



NETWORK NEWS

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

Winter 2002

Getting On Board With Pets 911!

SPAY/USA announces our partnership with Pets 911 to provide important, much-needed affordable spaying and neutering information to every community nationwide. We are pleased to be a founding partner of this public service which enables every person in the country to take an active part in saving the millions of pets that would otherwise become sad statistics each year. Soon, you will be able to contact SPAY/USA through Pets 911 and their Web site to find your nearest low cost spay/neuter clinic or veterinarian.

In February we sent information about this partnership to all of the 960 programs and clinics that participate in our network. The arrangement we have with Pets 911 includes a privacy policy – SPAY/USA's programs and veterinarians will not be placed on the Internet. Instead, people who contact Pets 911 will fill out an electronic form which will be instantly forwarded to the SPAY/USA office. The "pet guardian" information will then be matched with the nearest appropriate local program or clinic and a referral slip will be generated and sent out, just as we do now with our direct callers. The privacy of callers and vets will be protected.

What is Pets 911?

Pets 911 is a free public service available to any community in America. It consists of both a Web site (1888PETS911.org) and toll-free phone number (1-888-PETS-911) that allows



Pets 911 staff at headquarters in Phoenix

anyone to access important information such as:

- low cost spay and neutering locations,
- real-time lost and found information,
- pictures of both lost and/or adoptable pets,
- the locations of the nearest animal welfare organizations and a breakdown of the services they provide,
- important feral/stray cat information provided by Alley Cat Allies,
- behavioral and training tips,
- licensing locations,
- emergency clinics, and more.

Whether or not you – or the public you serve – have Internet access, Pets 911 is available to everyone since it is accessible by phone as well as computer.

This public service also has celebrity power

behind it! Because Pets 911 is a true public service, celebrities have donated their time to promote the thousands of organizations that are partnered in this effort. These public service announcements, ranging in topics from spaying and neutering and adoption to licensing and lost and found, are available for free to ANY community. They can even be customized with any organization's tagline. It's as simple as contacting the Pets 911 offices directly (602-824-6283). Some of the

celebrities who have donated their services are Melanie Griffith, Jack Lemmon, Stockard Channing, Tippi Hedren, Wendie Malick from *Just Shoot Me*, Bill Maher from *Politically Incorrect*, and the Harlem Globetrotters.

All of this is made possible by a few private sector corporations that understand the importance of promoting a single message in every community – one place to go for all your animal welfare needs! PETS^{SMART}, Kodak, Microsoft, Authority Premium Pet Nutrition and AT&T understand this concept and are pleased to put their resources behind a program that empowers the animal welfare community and the public to help the animals that need us.

SPAY/USA is delighted to be a partner in this effort to create a "911" for all companion animals. With all of us partnering in this effort, perhaps before too long we will finally see a nation of no more homeless pets. *

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Letter From The Editor . . .



When we started SPAY/USA in 1990, we had xeroxed paper certificates and kept track of programs on 3 by 5 cards! Once we became a program of the Pet Savers Foundation, a comprehensive computer database of all veterinarians and their programs and clinics was developed for us by Mike Walsh, Information Services Specialist, greatly enhancing the program and efficiency of service to callers.

This month we take the next step, making service available through the Internet – without putting the names and other information about our veterinarians and clinics on the Internet. This cyberspace magic is available because we are able to "sweep" the information callers give us into the program and then match them up with their nearest vet and/or program electronically. Privacy agreements have been signed and names are not released to persons outside our program. We will be able to use the Internet to reach many persons and groups hitherto unavailable since we have no advertising budget.

Several of you have remarked that you liked our new newsletter format, bringing news by state. We will therefore continue this, and hope more of you will send us information about news from your region. At this time we have more news than we have room, and so will bring you the information about Florida in the next newsletter.

Those of you who live in the South, and who have not received a brochure, should contact us about the Southern Regional Leadership Conference at the end of September. About twenty speakers will be sharing their experience with various aspects of reducing dog and cat overpopulation with an emphasis on problems and solutions unique to Southern states.

We are encouraged by the calls we are getting with record numbers of people becoming involved at the community level, and reaching out to wider spheres within their states and regions. Carry on!!!

