicals are stored safely out of reach.
- * **DO NOT ALLOW YOUR DOG TO HANG OUT OF A MOVING CAR!** Objects such as rocks or tree limbs might hit your pet or he/she might fall or jump out. It is also not recommended that animals ride in the back of pick-up trucks. Animals may be thrown from the vehicle if a sharp turn is taken, or get seriously injured if braking suddenly.
- * Be aware of oncoming thunderstorms by bringing your pets inside. Beside the possibility of becoming ill if left in the rain, thunder may scare them, or they may be hit by lightning.
- * Check your pet daily for fleas and ticks. This is not only a problem for your pet, but for you and your home as well. Talk to a veterinarian about taking preventative measures against these pesky bugs.



Mark Your Calendars . . .

Save The Dates!



Southern Regional Leadership Conference

Forming State Networks To End Cat/Dog Overpopulation

September 28 – 30, 2001 • Hampton Inn & Suites • New Orleans, Louisiana

Friday, September 28, 2001

Social By The Pool. Join us in the candlelit pool area to meet and greet people from all over the South including our 20 speakers. A variety of hors d'oeuvres and soft drinks will be provided. Cash Bar.

Saturday, September 29, 2001

Welcome and Opening Remarks by Esther Mechler

Changing Attitudes: How To Reach Those We Need To Reach! presented by: Joyce Hillard, Director, Spay/Neuter Arkansas; Kathy Savesky, Executive Director, The Bosack & Kruger Foundation; and Lynn Friedley, Humane Society of Chilton County, Alabama

Changing Public Policy: From Reaction To Prevention presented by: Peter Marsh, S.T.O.P., New Hampshire; Dennis Stearns, Leadership Greensboro; and Becky Robinson, Alley Cat Allies

Community Organizing. presented by: Laura Lanza, A.S.P.C.A. Shelter Outreach Program

Luncheon hosted by The A.S.P.C.A.

Starting Spay Programs And Clinics presented by: Linda Chitwood, Homeless Animals Relief Project, Mississippi; Lynn Friedley, Humane Society of Chilton County, Alabama; and Dr. Rollie Norris & Patty Hegwood, New Orleans, Louisiana

The Role Of The Mobile Clinic In The South presented by: Paul Berry, S.N.A.P., Louisiana; and Tammy Rouse, R.A.M., Tennessee

Afternoon Break

Using The Internet presented by: Chris Warner, Pets911

Reducing Numbers Of Feral Cats presented by: Becky Robinson, Alley Cat Allies, Washington D.C.

Statewide Networking For Success! presented by: Peter Marsh, S.T.O.P., New Hampshire; Joyce Hillard, Spay/Neuter Arkansas; Paul Berry, Southern Animal Foundation, Louisiana/Mississippi

Sunday, September 30, 2001

Finding Funding presented by: Melanie Lambert, Summerlee Foundation, Texas; Jim Mason, The Two Mauds Foundation, Missouri; Joyce Briggs, PETS MART Charities, Arizona; Kathleen Savesky, The Bosack & Kruger Foundation, Washington; and Bette Anne Meinert, UCAP, Arkansas

Ask The Experts! All panelists will be ready for your questions. Attendees can ask for help with "my worst problem." These may be: legal problems; financial problems; people problems; animal problems; attitude problems. *Our expectations are that among the 20 speakers and other experienced attendees, most questions will be answered. Questions will be submitted on 3x5 cards on Saturday.*

Accommodations

The Hampton Inn & Suites
1201 Convention Center Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70130
(504) 566-9990
1-866-311-1200 toll free
www.hampton-inn.com

Hotel arrangements should be made directly with The Hampton Inn. Be sure to mention SPAY/USA to receive the \$109 room rate (single or double). Rate includes buffet continental breakfast. No additional charges for third or fourth person(s) in room, however, there is a charge for rollaway beds (limited availability). The Hampton Inn and Suites is located across the street from the New Orleans Convention Center, which is in the Arts and Warehouse district, and eight blocks from the French Quarter. We are near the Superdome, Harrah's Casino, Riverwalk, and walking distance to New Orleans' finest restaurants.

Special Thanks to PETS MART Charities and The Summerlee Foundation for their generous sponsorship!

Registration Form can be found on the back page of this newsletter. Register Today!



IMPORTANT NOTICE

FOR PEOPLE PLANNING TO ATTEND THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

While it seems to be human nature to put off registering for a conference, people who wait until after August 1 will miss out on the chance to sign up for three special city tours offered by Crescent City Hosts. The first, a walking tour of the French Quarter, will take place after the social hour on Friday; the second, "Cajun on the Avenue" will take place on Saturday evening; and "The City that Care Forgot" will take place after the conference ends on Sunday. All three come with a modest price tag, and the Saturday tour includes a vegetarian Cajun dinner. Tour organizers tell us that many New Orleans restaurants are crowded on the weekends and require reservations at least two weeks in advance.

**Register Now For Tour Information To Be Sent To You Soon.
All Tours Must Be Scheduled Eight Weeks In Advance!**

Our seating is limited to 100 and we have a limited number of rooms set aside at \$109 per night, so if you plan to come, register NOW!!! See page 10.

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Southern Regional Leadership Conference
REGISTRATION FORM

One Registration Form Required Per Person

Deadline: September 1, 2001

Sorry, no walk-ins please



Name _____

Organization (if any) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (daytime) _____ Phone (evening) _____

Fax _____ E-mail _____

(Circle one) I want my name and contact information listed on the participation roster. YES NO

Registration Fee: \$60 Please send me information about the three Crescent City Host tours!

Enclosed is my check or money order made payable to SPAY/USA. VISA -or- MasterCard accepted.

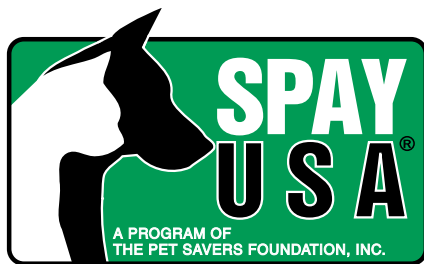
Account No. _____

Exp. Date _____ Authorized Signature _____

Please send completed Registration Forms to SPAY/USA by September 1, 2001.

Credit card payments will be accepted via fax.

Questions? Call (203) 377-1116; Fax (203) 375-6627; or E-mail alwaysspay@aol.com.



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