

NETWORK NEWS

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

Winter 2001

No More Homeless Pets in Guilford County, North Carolina

by Dennis Stearns

This program is a joint venture of the SPCA of the Triad and Leadership Greensboro members. Leadership Greensboro is the flagship of the leadership programs of the Greensboro, NC, Chamber of Commerce. It has over 500 active members, with expanded programs for youth, seniors and newcomers to Greensboro. It has actively participated in a number of community projects including the Children's Museum, the Violence Study, Peer Mediation, Indigent Health Care and Family Matters Volunteering.

No More Homeless Pets (NMHP) has a five-year plan to end pet overpopulation and drastically reduce animal cruelty in Guilford County as follows:

Phase 1 – 2001

- Complete spay clinic by January 1, 2001
- First transportation van running by January 1, 2001
- Second transportation van running by June 30, 2001

- Third transportation van running by December 31, 2001
- Van pickup/drop off locations (fixed site, affiliated partners, special programs)
- 100 s/n per week or 5,000 annually

Phase 2 – 2002/2003

- Mobile clinic or additional fixed site, depending on analysis of Phase I

There are also extensive plans in process in adoptions, low income initiatives and education for each phase. Many plans were already ideas in motion or on the drawing board from the SPCA of the Triad. Other ideas came from networking with experts around the country at the 2000 No-Kill Conference, sponsored by Doing Things for Animals, and the post-conference event hosted by SPAY/USA.

Considerable help has come from a number of shelter directors as well, an important part of our collaborative effort with the local animal shelters to assist them in reaching our shared vision of having no healthy dogs or cats killed by 2005.

Adoption goals include building a Customer Care and Behavioral Hotline, in conjunction with the existing SPCA Cruelty Hotline.

119 volunteers are being recruited from eight separate volunteer sources assisted by Leadership Greensboro, Alltel Communications and other community groups and corporate sponsors. Extensive volunteer training and management processes will be a key part of our program.

No More Homeless Pets!

As we go to press, we know of three No More Homeless Pets programs – one of them statewide in Utah, and one a countywide effort in Guilford County, North Carolina, and one is a coalition in New Mexico. The beauty of these programs is:

- ✓ they pull together groups that may not otherwise have worked together
- ✓ they can cover a wide area
- ✓ they can bring in resources not available to small groups and individuals with good intentions

Our goal is the same as these groups and we applaud their efforts. We hope that these programs will inspire others, and hope to hear from individuals or groups that wish to proceed in their own states. Our goal is to have every state organized into a network that works to end the companion animal surplus. Please call us at (203) 377-1116 for further information about others in your state that may be interested in starting similar projects! ❁

- Two additional transportation vans (total of 5)
- Goal of 200 spay/neuters per week (10,000 annual) in year two
- Year Three goal to be determined

Phase 3 – 2004/2005

- Flexible based on Phase I and II success

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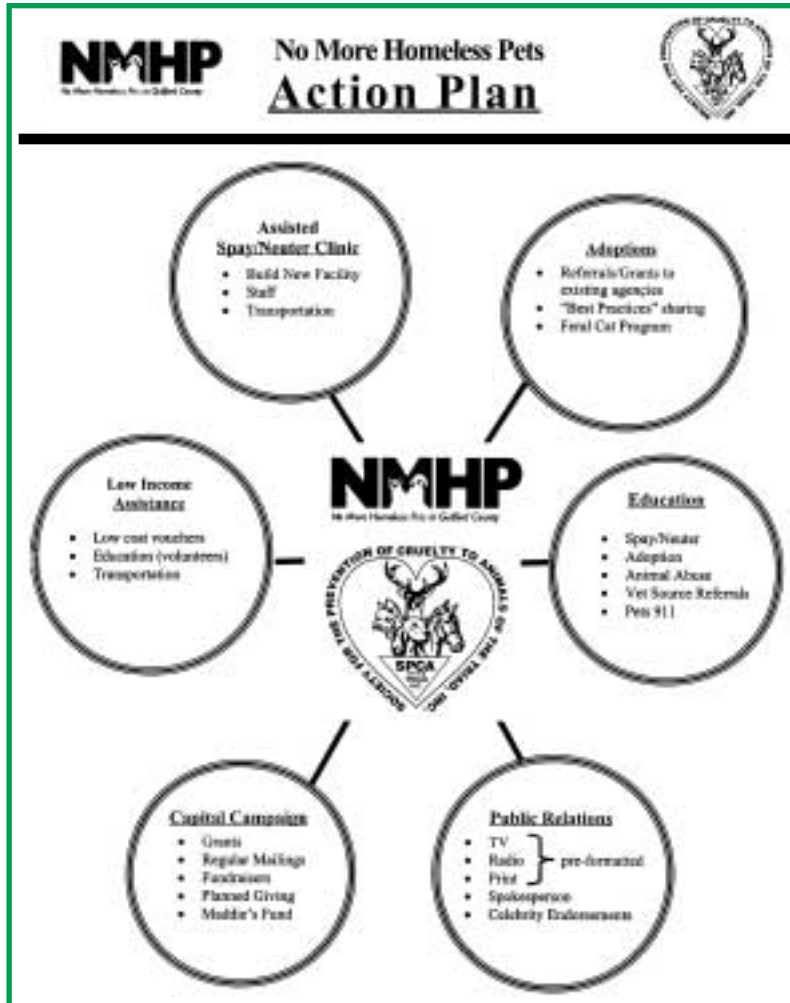
No More Homeless Pets ... cont'd from page 1

