



Solutions

Helping Animals and the People Who Love Them

Issue 26

December 2008

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

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SPAY/NEUTER CONFERENCE HELD IN CHICAGO

The third national SPAY/USA conference was held in Chicago in October. SNAP Board member Janet Martin attended, along with 400 other spay/neuter enthusiasts. The conference kicked off with an exciting announcement: The Michelson Prize and Grants in Reproductive Biology. An award of \$25 million will be given to the first individual or organization that develops an effective non-surgical method of pet sterilization. An additional \$50 million will be available in grants to help research institutions with needed equipment, staff and supplies to carry out this important work.

It was encouraging to see so many veterinarians in attendance (about 100), and one of the conference highlights involved the announcement of a high quality, high volume spay/neuter task force. The task force, which was convened in December 2006, included 22 academic, private and non-profit veterinarians from around the country. Its purpose was to advance best practices in high quality, high volume spay/neuter. In July 2008 a milestone was reached when the set of guidelines com-

plied by the task force was published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association. The article highlights acceptable standards and sets the bar for performance of spay/neuter programs nationwide. It may be viewed online by visiting <http://www.humanealliance.org/HA2/doclib.htm>.



One of the most interesting sessions was a presentation given by Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) concerning the results of a study on spay/neuter marketing conducted in the gulf coast area following Hurricane Katrina. The research was done with pet owners whose pets were not sterilized and found that the most effective message in persuading owners to spay or neuter was that it "prevents pets from

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MERRY CHRISTMAS TO LIFETIME MEMBERS !

A special Merry Christmas to all of our loyal lifetime members. We couldn't do it without you!!

Barbara Brockschmidt

Wes Buffington

Lynn & Sandra Burks

Susan Carnahan

Gloria Galanes

John Heitz

Reagan Henry

Sandy Jensen

Marilyn Johnson

Lisa Koontz

Chuck & Jennifer Laue

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Debbie Williams

Debby Williams



ANNE HEIM RECEIVES AWARD FROM PETSMART CHARITIES



Volunteer and SNAP founder Anne Heim was recently named as a Lifesaving Volunteer by PetSmart Charities. A story about Anne will be featured in the winter 2009 issue of the PetSmart Charities newsletter and will be seen by readers from more than 4,000 animal welfare agencies nationwide. Not only that, but SNAP also received a cash award of \$500! Congratulations to Anne from the rest of the SNAP family.

SPAY/NEUTER CONFERENCE HELD IN CHICAGO

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being put to sleep.” Many of those surveyed honestly thought that there was not a pet overpopulation problem! As for spay/neuter advertising, participants were most persuaded by straightforward ads with ordinary animals. Humor or “cute” ads, especially those with purebred animals, were viewed as inappropriate because of the seriousness of the subject matter. The full report of this fascinating research is due out soon. Watch the HSUS website (www.hsus.org) for details.

The heart of the conference was both simple and profound: The greatest lesson learned since the first national SPAY/USA conference held in 1993

is that the most effective method of reducing pet overpopulation *right now* is a high-volume spay/neuter clinic. Until a non-surgical method is developed, this is the gold standard. There are several models available. For example, the clinic of choice for a sparsely populated area might be a mobile clinic. In urban and suburban areas such as ours, the choice is the Humane Alliance model. Thanks to some generous grant funding, a National Spay Neuter Response Team has been formed which is helping to open clinics around the country using the Humane Alliance model. In 2004, there was only one clinic in the US—now there are 43! The local animal welfare coalition SAAF (Springfield Animal Advocacy Foundation) is actively pursuing this idea – more to come in the next issue of *Solutions!*



Ten Reasons to Spay and Neuter

Prevent Needless Deaths

- ★ Avoid the euthanasia of homeless pets by reducing unwanted litters.
- ★ Reduce the population of stray animals.
- ★ Prevent “oops” litters. Cats can have “silent heats” that are not obvious to owners, but very obvious to amorous tom

cats. Cats can also come back into heat two weeks after giving birth.

Prevent Health Problems

- ★ Prevent cancer of the ovaries and uterus and inflammation of the uterus (pyometra).
- ★ Reduce the risk of mammary gland cancer.
- ★ Prevent tumors of the testicles.
- ★ Reduce the frequency of hernias and prostate disease.

Prevent Headaches for Pet Owners

- ★ Eliminate heats, which means no more yowling and no more unsavory tom cats you didn't invite over hanging around.
- ★ Decrease roaming, fighting, and leg humping. In cats, fighting can cause abscesses which can be both painful and expensive to treat.
- ★ Make the odor of a male cat's urine less strong.