Esther R. Mechler



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To advertise in the *Network News*, contact our Graphic Designer, Christine Treiland at (203) 719-7187 or by email at christinet@petsavers.org

Upcoming Conferences

May 10-11

The Fourth International Animal Welfare Conference
Dorint Park Plaza Hotel
Istanbul, Turkey
Fax 011-44-020-7833-2701 for information

May 17-20

National Animal Control Association Conference
Adams Mark Hotel
Daytona Beach, Florida
Call 800-828-6474 for information

May 18-20

No More Homeless Pets Conference
Holiday Inn Executive Center
Virginia Beach, Virginia
Call 435-644-2001 x 108 for information

August 16-19

No-Kill Conference
Hilton Hartford/Hartford Civic Center
Hartford, Connecticut
Call 516-883-7767 or visit www.dffa.org for information



Letters To The Editor



Hi Esther,

Our Beat The Heat event concluded Feb. 28th. We issued 229 vouchers for spay/neuter assistance for cats during our 6 week promotion. Because of the nature of our rural area and the vastness of our county, Spay Day would not fit. So our Beat the Heat event over a period of time more fit the bill. There were 134 female cat vouchers, 95 male cat vouchers for a total of \$8,210. During this event, we double the dollar amount of our vouchers. Spay/Neuter/Now is an assistance program helping low income/elderly persons with the cost of spaying or neutering their companion pets.

Bea Schermerhorn
Hammond, NY



Dear Esther! Greetings from Nantucket Island!

Having just read your latest issue of your newsletter, I'd like to suggest that you contact our local grassroots feral cat program. I think your readers would enjoy learning of the successful program run here on Nantucket Island. It's a cooperative effort between Nantucket Cat Rescue and the Nantucket branch of the MSPCA. Coming up on its 2nd anniversary in June 2001, NCR will have trapped approximately 400 cats; most of which have been spayed/neutered and released OR were kittens that have been fostered and then successfully placed for adoption through the MSPCA shelter

program. The MSPCA veterinary staff provided the veterinary care for all cats trapped.

Donations have been generous! If interested please contact Caroline Daniels at Nantucket Cat Rescue, PO Box 2857, Nantucket, MA 02584, (508) 825-CATS or ncdaniels@aol.com.

Judy Clarkson
Director of Programs
Nantucket MSPCA
(508) 228-1491 ext. 11



Dear Editor,

I am not an organization writing to you in reference to pet overpopulation, just a concerned individual who receives your monthly newsletter. I have read for quite some time ideas relating to controlling this problem. Why not make it mandatory that a birth control be added to all pet food and in order to receive food without added birth control one must have a prescription or acquire it from a veterinarian?

I'm not saying this would stop all unwanted pets since there would still be breeders and irresponsible people out there but it would have to help if all pet food contained this.

Just an idea.

Sincerely,
Kelli Moody
Oak Ridge, TN 37830



Hi,

I am the host and producer of a local TV show ("MAN'S BEST FRIEND") in Jefferson City, Missouri. I am in the process of developing a spay program here. The Mayor of Jefferson City has appointed a committee of four council people to work with me on this project. It is my belief that the funds for this project can be covered through the licensing of all pets within the city. For this to be successful it needs enforcement and the cooperation of local vets for a reduction in the fees for this program. The program is targeted primarily towards helping lower income pet owners.

Any information you might have would be, I'm sure, extremely helpful. Please contact me by email or via phone [573-634-2373] or write to my address, Joe R. Wilson, 422 Oberman Pl., Jefferson City, MO. 65101.

Thanking you in advance, we would appreciate any assistance you can provide.

Joe R. Wilson





What Are The Elements Needed To Change Attitude And Behavior?

by Jean F. Atthowe, President, Montana Spay/Neuter Task Force

A goal of the Montana Spay/Neuter Task Force is to bring about a change in attitude that will thus bring a change in behavior through respecting animals and then other living creatures including members of their family, school classes and community. Lorin Lindner, Ph.D., of Psychologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals starts her talks with a question: Does changing behavior change attitudes? Sounds logical, but think about people whose taxes are raised. They pay the increase, but do they change their attitude about taxes?