Low income plans were developed with Peter Marsh, head of New Hampshire's Solution to End Pet Overpopulation, which was the first state to reach no-kill status in 1999. Peter has worked extensively with low-income issues, which have become a major part of the NMHP plan. Peter also declared his program to be a sister program with ours in recognition of the shared goals and "best practices" focus of the No More Homeless Pets in Guilford County program.

Education plans center on school programs through the ASPCA's Web of Life program (Greensboro was chosen as one of seven cities in the United States to test this program) and 16 other targeted initiatives

through Leadership Greensboro programs as well as city and county programs. Drastically reducing animal cruelty, an important mission goal of our program, will be achieved through a combination of wellness education, direct neighborhood intervention programs, media campaigns and elimination of the pet overpopulation problem. As this program was presented to the community at our November 19 kickoff (over 70 people attended, despite a sudden snowstorm that threatened to cancel the event!), the following metaphor was used to help the public visualize the challenges and the goals of the five-year program.

As this program was presented to the Board for consideration, the following



paradigm was used to convey the essence of the situation and goals:

The View from Space

- The dam is broken! (pups and kittens multiply quickly)
- Villages downstream are flooded, with both the villagers and the animals suffering
- The floodwaters keep coming! (adoptions cannot keep up with the problem)

NMHP's Goal

- Fix the dam upstream (enhanced spay/neuter program, low-income assistance)
- Help the flooded villages rebuild (education programs, improved collaboration)
- Deal effectively with the flood down-

stream (increased adoptions, education programs)

NMHP's Long-Term Goal

- Build the Hoover Dam!
- Solving all the problems permanently is our ultimate mission

This program will be working with Pets911 to help local residents with lost and found cats and dogs and others up for adoption, and will address the issue of animal cruelty within the community. For more information about this project, write to: NMHP, P.O. Box 4461, Greensboro, NC 27404



No More Homeless Pets in Utah

by Gregory Castle

Dr. Richard Allen did the honors, unveiling Utah's first state-of-the-art mobile spay/neuter clinic on September 11 in front of the south steps at the Utah State Capitol.

The mobile clinic, known as The Big Fix On Tour, is part of the No More Homeless Pets in Utah campaign and will be traveling the state from Logan to St. George and everything in between. Spearheaded by Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, No More Homeless Pets in Utah is a campaign to end the killing of the state's homeless animals

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No More Homeless Pets ... cont'd from page 2



The Big Fix On Tour

by 2005. The unit is being funded as part of a grant from Maddie's Fund.

This massive clinic on wheels will bring discount spaying and neutering to areas with limited access to veterinarians, and help reduce the number of unwanted animals born in Utah. The Big Fix will stop in more than 60 cities this year and the staff of five will perform an average of 50 surgeries per day, three days a week, 50 weeks a year. This amounts to the sterilization of an additional 6,000 cats and dogs in Utah, which will not only save countless lives, but will also contribute toward No More Homeless Pets in Utah's goal of increasing spay/neuter surgeries by 21,000 this year statewide.

In addition to spaying and neutering, discount vaccinations will be available as well. The Big Fix on Tour will offer spay/neuters at the following prices: male cat, \$15 for one cat, \$10 each for three or more; female cat, \$25; male dog, \$30; female dog, \$35. The clinic offers convenient, quality surgery and vaccinations at very discounted prices to pet owners who may not have easy access to these services. It is also a novel approach, which may inspire pet owners to take the opportunity to have their animals sterilized when they

might not have otherwise. The associated advertising and promotion surrounding the arrival of the unit to the various areas also offers an educational opportunity to make the community aware of the benefits of spaying and neutering.

"As far as we know, this unit is like no other in the country," says Gregory Castle, of Best Friends Animal Sanctuary and the director of No More Homeless Pets in Utah. "It consistently covers an enormous geographical area, operates more frequently than other mobile clinics, and will handle feral cat colonies several times a year."

