



# Solutions

Helping Animals and the People Who Love Them

Issue 20

June 2007

*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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## **What's inside**

- SNAP summer reading list
- No more homeless pets?
- 10,000th surgery!



## **Neutersol: A cautionary tale?**

Many of us have dreamed of the day when dogs and cats could be sterilized with a pill or injection. Just imagine: the pet overpopulation could finally be solved because sterilization of animals would be cheap and easy. Is this just a pipe dream or is non-surgical sterilization on the verge of becoming a reality?

Like most things in life, the answer is not a simple one. A product called Neutersol was approved by the FDA and went on the market in 2003. Designed for use in male puppies three to ten months old, this drug held so much promise. Surely products for cats and female dogs couldn't be far behind, could they? But the reality has been quite different. Several problems emerged with Neutersol. First, it was not more affordable than spay/neuter. In addition, the behavioral benefits associated with spay/neuter weren't achieved to the same degree with Neutersol. Since the decrease in testosterone levels were not as significant as decreases from surgical sterilization, dogs were more likely to keep their natural tendencies to roam, fight, and mark their territory. In other words, the drug was not perfect. According to many experts in the field, this is precisely the problem. Dr. Wolfgang Jochle, a speaker at the International Symposium on Contraception for Pets held in Virginia in November 2006, said that "the requirement for the replacement of spay and neuter has to be 100 percent perfect." He added that although there are many excit-

ing possibilities on the horizon, there is not a single dog or cat contraceptive drug that the pharmaceutical industry is immediately willing to invest in.



After just two years on the market, Neutersol was pulled when the patent holder and marketing company severed their relationship. Abbot Laboratories plan to manufacture and distribute the drug in the near future. The fact that the drug was pulled supposedly had nothing to do with efficacy or consumer demand, but it is hard to feel inspired by the tale of this drug which once held such promise.

So where do we go from here? Research goes on, and the fact that 100 professionals from around the world attended an international symposium on contraception last year is encouraging. But if Neutersol is a cautionary tale, we may have a long way to go.

# New member welcome

**Individual**

Ashley Bartelsmeyer  
 Dave Davisson  
 Signe Emerick  
 Laura Hart  
 June Hertenstein  
 Amanda Knight  
 Niki Knopf  
 Walter Rosenbaum  
 Kathleen Stevens

**Family**

Jennifer Baehr  
 Gwen Jones

**Student/Senior**

Brandi Richmond  
 Gail Rothman

**Business**

Marketplace Printing  
 Typaldos Consulting

# In Memoriam

*Minrose Quinn  
 Earl Rothman*

*In memory of SNAP volunteer  
 Carol Gosselink's dog Olivia*



Olivia

*Donations were made in memory of  
 Mary Lou Nodine by:*

*Joyce Bare  
 Tammy Beasley  
 Cecilia Campbell  
 Linda Crim  
 Brian Nodine  
 Richelle Jeffers  
 Linda & Jerry Shipley  
 Susan & Thomas Shultz*

## Sponsor-a-Spay List

There are plenty of cats and dogs on our Sponsor-a-Spay waiting list. Won't you please sponsor one of

these pets? Your \$25 donation will sponsor a cat, while \$40 will sponsor a dog. Simply fill out the form on the last page of this newsletter, and be assured that you are doing your part to help!

***Cats awaiting sponsors:***

- ♠ Lily, female
- ♠ Mojo, female
- ♠ Oatmeal, female
- ♠ Lancelot, male
- ♠ Peaches, female
- ♠ Fiona, female
- ♠ Streaker, female
- ♠ Tazz, male

***Dogs awaiting sponsors:***

- ♠ Toby, male
- ♠ Crimson, female
- ♠ Poncho, male
- ♠ Maggie, female
- ♠ Buffy, female
- ♠ Half Pint, male
- ♠ Trapper, male
- ♠ Kipper, female

# By the numbers: 10,000 surgeries!

10,000 is quite a milestone when you think about it. If half of the pets that SNAP has helped over the years contributed to just one litter of six puppies or kittens (the average litter size), this would prevent the births of 30,000 unwanted animals!