A sizable body of literature has been accumulated in the fields of market research and social psychology about changing attitude and behavior. We now know through numerous studies that the old idea that knowing (cognitive change) leads to attitude change which leads to long-term behavior change is simplistic. The process is much more complex. The following must be present to change attitudes and thus changes in behavior:

Elements of a persuasive message:

A persuasive message has the most impact if it contains the following elements:

1. It comes from multiple sources of high credibility (power, trust, expertise, similarity).
2. It is repeated often and consistently.
3. It is a multiple media message at accessible times and locations
4. It is accompanied by a high level of personal involvement with the issue and is consistent with related attitude and value structure.
5. It has a high level of social support or acceptance in the receiver's environment.
6. It affords opportunities to give expression to the newly formed attitudes (i.e. to act) and ongoing reinforcement for doing so.

Factors needed to contribute to long-term behavior change:

1. It must target specific behaviors to be changed.

2. Address or create a desire to change: target people with the desire, or motivate the desire.
3. Provide multiple alternative behaviors to replace the old behavior.
4. Show concern for making the social environment supportive.

Mass media programs which were successful in effecting behavioral change did the following

1. Incorporate information pertaining to behavioral alternatives and skills development within the message itself.
2. Provide positive interaction with receiver of the message.
3. Supplement a mass communication-type message with a face-to-face follow up.
4. Mobilize community resources to make alternatives more easily available.

Elements needed to change attitudes and effect change include:

(1) Multiple sources of high credibility. "All our hearts were open wide" including Wolf Point's Chief of Police and his police, the volunteer Fire Chief (who swept and cleaned the fire hall where the clinic was held each night) and fellow volunteer firemen, business leaders, restaurant and other food suppliers, Soroptemists, Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club, Tribal Council members, teachers and neighbors,

(2) Message was repeated often and consistently over a four-day period with media and flyers announcing weeks before, follow up reporting by the media,

(3) Message sent by multiple media at accessible times and locations included radio, newspaper, flyers, in schools, word of mouth, locating the mothers of kittens and puppies brought to the event, door-to-door visiting in rural areas, offers to give pets rides to and from the fire station, and a fire station located in the center of town,

(4) Accompanied by a high level of personal involvement included long days for volunteers' children as well, handling ani-

mals, assisting with sterilizing instruments, donors of goods, recruiting volunteers from owners who brought pets, and all the community members mentioned above,

(5) Promote positive interaction through the work with and change in the animals, the whole community focused on animal care and awareness,

(6) Incorporated skills development with sensitivity to animals, social interaction, empowerment (that the one is valued, that one's pet is valued),

(7) Promote positive interaction with animals, with neighbor, with family, with role models and leaders in the community,

(8) Supplement with face to face follow up with community and animals through volunteering and donating,

(9) Mobilize community resources to work together in promoting alternatives that are more readily available through all the elements brought together by the Community and the Montana Spay/Neuter Task Force.