Increasing spay/neuters will reduce Utah's pet overpopulation problem, a situation that resulted in the deaths of an estimated 15,000 healthy, adoptable animals in the state last year.

"We hope the people of Utah will take advantage of this opportunity to get their animals fixed at a very low cost and under convenient circumstances," Castle said. For more information about this program, contact Gregory Castle, No More Homeless Pets in Utah, 324 S. 400 W, Suite C, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101, 801-364-0370, or visit their Web site at www.utahpets.org ❄️

Creative Cultivation

Analyze your community's businesses. Which among them has a product that could be used to cultivate relationships with potential donors?

Approach key staff at the business whose product would make a great gift and ask if they would supply your targeted prospect group with a complementary gift on behalf of your charity. Whether you or the business sends the product, have it accompanied with a letter on the business' stationery (and return envelope) endorsing the work of your organization.

Need some examples? Consider these:

- Get a pizza or pie manufacturer to send their product to those on your mailing list with a message that says, "We're providing this gift to you on behalf of [name of charity]. In return, we hope you'll share a slice of your good fortune by returning the enclosed envelope with a contribution."
- Pair up with a supportive fast food restaurant willing to send an agreed-to number of gift certificates to those on your mailing list with a message that reads, "Here's a surprise gift from us. Wouldn't it be wonderful for [name of charity] to receive a surprise gift from you?"

Be sure the accompanying message clearly states the business and not the charity has covered the cost of the gift.

This article is being reprinted from Successful Fund Raising with the permission of Stevenson Consultants, Inc., P.O. Box 4528, Sioux City, IA 51104.



Letter From The Editor



You will notice a new format in our newsletter – news by STATE. We will be focusing more on regional and state programs in an effort to speed up the process of ending cat/dog overpopulation. Economy of scale means that the same kinds of resources used in a small-scale project can be used by many people to make the process more efficient and effective. A number of mobile clinics came about as several counties banded together to purchase the vehicle and share their human and other resources. The van in Pittsburgh, Kansas, serves ten counties. The clinic in Huntington, West Virginia, serves clients in three states!

We are looking for people who want to help organize statewide networks based on the models in New Hampshire and Arkansas. We hope you will contact us for information on who else is interested in your state, and what is happening in other parts of your state. Our target for 2001 is to see 10 new statewide programs.

We are excited about the Third Southern Regional Leadership Conference to be held in the heart of New Orleans, September 28-30! We suggest you put aside \$5 a week starting now so you will be able to afford

the \$55 per night (excellent rate for hotels in this district) if you share a room with a friend. The room rate includes a delicious breakfast as well. Our registration fee will be affordable; you will be a 10-minute walk from the French Quarter; and you will be meeting dozens of colleagues from throughout the South as well as about 20 speakers who will guide you through fundraising, changing attitudes, organizing, starting a clinic or program, using the Internet to get the job done and helping feral cats.

Call us for further details about reserving your room and getting registration information!

Happy, successful New Year!

Esther Mechler



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SPAY/USA staff (L to R): Chansey, Lisa, Esther, and Ronnie



Letters To The Editor



Esther,
The only thing I didn't hear anyone mention at the conference was free kitten/puppy signs and the classifieds for free animals. If all of us aren't calling the people who run these ads we are really missing a serious problem source. Please ask readers to post fliers on "free signs" and to call "free classified" ads and offer assistance by referring them to a low-cost spay/neuter program.

My success rate has been pretty good. Only one man walked away from me, and I wrote his wife a letter. A year later...no more signs!

Sincerely,
Kathleen Chaplin
Roanoke, TX



Thanks, Esther!

For the past several years, the Animal Protection Association board has decided to focus on spay/neuter and working to make improvements at the municipal shelter. As a result, we have developed a good rapport with the shelter director and the staff veterinarian there – and this has helped us develop the "almost free" spay/neuter program for low-income and feral cat caregivers. One of the things that is really unique about our program is that feral cats are spay/neutered and given a three-year rabies vaccine at no charge. APA pays for the s/n and the shelter throws in the rabies vaccine. Needless to say, this has been a Godsend for many ferals and their caretakers who found themselves with colonies multiplying out of control.

This program is made possible by the Animal Protection Association in partnership with the City of Memphis Animal Shelter, and funded by APA, the Margarette J. Sather Animal Welfare Fund, and the Memphis and Shelby County Veterinary Association.

Since November '97 we have spay/neutered 4,775 dogs and cats through this "almost free" program. This year we have averaged about 135 animals per month, with the high being in June (249). Isn't it great to think of all the unwanted litters we've prevented – and by far most of these animals would not have been s/n if these program had not been available. About 3,990 of the animals done were cats, and of these 1,670 were ferals!

Sincerely,
Grace Thompson
Memphis, TN



Hi Esther!

