



Solutions

Helping Animals and the People Who Love Them

September / October
2011

Are You Confused?

Spay/neuter opportunities in Springfield and Southwest Missouri have taken on a new face in the last year and a half. To clear up any confusion, here is a review and an update.

SNAP (Spay Neuter Assistance Program) has been helping low income pet owners fix their pets at low cost for the past eleven years. Well over 16,000 surgeries have been performed in that time using private practice veterinary clinics from Springfield and the surrounding towns.

When the Humane Society of Southwest Missouri moved into their new facility and hired a full time veterinarian, they also offered low cost spay/neuter surgery to the public. Six months later, in August of 2010, SAAF (Springfield Animal Advocacy Foundation) opened their high volume, low cost spay/neuter clinic, SAAFhouse, in central Springfield as an independent 501c3 not for profit operation. SNAP and SAAFhouse support each other's efforts and work together to insure people are having their animals fixed; however, the two organizations function independently of each other.

At this time SNAP is referring all Greene County callers to SAAF or the Humane Society. It is our belief that these two clinics must be successful as they play an important role by providing an alternative to private practice veterinary clinics for individuals needing financial assistance. They in turn can refer complicated cases or high risk surgeries to SNAP to manage. In addition, SNAP is working hard in the counties surrounding Greene County. Many of the animals coming to Springfield for adoption are coming from outlying areas. It seems reasonable that if we focus on those areas, Greene County should see a decline in the influx of animals.

As always SNAP depends on your support to make these efforts possible. Donations are always needed. Be sure to check our website for additional ways you can help. SNAP's mission statement from the very beginning has been "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." We still strongly agree with that statement. We know that our supporters feel the same. Yes, proudly, SNAP is still operating in this area. We will continue until there is no longer a need for us to do so.



HOW TO CONTACT US

PO Box 14354 / Springfield, MO 65814 /417.823.7627
www.snap123.org / spayneuter123@gmail.com
Or see us on Facebook

SNAP is a Missouri 501(c) (3) non profit corporation

If you are not currently receiving the SNAP newsletter via email, you may provide your email address to us at spayneuter123@gmail.com



THANKS FROM SOPHIE!

Hi, my name is Sophie. I am a 12 year old calico cat. I have been with my owner since I was a kitten and live in North Springfield.

As I got to be an adult and my behavior became "obnoxious" due to my heat cycles, I was put outside. As a result, I have had more kittens than I can remember since I had a least one litter every year for eleven years.

Finally, my human Mom called SNAP and asked for help. They gave her a voucher to have me spayed and the nice people at the veterinary clinic contributed my shots and blood work due to my age. They even found homes for the litter of kittens I had in May.

Now, I am happily back inside and feeling playful again. I sincerely thank all of SNAP's supporters for helping me feel loved and healthy again.

CAN YOU HELP?

Case #1 - Ron lives with his elderly father in Dallas County. His income is \$1000/month from his job and his dad receives a small Social Security check. A female lab mix that they got a few years ago has had two litters. All of the pups found homes except 2 from the first litter and 4 from the second litter. They kept the puppies but now have 4 adult females to spay and 3 adult males to neuter. In addition, they have 5 four month old pups (4 females and 1 male) from one of the 2 year olds. Ron is able to contribute about \$200 but the cost to fix all 12 dogs through SNAP is \$900.

Case #2 - Elly lives in Lawrence County with her husband. They receive a Social Security Disability payment of a little over \$1000/month. He is in a wheelchair and they get additional help from hospice. An unsocial female cat brought her kittens to visit and now, several litters later, they have a problem. Elly has already taken several cats and kittens to the Humane Society of SW Missouri and still has 8 cats, mostly female, to spay and neuter. Surgeries, with assistance from SNAP, will cost \$400.

Case #3 - Sarah lives in Webster County with her son. They have 3 small dogs: a male Chihuahua mix, a female poodle and a male terrier mix. They receive food stamps and earn a small monthly income thru part time work. The 4 year old female just had an unwanted litter. The cost to SNAP is \$150 for the 3 adult dogs.

If you are able to help fix any of these animals, please send your donation to SNAP, PO Box 14354, Springfield, MO 65814. You can specify which case you would like to help on the memo line. In the event the case you specify has already been helped by another caring donor, your contribution will be used to help a different but equally in-need pet owner as determined by the SNAP team. Thank you for your support.

IN MEMORIAM

Shirley Carson

David Toombs

Alex Gross

Randy Williams

Pat Tomlinson

Mary Lawson

Mike Pearcey's dog Desi

Alice Karchmer

Randy Voss's dog