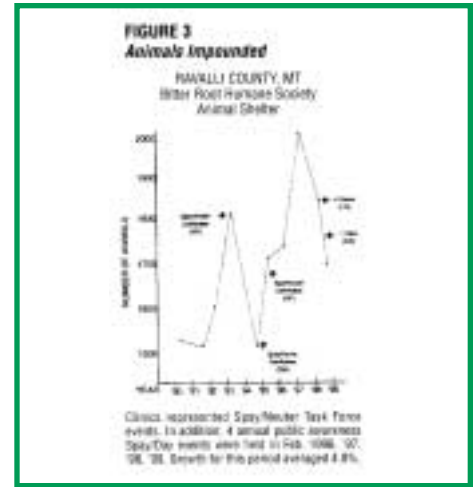
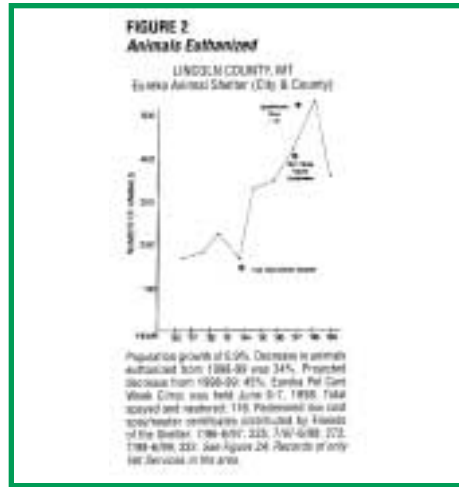
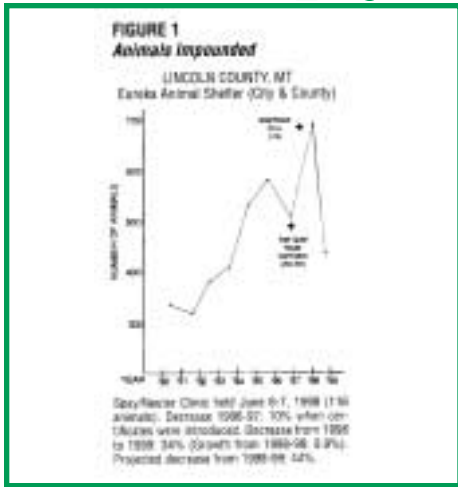
It is a universal given in the field of psychology that few people consistently change their behavior because most people doubt that their behavior will exert a major influence.

After coordinating and volunteering in a Montana Spay/Neuter Task Force Pet Care Event, Kali Lien identified in her own way the elements that research has discovered must be present to change attitudes and effect long-term behavioral change. She observed that people can, through change, exert a major influence. She saw "a goodness that affected each person which will affect the town, which will affect the world. It was one of the first steps in making this a better world." *

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Montana Spay/Neuter Task Force Statistics by Jean Athowe



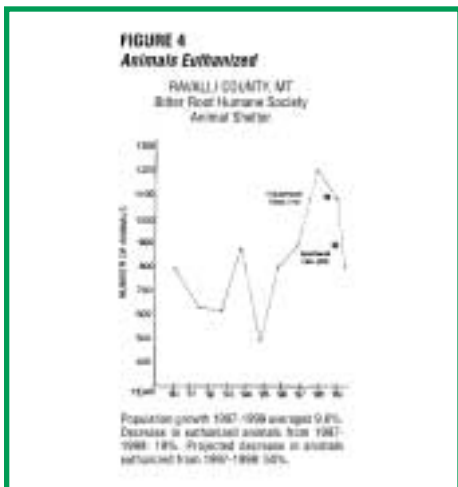
Statistics collected by the Montana Spay/Neuter Task Force in areas it has visited prove that spay/neuter works in reducing the numbers of homeless cats and dogs and the numbers destroyed. These statistics also demonstrate that the Task Force's large, high profile events affect the attitudes of pet owners, because the numbers of homeless and/or destroyed are even more reduced after Task Force visits than are the numbers resulting from low-cost spay/neuter certificate programs, even aggressive programs. Low cost certificates, in most instances, reduced only slightly the numbers of animals impounded and/or destroyed, and, in many cases, had no effect at all in reducing numbers.

After the massive clinic for the

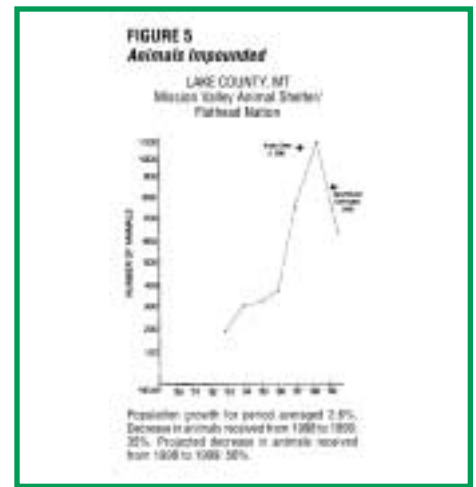
Confederated Salish Kootenai of the Flathead Nation (1,236 surgeries in 6 days), Animal Control Officer Darcy Maiers reported a drop in the number of puppies destroyed of 96%. In the year prior to the Salish Kootenai Pet Care Week, 600 puppies were destroyed and in the year after the clinic, 23 puppies were destroyed. The Mission Valley Animal Shelter, which serves the county which includes the Flathead Nation, reported, a year after the Task Force visit, a decrease in cats and dogs relinquished to them from 1,037 to 672 (35%) and the number destroyed from 596 to 293 (51%). The Fort Belknap Indian Community Fish and Game destroyed 254 cats and dogs in the seven months before the clinic (3 days and 316 surgeries) and 43 in the 5 months after the Pet Care clinic, a decrease of 83%.