We had a great time in Boston and learned SO MUCH! Thanks for bringing us together...

Great news, we just got a \$15,000 grant from the DJ & T Foundation! And, are expecting \$10,000 from the animal friendly license plate (State of Tennessee Grant).

Just read your newsletter and loved page 5 where you say, "Current public policy is to address the pet surplus by ignoring the possibility of prevention, then rounding up, housing and killing excess animals. Community based programs need to shift emphasis from reaction and destruction to prevention

and education. Tax dollars will be saved, animal control and shelter worker jobs will be improved and enormous suffering will be prevented..."

This really hits home with us because we just had a big ordeal with our county cutting our (Humane Association of Wilson County) funding to only \$10,000 per year and just when we got the Spay Station on the road. They do not seem to see the value of spay/neuter programs.

More good news! Our wonderful veterinarian has agreed to increase from 2 to 3 days a week. He does an average of 23 surgeries a day. And, we have just located another vet who will give us a day a week. We have done over 1,500 surgeries since we began in April. And last, we are putting on another RAM clinic (Dr. Eric Davis and students from the UT College of Veterinary Medicine) and with their team and the Spay Station will do 120 surgeries in 2 days in a poor rural county with no veterinary service available. Oh, I received SNAP'S operations manual/policies booklet and it is wonderful. My tech has already read it and now my veterinarian has taken it home for the week to read! Keep me informed, and thank you so much for all of your help.

Sara Felmlee
Mt. Juliet, TN





News from New Jersey

Neutering Van May Help Cape May Solve Cat Problems

by Richard Degener, Staff Writer

SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2000
THE PRESS OF ATLANTIC CITY
(609) 463-6711

CAPE MAY – It looks like one of those large vehicles that brings bands of roving vacationers into the resort. In reality, it is a cat-fixing machine on wheels. City officials on Friday morning got their first look at the mobile spay-and-neuter clinic they hope will put a huge dent in the cat population.

"If I can get close to 60 cats a month, that's more than 600 fewer breeding cats a year," said Cape May Animal Control Officer John Queenan. Cape May City Mayor Jerry Gaffney said that the city might be able to get grant money and offer partial support to the clinic. Peaceable Kingdom, a non-profit animal-welfare organization from Allentown, PA, drove the van here so city officials could check it out. Queenan said he hopes to bring the van here for its first trial run sometime in August. Then he hopes to use it at least one weekend a month. "I think we're the first in this area to do this. This is a low-cost program bringing it right to the people," said Queenan.

Gloria Binkowski, the veterinarian the city will use for the program, expects to charge \$35 to \$40 per cat. This will include spaying for females or neutering for males, vaccinations, and taking

care of parasites such as ear mites. In the open market, Binkowski said, neutering a male cat generally costs \$50 to \$75 while a female runs from \$100 to \$150.

But the program isn't only for the city's cat owners. One reason to have an aggressive program, noted Binkowski, is that fewer cats in feral colonies means a better quality of life for them. Studies show cats do not live long lives in the wild. "The more there are, the lower their quality of life," said Binkowski. Queenan noted that in 1995, Cape May became the first town in New Jersey to have an ordinance dealing with feral cats.

People who feed feral cats have to register with the city, get the cats fixed, make sure they are vaccinated, and make arrangements for somebody to feed them if they go out of town. "I have 25 people registered and last year we altered 200 cats, mostly female. In the old days they trapped and euthanized them," said Queenan. Other groups working to reduce feral cat populations came to check the van out and the reviews were good. Mary Conover, who traps feral cats for the Middle Township-based Animal Welfare Society, supports the effort. The society has fixed more than 400 feral cats already this year, but Conover said there are still many out there. Some campgrounds, which she called the "worst offenders," have hundreds of them. "John has a great idea and we

wish him luck," said Conover.

Cass Clark, also of the society, said the van will help, but laws are also needed making it mandatory that all kittens and puppies are fixed. Clark said the only exception should be legitimate breeders. "They should not be allowed to mate without a permit. We have to stop the backyard breeders," said Clark. Queenan has been tracking area newspaper advertisements for "free kittens" this year and has clipped more than 200 of them. One problem is that vacationers take in kittens and leave them behind when they go home.

Liz Jones, the director of Peaceable Kingdom, said she has 50 traps for catching feral cats. She also has special equipment to handle them so they can be worked on. "I supply traps but I don't trap. The town can set out the traps and I will do the animals," said Jones.

She said the key to controlling cats is stopping production. In 10 years a single female, having a litter every six months, can be responsible for 700,000 new cats. Gaffney said he hopes to get other area towns involved. "Maybe we can do an inter-local services agreement with West Cape May, Lower Township, and Cape May Point," said Gaffney. ✨

Note from SPAY/USA:

John Queenan and Liz Jones met at SPAY/USA's Boston conference – another example of the productive networking that results in real change for the better!