Our 10,000th surgery was a cat named V8. V8 is a four-month-old tortoiseshell. She lives in Springfield with her two people on a monthly household income of \$512. There are also three dogs in the family, all of whom are six-month old rottweiler/akita mix puppies from the same litter. SNAP has helped to fix Bubbles, one of the dogs. Mini and Long Tail are next on the list!



## SNAP night at McAlister's Deli to be held on June 25



Please join us on Monday, June 25, for SNAP night at McAlister's Deli, 1460 East Primrose in Springfield. Not only will 10% of the proceeds go to SNAP, it's a great chance to get together with other like-minded animal lovers and enjoy a good meal and some of McAlister's famous sweet tea. We assume you'll be eating dinner that evening, so why not do it at McAlister's?

SNAP volunteers will be busy serving food, busing tables, washing dishes and collecting those tips from 5-9 pm. Be there or be square!

## SNAP's summer reading list



Ah yes...Summer. First you fill a tall glass with ice cubes and the beverage of your choice. Then you settle back in your recliner, chaise lounge, or hammock and enjoy a good book. Here are a few animal-related recommendations from SNAP; all are available through the Springfield public library. Happy reading!

**It's okay to miss the bed on the first jump** by John O'Hurley. Actor John O'Hurley, host of TV's National Dog Show, relates the life lessons he's learned from dogs. With just the right amount of self-deprecation, O'Hurley pays homage to the many dogs he has known. A real "warm and fuzzy" read.

**The parrot's lament** by Eugene Linden. If you ever had any doubts about animal intelligence, they'll be put to rest with this book. Linden tells stories of such diverse animals as pigs, leopards, wolves, and, of course, parrots. A fascinating book—highly recommended.

**Marley and me** by John Grogan. If you've been living under a rock for the last year, you may not have heard of this book. Otherwise, you're probably familiar with this #1 bestseller about Marley, who Grogan describes as the world's worst dog. Have a hanky ready for this one. You'll need it.

**A dog year: Twelve months, four dogs and me** by Jon Katz. This is the first in a series of books about Katz and his life with dogs in suburban New Jersey (and later on a farm in upstate New York). Katz

really knows what it's like to be smitten by a pet and does an outstanding job of communicating that to readers. The movie version of the book will be released this summer. An interesting bit of trivia: during a recent interview Katz said that the dog "actors" used to portray his border collie had to be fitted with contact lenses and fur extensions! Go figure.

**If only they could speak: Stories about pets and their people** by Nicholas Dodman. Dodman is a well-known veterinarian and animal behaviorist. This book is a series of truly fascinating stories. Not to be missed.

**Animals in translation** by Temple Grandin. Grandin is an animal behavior expert. She's also autistic, a trait she believes allows her an ability to relate to animals. Grandin, an animal scientist with 30 years experience, shares her unique insights into critters of all kinds.

**Cat people** by Margaret & Michael Korda. They say people do not own cats so much as cats own them. Famous memoirist Korda and his wife share their personal love affair with cats, along with references to historical feline influences.

**Not left behind: Rescuing the pets of New Orleans** by Troy Snow. Best Friends Animal Society stepped in and rescued thousands of pets after Hurricane Katrina. The pictures are hard to look at, but the story is an important one.

# Spotlight On...

## SNAP pets

This is Coco. He lives in Hollister with his person and three other kitty housemates—



Little Bit, Molly, and Blackie. Coco was glad to go ahead and get fixed before he developed that pesky spraying habit. And he's so relieved to have playing in his future instead of roaming and fighting. Congratulations, Coco!

## Worth repeating...



A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he does himself.

—Josh Billings

If your dog is fat, you aren't getting enough exercise.

—Unknown

If there are no dogs in heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went.