impounded increased from 506 to 651 (29%). The number of animals destroyed increased from 426 to 503 (18%). In Ravalli County (population 36,000), the Bitter Root Humane Association animal shelter reported no consistent trend from the use of low cost spay/neuter certificates; four years showed an increase and one year showed a decrease in animals relinquished to the shelter. Four small Task Force pet care events were held in 1998 (a total of 110 surgeries performed). Animals surrendered decreased from 1,228 to 1,058 (14%). In the year following a larger pet care awareness clinic (224 surgeries performed), the number of animals surrendered decreased by 9% and the animals destroyed decreased by 24%. The growth rate in Ravalli County was

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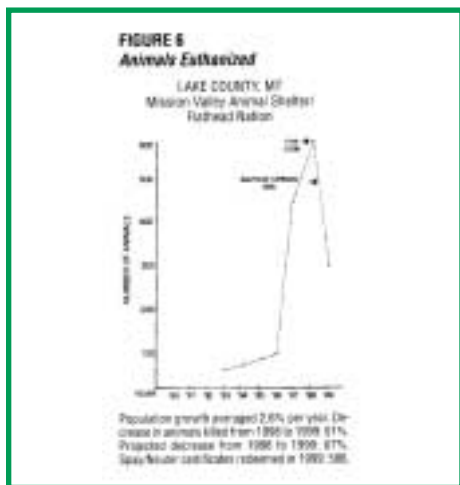


Although not as striking, the same effects were found in non-Native American communities. In Lincoln County (population 18,600) the number of animals impounded in Eureka area decreased from 651 the year before to 432 the year after a two-day clinic event in which 116 surgeries were performed (34%). The number of animals destroyed dropped from 503 to 330 (34%). In the year prior to the clinic, 272 low cost spay/neuter certificates were dispensed; however, the number of cats and dogs





Montana Spay/Neuter Task Force Statistics • cont'd from page 5



4.8% per year. The figures above do not take the growth into account or the figures would be even more dramatic.

From the above, these conclusions could be made:

1. A pet awareness approach spay/neuter clinic decreases the number of animals impounded and/or destroyed.
2. The longer the clinic or the larger the number of animals neutered the greater the decrease in animals impounded and destroyed.
3. Low cost spay/neuter certificates, in and of themselves, do not seem to affect the number of animals impounded and/or destroyed.
4. The effect of the clinics seems to be greater upon the number of animals destroyed than those impounded.
5. These conclusions suggest some change in attitude within the communities in which Task Force Pet Awareness events/clinics were sponsored. *

Graphs thanks to The Latham Letter

News From Utah by Vanessa Hamilton-Highfield

We did it!! The State of Utah passed a bill establishing a spay/neuter license plate. The proceeds from the sale of the license plate will go to No More Homeless Pets in Utah to fund and expand spay/neuter programs. Hoorah!!! ---

HB92 passed the Senate on February 27, 2001. I am writing to thank all of you for your continued support through this arduous process! Your voices made the difference; without you, this wouldn't have happened!

THANK YOU for being so compassionate, for not giving up, for being the most wonderful group of animal people IN THE WORLD!!! Governor Leavitt is expected to sign our bill in the next 10 days (his "Top Cat" – Faux Paw – is a staunch supporter of spay/neuter – I don't think Gov. Leavitt could POSSIBLY veto our bill!!!). We're trying to arrange a "Commemorative Signing" with media present.

The license plates will become available on January 2, 2002. We'll be meeting with the DMV in the next two months to finalize the design and wording. The little dog on the plate is my own little Lovey who passed away on March 12th of last year.