News From Michigan

Animal Adoption Rate 90% With No-Kill Policy

by Shelley R. Burgess

Despite the fact that Otsego County Animal Shelter staff experienced some turbulence during 1999, Animal Control Officer Keith Huff says the no-kill policy is flying. In fact, nearly 90 percent of the animals at the shelter last year were adopted or reclaimed – more than four times as many as the year before the no-kill policy was implemented.

Although the year-old policy has had its ups and downs, Friends For Life (FFL) members, commissioners and Huff have dubbed it a success.

Since the policy was implemented in 1999, 941 out of 1,059 animals were adopted or reclaimed from the shelter compared to 258 out of 1,224 in 1998. Not only has the number of animal deaths dissipated, but the number of animals taken to the shelter has decreased.

The program was actually implemented in January of 1999, according to Huff and Commissioner Jim Gatrell, after the Animal Control Committee agreed to it. The Otsego County Board of Commissioners, however, did not officially vote on the issue until May.

"It gave us the ammunition to hire additional people and make the program work," Huff said of the commissioner's decision.

While the program proved to be a success during its first year, it hasn't been an easy road to follow. "No kill was very difficult in accomplishing," said Huff. "It's been through the dedication and commitment of a lot of people that it's been achievable."

Huff said many citizens and organizations in the community, including FFL, Animal Crafters, Gail Lee of Lewiston's Best Friends, and Jean Marx – a citizen who helps fund spaying and neutering of animals – were instrumental in getting the program off the ground.

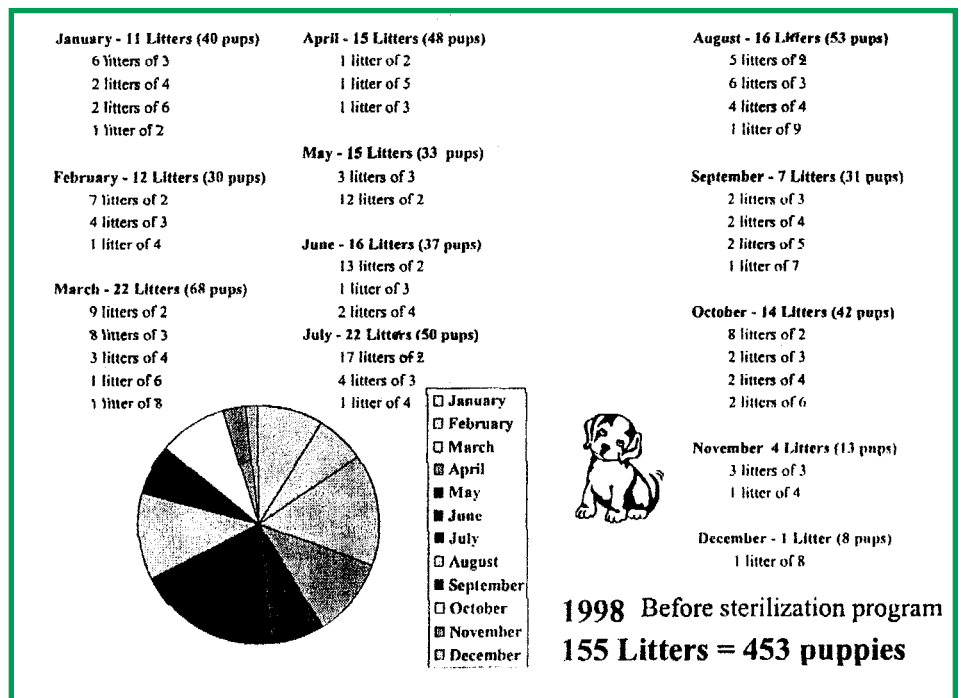
During the transition, the shelter had endured some controversy, specifically the loss of two employees last year including George Saddler, an animal

control officer of 23 years, and part-timer Dan Zack, who was employed a little more than a month. But no-kill policy supporters say with the help of the shelter's two employees – Huff and Julie Gault – volunteers and overtime, the program survived its first year.

"It has been going just great. It's been 100 percent effective," said FFL President Don Tober. "With the county and FFL working together, we have made it possible for Officer Huff, his staff and the volunteers to make this program work."

Gatrell credited shelter volunteers and the community with the success as well. "It was mainly made possible with

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No-Kill Policy ... cont'd from page 7

all the volunteer help from FFL and the weekly picture ads of the pets available at the shelter; also the help of volunteer foster homes in the area," he said. "We want to thank all the shelter volunteers on behalf of the commissioners."

