

2005 Annual Report



Spay Neuter Assistance Program



SNAP's mission is to eliminate the need for euthanasia in our community's animal shelters, to reduce the number of homeless animals, and to educate the public about the importance of spay/neuter.

INTRODUCTION

Working with 40 area veterinary clinics to reduce the number of unwanted dogs and cats born in the Ozarks, SNAP provides discounted spay/neuter services for low-income pet owners. Eligible owners generally pay half the surgery fee; SNAP raises money to pay the other half. Providing targeted spay/neuter services for low-income pet owners is the single most effective way to reduce euthanasia in animal shelters. In 2005, we issued 2,025 spay/neuter certificates. SNAP has sponsored more than 7,500 surgeries after only five years in existence.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Increased emphasis on outreach to pet owners most in need of our help

Thanks to grants from the Community Foundation of the Ozarks and PetSmart Charities, SNAP was able to provide more targeted services in 2005. *Operation TLC*, funded by the Community Foundation, provided spay/neuter services to pet owners living in the 65802 zip code, one of the areas in southwest Missouri with the greatest pet overpopulation problem. A dedicated team of volunteers helped get the word out, and the response was tremendous. Fully 25% of all surgeries sponsored by SNAP in 2005 were to people living in 65802.

Project Spay & Stay and *Second Chances* were funded by PetSmart Charities. *Project Spay & Stay* provided services for pet owners living in public housing while *Second Chances* provided an extra financial incentive for pet owners who had contacted SNAP previously, qualified for services, but never followed through. This grant continues through October 2006 and is expected to help spay and neuter approximately 350 dogs and cats.

A grant awarded late in December 2005 from Nestle Purina will help continue our targeted focus in 2006 by providing financial assistance for single-parent families with pets.



Successful fundraising efforts

- **Grants.** Funding from the Community Foundation of the Ozarks, PetSmart Charities, and Nestle Purina brought in over \$20,000 in much-needed funds in 2005.
- **Special events.** Two special fundraising events were held in 2005: the 3rd Annual Ice Cream Chill Out on July 16 and the 2nd Annual Wine Tasting on November 20. The Chill Out, an outdoor event held at the Rogersville City Park, featured pet activities, a talent show, and Black Angus Bingo. The Wine Tasting event included a swing band, a silent auction, and plenty of good food. The two events raised over \$13,000.
- **Merchandise sales.** In addition to events such as ArtsFest, SNAP began tabling at PetSmart on Saturdays in March. By the end of the year, over \$5,800 was raised in merchandise sales, thanks to our volunteers who have become so adept at making pet bandanas.
- **Memberships.** The number of SNAP members continued to increase throughout 2005. By the end of the year, a total of 76 individuals, families, or businesses had signed up to be members and over \$3,900 was raised.

Increased opportunities for community education about spay/neuter

SNAP's educational efforts began in February 2005 with the launch of B-4-5 to celebrate Spay Day USA. B-4-5 is a simple concept that encourages pet owners to get their pets fixed before the age of five months. Early age spay/neuter is important not only because of the health and behavioral benefits but also because of the elimination of those "oops" litters. SNAP provided eight veterinary clinics with B-4-5 flyers, which they agreed to distribute to new owners of puppies and kittens.

In addition to our quarterly newsletter, SNAP also maintains a website, which on about our services, a comprehensive archive of SNAP newsletters, a reference page with links to information about spay/neuter and placement of homeless pets, and even an inventory of small-breed dog rescues.



In April 2005 SNAP and Missouri State University partnered to conduct an animal welfare assessment survey of all known companion animal organizations in a nine-county area of southwest Missouri. Twenty-seven organizations responded. The results were released in early 2006 and sent to all participating organizations. A copy of the full report – *The State of Animal Welfare in Southwest Missouri* – may be found at SNAP's website.

A variety of public events completed our educational efforts for the year. A month-long educational display at Keyes Gallery, participation in ArtsFest and two cat shows, and PetSmart tabling on 33 Saturdays helped to educate the community about spay/neuter and increased awareness of our program.

*Animals are such agreeable friends—they ask
no questions, they pass no criticisms.*

—George Elliot

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

SNAP's functions are managed by six committees: General Fundraising, Fundraising Events, Tabling, Programs, Public Relations, and Operations. Programs and services include the following:

- **Certificate program.** The linchpin of SNAP is the basic certificate program which provides assistance to low-income pet owners who would not otherwise be able to get their pets spayed or neutered. Eligible pet owners redeem their certificates at one of forty participating veterinary clinics. Our volunteers work very hard to make sure that pet owners follow through on their commitment to spay or neuter their pets. A 96% redemption rate is evidence of our success.
- **Sponsor-a-Spay.** This program allows SNAP supporters to donate money for surgeries of pets whose owners cannot afford to pay anything. The cost is \$25 to sponsor a cat or \$40 to sponsor a dog.
- **Grants.** In 2005 several grants provided deeply discounted spay/neuter services to targeted populations in southwest Missouri.



- **Fundraising.** A variety of fundraising activities enables SNAP to raise the funds needed to assist low-income pet owners. In addition to fundraising events, other activities include the Pocket Change for Pets donation canister program, Cash for Critters (a printer cartridge recycling program), and the sale of donated and handmade merchandise.
- **Community outreach.** SNAP keeps the community informed about spay/neuter and other timely animal welfare issues through a website, a quarterly newsletter, and participation in numerous events to disseminate educational information and increase public awareness of our program.

STAFF

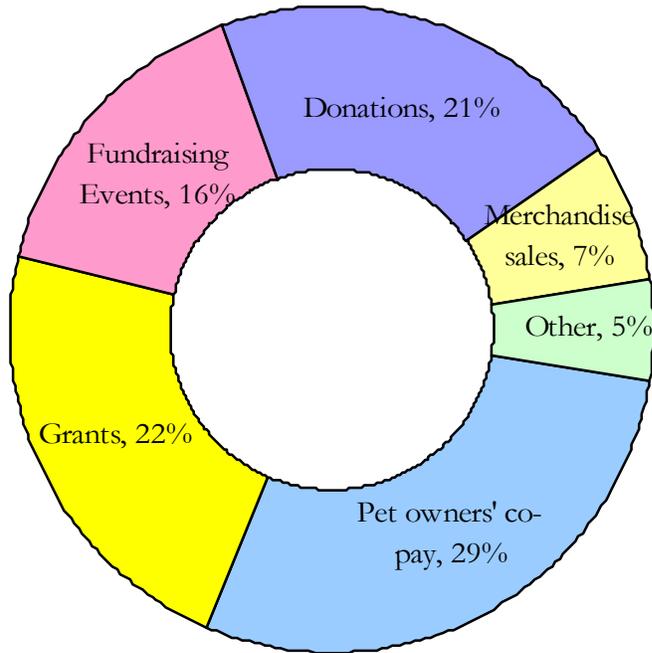
SNAP is an all-volunteer organization overseen by a Board of Directors. Members of the Board include:

- Cindy Bird, President
- Janet Martin, Vice-President
- Susan Smith, Secretary
- Anne Heim, Treasurer
- Laurel Bryant
- Mike Divine, DVM
- Jackie Glass
- Susan Tolliver



FINANCES

2005 Income: \$83,014



2005 Expenses: \$73,943