—Mark Twain

I wonder if other dogs think poodles are members of a weird religious cult.

—Rita Rudner

## Special Thanks

Our thanks go out to everyone who helped to make our annual meeting a success this year.

- ◆ We had wonderful h'our dourves courtesy of **Café Roswithe**. Thanks to **Mike Divine** and Café Roswithe chef **James Stegall** for making that happen. The food was delicious and enjoyed by all.
- ◆ Thanks to **Janet Martin** for putting together the annual report and Power Point presentation and to **Susan Bell** for presenting it.
- ◆ Thanks to the **Springfield-Greene County Library** for the use of their Story Hour room. We appreciate the library's support.
- ◆ Finally, thanks to all the **SNAP supporters** who attended the annual meeting. We're very proud of our accomplishments at SNAP and are always eager to share those successes. A heads-up for next year: we've decided to take the annual meeting casual and plan to hold it in an outdoor location where supporters can bring their pets. It should be a lot of fun, and we can hardly wait!

# NO MORE HOMELESS PETS?

## New challenges for the 21st century

Will the notion of “no more homeless pets” ever become a reality? As animal lovers, we all fervently hope so. But realistically, we know there is much to be done before that could happen.

What progress is being made and in what areas? In the last fifteen years, euthanasia of homeless pets in shelters has been reduced from 15 million to 4–5 million dogs and cats. This has come about primarily because of an increase in spay/neuter. No-kill shelters have been a factor as well.

A leader in animal welfare, Best Friends Animal Society in Utah is launching a dramatic initiative to continue the reduction of the sources of pet overpopulation which they see as the three “final challenges”.

Best Friends sees the increasing breeding and training of attack dogs as a dark turn in our culture, often ending in irresponsible owners abandoning those who are judged not aggressive enough. They propose to expose these criminal breeders.

A second major problem is the massive-scale breeding and unacceptable conditions existing in puppy mills around the country. It's a depressing fact that Missouri is crawling with puppy mills. Our state is home to one third of all licensed dog breeders in the U.S. That's right—*one third*. Puppy mills generate a jaw-dropping amount of money and will continue to do so as long as people buy dogs from their facilities.

The third (and possibly most daunting task) is addressing the explosive number of free-

roaming cats across the country. You've heard us talk about it before. SNAP supports the practice of “Trap/Neuter/Return” (TNR), which has proven to be the most workable solution, far more humane and effective than the previous “Catch and Kill” system.

What can we do towards reaching these noble but difficult goals? Here are a few ideas:



- ◆ Continue to preach spay/neuter. It is the linchpin in any effort to reduce pet overpopulation.

- ◆ Urge friends and family to adopt from shelters instead of puppy mills and pet stores. The sad fact is that as long as people are willing to pay \$1,000 for a pet store yorkie, puppy mills will continue unabated.

- ◆ Contact legislators and ask them to support regulations against puppy mills.

In Missouri, that organization is MAAL (Missouri Alliance for Animal Legislation). Visit their website at [www.maal.org](http://www.maal.org).

- ◆ If you or anyone you know feeds stray cats, get them fixed! Doing the former without the latter just enables the cats to reproduce. As hard as this is to believe, many people simply don't make that connection and think that feeding strays is a kind and benign gesture with no consequences.

As you can imagine, these are enormous tasks which will require immeasurable amounts of time, ideas, planning, people and financing. IS IT WORTH IT?? If we could “ask” those 10 million animals who were *not* euthanized in the last fifteen years, we might have our answer.

**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 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 \_\_\_\_\_

- \$15 Student/Senior (60 & over)
- \$25 Individual
- \$40 Family
- \$125 Business
- \$500 Lifetime

**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

**MAIL TO: SNAP • P.O. Box 14354 • Springfield, MO 65814 • (417)823-7627**

***Solutions!***  
**PO Box 14354**  
**Springfield, MO 65814**

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**Spay Neuter Assistance Program, Inc.**  
***The Humane Solution to Pet Overpopulation***