Along with the no-kill policy came additional working hours and added challenges – some complicating the work of shelter employees and volunteers, others calling for proactive responses. Among the changes occurring or challenges and issues still to be addressed under no kill:

- an active sterilization program was enacted to ensure healthy pets as well as curb the population so other animals don't end up at the shelter;
- animals from outside the county have been abandoned or dropped off at the Otsego County Animal Shelter, increasing the shelter's population;
- policies are changing to provide for an extended stay for those animals that are not adopted immediately; and

- FFL has launched an effort to raise funds for a new shelter.

A major issue yet to be addressed, Huff indicated, is "adoptability." The subject needs definition, he said. Is a dog that bites or a cat that sprays adoptable? Identifying what is considered an adoptable animal has, at times, been difficult, he explained. The next step is to decide what to do when an animal is not adoptable.

Rehabilitation is another area with which Huff and the shelter could use some assistance. "I have a real need for rehabilitation of animals with just bad habits," he stated. Potty training problems and biting are a few situations many new pet owners don't wish to take on.

Huff said there are many animals that end up at the shelter that could be "retrained," making them adoptable. Without that training, however, it is sometimes difficult to convince people to give the animals a home.

Huff believes education would be a real asset and he is interested in educating people in the community about the importance and advantages of pet sterilization.

Grant money is also being sought to initiate such programs. Tober and local resident Bill Granlund have been dealing with an organization in California called Maddie's Fund in hopes of receiving grant money. "We're in the process of getting a grant for spaying and neutering and possibly building a new shelter," Tober said.

According to Tober, the representative from Maddie's Fund knew of only one other county-run shelter in the nation with a no-kill policy. "She (the representative) asked if we would take calls (from others trying to initiate a no-kill policy)," Tober said. "I said 'Yes, we'd take calls.' That would indicate we sort of stand alone."

That can be frustrating for Huff, Tober stated, since there isn't much training available about running a no-kill shelter. "But he's making it work," Tober said. "That's the great thing." ❄

More News From Michigan . . .

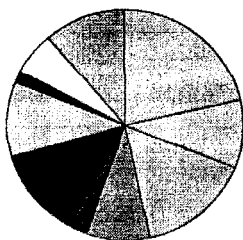
Marking Their Territory

by Maggie Tatum

As Gail Lee answers the phone, "Bob Lee's, how can I help you?" her voice quickly changes from savvy business owner to concerned pet lover. "How old is the cat, Sally?" she asks, and,

cont'd on page 9

January - 6 Litters (25 pups) 2 litters of 3 2 litters of 4 1 litter of 6 1 litter of 5	April - 3 Litters (10 pups) 1 litter of 2 1 litter of 5 1 litter of 3	August - 3 Litters (12 pups) 1 litter of 3 1 litter of 4 1 litter of 5
February - 2 Litters (11 pups) 1 litter of 4 1 litter of 7	May - 1 Litter (3 pups) 1 litter of 3	September - 1 Litter (2 pups) 1 litter of 2
March - 5 Litters (18 pups) 3 litters of 2 1 litter of 5 1 litter of 7	June - 1 Litter (4 pups) 1 litter of 4	October - 2 Litter (7 pups) 1 litter of 2 1 litter of 5
	July - 2 Litters (11 pups) 1 litter of 2 1 litter of 9	November (0 pups)
		December - 3 Litters (13 pups) 1 litter of 2 1 litter of 5 1 litter of 6



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1999
29 Litters = 116 puppies
75% Reduction
due to aggressive
sterilization program



Marking Their Territory ... cont'd from page 8

"When did it show up? Is it a male or female?" Continuing the conversation, Gail discovers the cat's newfound owner is on social security and cannot afford the cost of shots and sterilization. She agrees to offer their organization's help, and another stray cat has a home and a new life as an altered pet. This is a daily occurrence for their spay-neuter organization, Lewiston's Best Friends (LBF).



Two years after three friends formed the spay-neuter group Lewiston's Best Friends (LBF), it generates money through grants, a memorial fund, collection boxes and a Web site <http://k2.kirtland.cc.mi.us/~tatum/>, helping spay and neuter an average of 30 animals each month. However, the founders still shake their heads in amazement at how they got where they are today.

LBF started because its members loved dogs and cats, all having been victims of unwanted animals dumped on their doorsteps and driveways and living in an area where the county sells stray dogs for animal research and doesn't even bother with cats.

Individually, the group began working on spay/neuter many years before formal organization. Gail Lee is known in the Lewiston, Michigan, area for her involvement in animal issues – stray animals always seem to find her door, and Gail always seems to find them good homes after a trip to the vet's office for shots and sterilization. Sally

Brand lives on a farm and always has at least two cats and two or three dogs as well as a barn for numerous stray cats, which always seem to find it. Maggie Tatum, newest to the Lewiston area, lived in a rural area in Ohio and tired of being a victim to unwanted animals disposed of on her family's property. This problem worsened in Lewiston with litters of cats and a stray dog or two. These three women found one another at a few informal gatherings where a few casual remarks and Gail's ability to network with the animal community in northern Michigan started an unspoken partnership.