It was because of all of you that I found the strength to keep going after the first House failure – you inspired me to continue to fight for all the Lovey's and Melvin's (the poster cat) in the state of Utah! *

Pet Sitters International Awards SPAY/USA Grant!

Early in March 2001, SPAY/USA received a \$3,500 grant from the Pet Sitters International (PSI), the largest and most progressive organization for professional pet sitters in the world. The organization was created to provide professional pet sitters an opportunity to network with peers who share a common vision of excellence in at-home pet care. The organization has over 3,800 members in the U.S. and ten other countries, and has developed Recommended Quality Standards of Excellence in Pet Sitting, which each member is strongly encouraged to follow. The organization makes these standards of excellence available to the pet-owning public in an effort to educate

them as to what to look for when hiring a professional pet sitter.

PSI publishes *The World of Professional Pet Sitting* six times a year as well as a variety of brochures on accreditation, liability protection, and other issues of interest.

The grant will go to help those callers most in need of help with spaying and neutering cats and dogs. Learn more about PSI by visiting their Web site at www.petsit.com. *





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News From Ohio

by Becky Robinson

Becky Robinson, National Director of Alley Cat Allies, recently teamed up with Aimee St. Arnaud and Mike Nestor of Humane Ohio, and toured Ohio – visiting five cities (Cleveland, Athens, Cincinnati, Columbus, and Toledo) in five days. Their mission – to spread the word on trap-neuter-return (TNR). The workshops, free and open to the public, lasted three hours. Becky presented information on the humane and proven approach to controlling feral cat populations, to about 300 participants.

Local representatives from a variety of animal-oriented groups attended – veterinarians, shelter personnel, animal control officers, and other animal welfare groups' staff, as well as interested citizens who individually want to help feral and stray cats (the backbone of any successful paradigm shift in the treatment of feral cats).

Highlights of the workshops "Feral Cats: From A to Z," included the Ohio premiere of Alley Cat Allies' new video, *The Humane Solution: Reducing Feral Cat Populations with Trap-Neuter-Return*. As the video's closing credits rolled, enthusiastic crowds laughed and cried, stomped and cheered!

Workshop attendees also saw portions of Alley Cat Allies' *Trap-Neuter-Return: A Humane Approach to Feral Cat Control* training video. Also, the workshops examined the particulars of existing TNR programs, and showed humane box trapping tips for the "hard to catch" feral. The panel also provided guide-

lines on how to implement nonlethal population control programs in Ohio.

Though there are a handful of feral cat programs in Ohio, most of the state is just now acknowledging a problem with feral cats. This is in part due to the fact that Ohio Revised Code does not address cats as it does dogs, so local jurisdictions have no guidelines on how to deal with cats. The workshops were designed to inform local residents and policy makers that viable and humane overpopulation control methods exist and that ignoring the problem or "trap and kill" programs – unfortunately, the norm in Ohio – are inhumane and ineffective.

For ten years, Alley Cat Allies has promoted nonlethal feral cat population control. Alley Cat Allies publishes literature and distributes educational information on all aspects of feline population control and feral cat care/ management.

Humane Ohio is Ohio's companion animal and wildlife information and resource center. It has representatives throughout the state and is ready to assist those implementing TNR in their community. Without Humane Ohio, these workshops would not have been so well organized and received! Kudos to everyone who made this road trip a success! For more information, contact Humane Ohio at 419-874-9584, humaneohio@aol.com or www.humaneohio.org *



The Truth About Juvenile Spay/Neuter



When is the right time to spay or neuter puppies and kittens?

by Richard Allen, DVM, Best Friends Veterinarian

Timing is everything when it comes to spay and neuter. Most people who care about animals today want to spay or neuter the pets they bring into their home. But even the best intentions can get waylaid, and if plans to take Fluffy or Fido in to be fixed are delayed just one day too long, a new litter can easily result.

That's why every organization or person that places animals in new homes must have them spayed or neutered before adoption. It's a policy that we never waiver from here at Best Friends. And it is something that cannot be left to the new pet owner, no matter what promises they make.

If animals are routinely spayed or neutered before placement, there's no risk factor that they'll create more puppies and kittens to add to the throng of unwanted offspring that already exists.