Letter from SNAP client

Dear SNAP,

Anyone and everyone who has contributed to SNAP has earned an "all-paws-up" from all my kids and I. My son and I now share our home with 6 furry friends, 5 being delivered by "mystery storks" dropped outside our door throughout the months. If it wasn't for the SNAP family, I would indeed be in a pickle, knowing what happens with 4 girls out "katting" the town. I am the sole provider in our home and there was no possible way to take the financial step to take care of them and control the overpopulation. You have given many like me the opportunity to give our little friends the care and love and security they so greatly deserve. We thank you with our hearts and prayers.



Sincerely,
Michelle

In Memoriam

Irene Wilkerson

Mother of Dr. Teresa Olsen

Eddy



Upcoming Meeting Dates

Here's our meeting schedule for the first half of 2009. All meetings are held at the Library Center, 4653 S. Campbell, unless otherwise noted.

Board of Directors Meetings, 6:30 pm

- 🐾 January 26 (Kaldi's Coffeehouse on Battlefield)
- 🐾 March 30 (Room A)
- 🐾 May 18 (Room B)

Volunteer Meetings, 2:00 pm

- 🐾 January 10 (Room A)
- 🐾 February 14 (Harrison Room)
- 🐾 March 14 (Room A)
- 🐾 April 11 (Room A)
- 🐾 May 9 (Room A)
- 🐾 June 13 (Room A)

Twittering about Spaying and Neutering



In last quarter's newsletter article, we wrote about blogging about spaying and neutering and highlighted some interesting posts. In the last couple of years, microblogging has also become a popular way for everyone -- from ordinary people to Barack Obama, from individuals to corporations and organizations, to get the word out about "what are you doing?" (often interpreted as "what are you thinking?")

The most popular microblogging website is Twitter (twitter.com). On Twitter every post, called a "tweet", is no more than 140 characters. This makes the conversations short and sweet. Many users, called twitterers, tweet from their cell phones. So there is a constant stream of chatter from around the world.

Not surprisingly, "spay and neuter" is a topic that comes up on tweets. Here's a sampling of recent tweets that contain the phrase "spay and neuter". The name before each tweet is the username. And yes, that really is Cesar Millan twittering!

To do your own search just go to search.twitter.com/!

- [marcapitman](#): Thank you for using the terms "**spay**" and "**neuter**"! The local animal shelter called our kitten "altered"...seemed weird.
- [cesarmillan](#): Learn about **spay and neuter** myths: <http://tinyurl.com/6l69wp>
- [tara](#): please **spay and neuter** your pets and remember if you want one, check out rescues and the pound, not breeders.
- [typaldos](#): Returned from SNAP (**Spay and Neuter** Assistance Program) board meeting in Springfield, MO. www.snap123.org. Don't let your pets procreate!
- [HSofPensacola](#): What is the easiest way to reduce the numbers of MILLIONS of pets being euthanized every year? **SPAY AND NEUTER!**
- [pawsatlanta](#): The next vaccination clinic at PAWS Atlanta is 12/7 from 1-4. Our **spay/neuter** prices are only \$75 for dogs and \$65 for cats too.
- [BFAS](#) Puppies are indeed adorable. I just wish people would **spay/neuter** their pets, and STOP BREEDING!! Animal shelters here are chock full.
- [terrellsanders](#): big banner outside local veterinarian's office - "Testicle Festival / **spay and neuter** program".
- [windycityrescue](#): You've been telling your friends to adopt and **neuter/spay**, right? When you breed or buy, other animals die.
- [dogdish](#): Promoting **spay and neuter** at Barktoberweenfestivary www.dogdish.com

YES!

I would like to become a member of SNAP to help reduce the number of unwanted animals born in Southwest Missouri. I understand that by becoming a member, I will receive a quarterly newsletter, acknowledgement on the SNAP website, and an invitation to SNAP's annual meeting. (Membership is renewable annually and is tax deductible. Payment may be made by check or money order.)

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Email _____

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student/Senior (60 & over) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Lifetime |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 Family | |

OR...

- _____ I want to help! Please send information about becoming a SNAP volunteer.
- _____ I want to support SNAP's work with the enclosed tax-deductible donation.
- _____ Please make a donation in memory of _____
- _____ Please send me information on estate planning .
- _____ I would like to "Sponsor-a-Spay." I am enclosing \$ _____ to sponsor:
 - _____ A specific pet (indicate pet's name) _____
 - _____ The pet at the top of SNAP's waiting list

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Solutions!
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The Humane Solution to Pet Overpopulation