In August of 1998, Gail heard of Animal Crafters from West Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, which had a mobile spay/neuter unit. She asked Sally and Maggie if they would help her get the unit to Lewiston for a weekend. Both agreed, and Gail got started with paperwork and calls to Jean Marx, head of the group. That November, when the mobile unit rolled into a school bus garage in Lewiston and set up their surgery, Gail, Maggie and Sally's lives changed. When they saw how quickly a male cat could be neutered, how a spay would end the puppy production of a ten-year-old bear dog, and how dedicated Marx was, they decided they could do the same.

In January, using their own skills (Gail is a business owner in Lewiston, Sally is an insurance agent and office manager, and Maggie teaches English at a community college), they wrote a constitution and by-laws, called the IRS and Michigan Department of Treasury, got the appropriate paperwork, filed for 501(c)3 status and crossed their fingers.

Meanwhile, they contacted local veterinarians asking for their help through reduced rates and referrals of needy pet owners. Some readily agreed; others didn't even bother to respond. The IRS called in late January suggesting minor revisions of the constitution. When these were completed and reviewed, Lewiston's Best Friends received non-profit status.

A fundraiser started LBF's checking account with a little over \$500, which got some pamphlets printed, paid for a post office box, a one-million dollar liability insurance policy and a spay or two as word spread. One veterinarian agreed to a male cat clinic in Spring of 1999 for \$10.00 a cat. LBF neutered 55 male cats in about six hours.



Animal Crafters and Jean Marx helped the group before it developed an owner-deposit program. LBF discovered early that a pet owner who does not pay something has little commitment to its cat or dog. The group now accepts Homeless Homer labels, local grocery store UPCs and cash register slips, which are converted to cash.

That first summer, after a failed gourmet dog treat sale, some frustrated attempts at fundraising taught the group some hard lessons but also gave them new resolve. They wrote grants, receiving one for \$3000 from their

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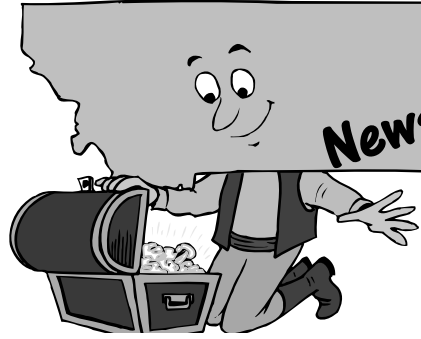
Marking Their Territory ... cont'd from page 9

local electric company. Coin boxes made by the Boy Scouts were placed in businesses throughout the area. Maggie's community college donated an address on the web, and the group became an affiliate site to PETSMART and PetExtras, which help by donating 10% of all purchases to LBF.

After a friend's Bernese Mountain Dog died, LBF created Thorne's Fund to remember deceased pets. The donations help spay and neuter puppies and kittens as more vets in their area perform early spay/neuters. The group sponsored another male cat clinic in April of 2000, and this year 66 "toms" were sterilized in four hours. The group's three founders help the vets if needed, publicize the spay/neuter message, and receive the great satisfaction of knowing fewer animals will be dumped, sold or euthanized in their area.

The challenges they face in the future remain: owner ignorance, lack of funds, and rising veterinary costs. But each day members speak, strive, and work to make Lewiston's Best Friends successful. Their motto may be a bit corny, but they truly are "marking their territory with spays and neuters." In fact, in a little under two years the group has helped about 700 pets and their owners. For more information about this program, contact Margaret B. Tatum, English Instructor, Kirtland Community College, Roscommon, Michigan, 517-275-5121 Ext. 413, 517-275-8745 (Fax) ❁

*a stitch in time
saves hundreds of
thousands . . .
spay or neuter your pets!*



Hundreds Demonstrate The Need For St. Regis Pet Care Week's Free Spay/Neuter Clinic

by Jean Athowe

When Mac Chapple of St. Regis, Montana, contacted the Montana Spay/Neuter Task Force in early May, she had no idea how great the need was for St. Regis Pet Care Week and its centerpiece, a free spay/neuter clinic. She was seeking help for her remote area of 1,200 square miles along the Idaho border where logging has been the main economic base and where more than eleven small communities are having hard times in the now economically depressed region.

When the Task Force asked Chapple, the volunteer coordinator for the upcoming event, if she would like a two-day or a three-day clinic in September, she said, "Let's just do a little two-day clinic and see how it goes."