This policy of fixing before adoption requires that I spay or neuter puppies and kittens as well as adult dogs. Early spay/neuter is surrounded with loads of myths and misinformation. I am passionate about this issue and wish to give you the facts so you may share them and spread the word about this essential procedure.

When should an animal be spayed or neutered?

The answer to this question depends on the situation. If the animal is available for adoption, the pet should be fixed before the new owner receives the pet, regardless of the animal's age. (Clearly animals that are too young to be spayed or neutered are too young to be adopted!)

If the animal is already owned, spay/neuter

can be incorporated into the shot series. Fixing the animal when the rabies shot is given works great. Here at Best Friends, rabies shots are given at 16 weeks.

How young can an animal be when fixed?

Puppies and kittens can be spayed very early — as young as four weeks. The goal here is to get them fixed and ready to go as soon as they are weaned.

I routinely spay/neuter at six to eight weeks. These surgeries are called juvenile spay/neuter or early spay/neuter. The procedure is quick and easy and works great.

Remember that kitties can go into heat and get pregnant as early as five months of age, which is a bit like babies having babies. So, a little procrastination by the new owner can result in undoing all the good we did adopting the animal in the first place.

Does early spay/neuter affect the look or health of the pet?

Years of careful observation have shown that pets that were fixed very young have lives that are as long and healthy as any other.

Two considerations that have been studied closely are the way that bones grow and the differences in body mass of those animals that were fixed early on. There is very little difference between early altering and later altering in these pets. Originally, there was some concern about male cats experiencing potential urinary blockages. Now we know that male cats have the same chances of urinary blockage with or without early fixing.

Is early spay/neuter risky or dangerous?

Any surgery has inherent risks. We try to reduce risks to as close to zero as possible by knowing our procedure and diligently watching our patients.

Young animals heal fast and are lower surgical risks than older animals who may be obese, in heat, pregnant, or ill. Moreover, young animals are more predictable and wake up faster after anesthesia. Perhaps we were all the strongest when we were babies.

Why don't all veterinarians do early spay/neuter?

I can only tell you why I didn't do early spay/neuter in my private practice before coming to Best Friends. I was afraid to. I had been to a veterinary school that did not mention early spay/neuter or teach the techniques that make it a simple, safe, and effective procedure. Moreover, I was not given the knowledge of the benefits and the lack of harmful side effects.

It is time for a call to arms amongst all veterinarians against the pet overpopulation problem in this country. Early spay/neuter is a valuable tool in this epidemic and all pets are the winners.

Lots of articles have been written about early spay/neuter. Here are a few of them

1. Short-Term Results and Complications of Prepubertal Gonadectomy in Cats and Dogs. JAVMA 211[1]:57-62 Jul '97
2. Prepubertal Gonadectomy in Dogs and Cats - Part II Compend Contin Educ Pract Vet 21[3]:197-201 Mar '99 Review Article 18
3. Prepubertal Gonadectomy in Dogs and Cats - Part I Compend Contin Educ Pract Vet 21[2]:103-111 Feb '99 Review Article 18
4. The Effect of Prepubertal and Postpubertal Gonadectomy on Penile Extrusion and Urethral Diameter in the Domestic Cat Vet Radiol 37[5]:363-366 Sep/Oct '96 Review Article 23
5. Prepubertal gonadectomy in the dog: Effects on skeletal growth and physical development Vet Surg 18[1]: 61 Jan/Feb '97
6. Gonadectomy in immature dogs: effects on skeletal, physical and behavioral development. JAVMA 1991 Apr 1;198(7):1193-203
7. Effects of prepubertal gonadectomy on physical and behavioral development in cats. JA VMA 1996 Dec 1;209(11):1864-71
8. Implications of early neutering in the dog and cat. Semin Vet Med Surg (Small Anim) 1995 Feb;10(1):8-12

For more references and further information, contact Dr. Allen at the Sanctuary or e-mail him at drbunnyman@aol.com

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News From New York

by Bea Schermerhorn

SUNY Canton has the only Veterinary Science Technology program in the northern tier of New York state. Spay/Neuter/Now (SNN) began in 1994, and it was a natural for a relationship to develop between the two organizations. College Foundation persons are on the SNN Board. Monthly Board meetings are usually held at the college and several fundraisers are also held on campus. SNN works under the umbrella of the 501(c)(3) of the College Foundation; this saved SNN from the expense of filing for tax-exempt status.