On September 22, in front of the St. Regis fire hall was a line of barking dogs, meowing cats in carriers or owners' arms, puppies trying to kiss everyone and boxes of kittens and moms accompanied by their owners. The first day of the clinic, Chapple had a list of 550 cats and dogs signed up for surgery. Then there was a waiting list of more hopeful owners with dogs and cats. In the last days before the clinic, the clinic was extended to three days to meet this emergency (September 22, 23 and 24.)

When the last dog and cat went home on Sunday, the final day, and the fire hall was being swept after seven veterinarians, ten techs, and hundreds of volunteers had worked tirelessly for three days; the count for animals receiving surgery was 403. On the waiting list still were 393 dogs and cats needing the services of the Task Force.

Animals and owners came from everywhere it seemed. Chapple, shaking her head, commented, "If this doesn't demonstrate the need, what would?" One woman came from Trout Creek

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Hundreds Demonstrate ... cont'd from page 10

with 14 dogs, all of them trying at once to see out of the back window of the cap on her pickup. She and they had traveled almost 60 miles. Another carried in 20 cats and kittens in boxes and makeshift carriers. Many animals brought to the clinic had been strays taken in by the families who brought them.



- ◆ A total of 239 cats and 144 dogs were spayed or neutered in three days.
- ◆ Of the 75% of the owners who answered the questionnaire, the female dogs and cats had produced, in the past, 84 litters ranging from one to six litters per animal.
- ◆ One fourth of the cats and dogs had owners who had never had an animal spayed or neutered in the past.
- ◆ And one fourth of the animals arriving at the clinic were originally strays.
- ◆ Other sources where owners acquired the animals included one third that were given by friends, and almost twenty percent that were home bred.
- ◆ One of the most revealing sets of figures, according to Barbara Brown from the Task Force, were in the

ages of the animals brought in. The average age of animals brought to the regular veterinary clinics for spay or neuter surgery is between five and seven months.

- ◆ Of the number of animals brought to the St. Regis clinic, those in that age bracket seen at the Task Force clinic was only 20%.
- ◆ Ages from one to four months equaled 25%.
- ◆ Almost 50% of the animals were aged eight months to three years. From four to seven years of age was 9%, and eight to twelve years was 2%. Roughly sixty percent of all the animals were over eight months.

"Were those animals ever likely to enter a traditional clinic for sterilization?" Chapple asks.

The distances the owners traveled again revealed the need in a 1,200 square mile area where there is only one veterinary clinic. Owners came from as far away as 150 miles. Almost half the animals came from distances of 40 miles or over.



"This is a story of great need," Chapple observes. "There are still almost the same number of animals seen at St. Regis Pet Care Week's clinic, still wait-

ing and representing the same kinds of statistics reported now." For more information about this program, contact Jean Atthowe at 406-777-2644, or Mac Chapple at 406-649-2259. ❄️

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By Carole Stork

Several years ago, we realized that we needed to get Pet Aid League, a small low cost spay/neuter referral service in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, up on computer to simplify our daily administrative tasks. We schedule 900-1200 appointments a month, contact 25 vets every day, maintain an annually renewing membership of 600, and solicit 700-800 new clients a month to join our membership. All these functions were being done manually.

It took us a while, but we finally found a programmer that was willing to design a program to fit our needs, as no ready-made system was available. Our direction to the programmer was to keep it very simple and set it up to enhance, but not change our current procedures. We have been using this

system since August 1999, with very few modifications from its original format, and no major functional problems forcing us to go back to our manual systems.

The program has eliminated a tremendous number of hours organizing and compiling information, and instantly provides valuable reports which give us the ability to continuously evaluate and fine tune the way we do business. It has enabled us to develop new projects and expand our services to help more pet owners in our community.

If you have an organization similar to ours and would like information on adapting our basic program to your business, call Carole Stork at Pet Aid League (954) 497-1282. ❄

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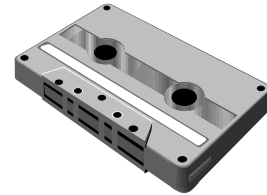
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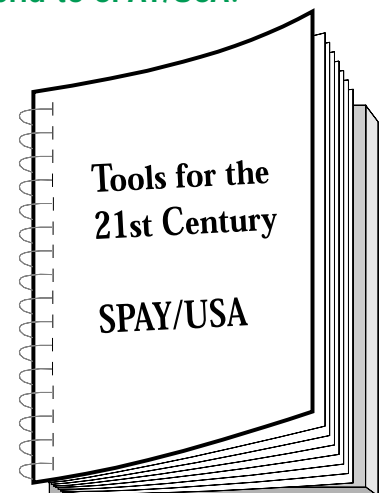
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