SNN is a subsidy/assistance program for low-income people. If a client qualifies, SNN gives help in the form of vouchers towards the surgery. The client has a list

of veterinarians who take the voucher, subtract it from their going rate, and the client pays the difference. Basically it reduces the cost of the surgeries for the client.

A planned 12,000 sq. ft. Veterinary Science Technology building will house a clinic, a teaching facility, conference room, prep room, scrub room, surgery room, and pathology lab. The clinic will also be the home of Spay/Neuter/Now. The reason for the new building is the need to accommodate additional students and to provide better facilities to meet AVMA accreditation standards. The college foresees doubling the number of students enrolled as it moves to a baccalaureate program.

Dr. Joseph L. Kennedy, college President, is enthusiastic about the new building and the partnership with Spay/Neuter/Now to provide services to people who normally cannot afford to spay or neuter their pets. Says Dr. Kennedy, "We will share our new facilities with this community group to help make a difference in the North Country pet overpopulation. Students majoring in Vet Science Technology will obtain clinical experience while assisting with the administration of the program. The Spay/Neuter/Now clinic based on the SUNY Canton campus will help the program to further expand." *

COMMUNITY SERVICE



Spay/Neuter/Now (SNN), an organization that helps seniors and low-income persons with the cost of spaying or neutering their companion animals, donated a spay pack to the Potsdam Humane Society. Potsdam is implementing a neuter-before-adoption program. Pictured above from left to right are Bea Schermerhorn, SNN Founder; Bonnie Boyd, Potsdam Humane Society board member; Norma Ward, Potsdam Humane Society shelter manager; Cynthia Vaphiades, SNN board member making the presentation; Raeleen Willard, Robbie Gittings and Wanda Chase, SNN board members. For more information about either organization call (315) 324-5969 (SNN) or (315) 265-3199 Potsdam Humane Society.



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: Bonney Brown, Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, Utah; and 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 Dr. Eric Davis, 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; Kerri Burns, PETSMART 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 PETSMART Charities and The Summerlee Foundation for their generous sponsorship!

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



Ten Commandments for Responsible Pet Owners



- (1) My Life is likely to last 10 to 15 years. Any separation from you will be very painful.
- (2) Give me time to understand what you want of me.
- (3) Place your trust in me – it is crucial for my well being.
- (4) Don't be angry with me for long, and don't lock me up as punishment. You have work, your friends, your entertainment. I have only you.
- (5) Talk to me. Even if I don't understand your words, I understand your voice when it's speaking to me.
- (6) Be aware that however you treat me, I'll never forget it.



- (7) Before you hit me, remember that I have teeth that could crush the bones in your hand, but I choose not to bite you.
 - (8) Before you scold me for being lazy or uncooperative, ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I'm not getting the right food, I've been in the sun too long, or my heart may be getting old and weak.
 - (9) Take care of me when I get old. You, too, will grow old.
 - (10) Go with me on difficult journeys. Never say, "I can't bear to watch it" or, "Let it happen in my absence." Everything is easier for me if you are there.
- Remember, I love you.

MATERIAL AVAILABLE FROM THE A.S.P.C.A.

The A.S.P.C.A. publishes a quarterly Teacher Newsletter for grades one through eight. The most recent issue is called [Pet Population: Behind the Numbers](#). The narrative outlines the current problem, Gives Teacher Instructions for the various grade groupings (K-2, 3-8, 3-5 and 6-8) followed by Activity Sheets for the four grade groups. Readers who would like to obtain a free copy of this issue, free subscription and/or free information packet about all available education materials for themselves or a local teacher, can obtain this by writing to the ASPCA Education Department at 424 East 92nd Street, New York, NY 10128 or by e-mailing education@aspc.org.



Bob, Esther's faithful companion for the past 15 years.

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

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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