

# Solutions



Spay/Neuter~ The Humane Solution to Pet Overpopulation!

Volume 1 Issue 2

December, 2002

- Shelter intakes have stabilized as a result of community spay/neuter campaigns.
- Missouri is known as the Puppy Mill State, with 1,269 commercial breeders. Oklahoma has the second largest number of commercial breeders, with 385.
- Nationally, 40% of euthanized shelter animals are puppies and kittens; 25% are purebred dogs.
- More than 800 animals have already been altered this year with SNAP certificates.
- Eighteen area veterinary clinics accept SNAP certificates.



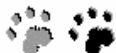
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SNAP is a Missouri 501c3 not-for-profit corporation.



## A Dream for the Future

SNAP volunteers share a dream for the future. We dream of the day when animal shelters exist only as temporary safe havens for animals who have wandered away from their loving homes and are simply waiting for their owners to claim them. There are regions of our country that are close to realizing this dream, but Southwest Missouri is not one of them.

Commercial breeding is big business in Missouri, with 1,269 commercial breeders supplying pet stores all over the world. Nobody knows how many unlicensed "backyard breeders" are operating in Missouri, but if you read the weekly newspaper classifieds, you will find no shortage of puppies and kittens "free to good home".

In 2000, the Southwest Missouri Humane Society euthanized approximately 9,300 dogs and cats. In 2001, more than 11,000 animals were euthanized. Through October of this year, there have been approximately 8,500 euthanized.

*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.*



Although these statistics are grim, there is hope. It appears the numbers may be stabilizing; many believe this is due to the increased efforts of local animal welfare groups to promote spay/neuter as the humane solution.

In 2000, SNAP began providing low-

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## A Dream for the Future

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cost spay/neuter certificates for pets whose owners have limited financial resources. Through October 2002, our certificates have been used to spay 1,172 females and to neuter 622 males. A female dog can easily produce two litters per year, and a female cat can produce three. A male dog or cat can father countless litters each year. Can you imagine the ramifications if each of those 1,172 females had delivered just one litter?

Other groups have stepped up

spay/neuter efforts in the last three years. The Castaway Animal Rescue Effort (CARE) in Aurora alters every animal before adoption, including puppies and kittens. The Southwest Missouri Humane Society alters every animal over four months old before adoption is finalized. Thankfully, many local veterinarians have supported the efforts of charitable groups by performing thousands of surgeries at reduced rates.

We cannot slow the pace – we *must* maintain our momentum if we are to end animal homelessness. Thousands of pets are being

allowed to reproduce simply because their owners cannot afford to have them altered. Until we can help these pet owners, our animal shelters will remain full.

*The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.*

-- Mahatma Gandhi

## Lemon Pecan Cake

1 pound butter  
1 pound sugar (2 cups)  
4 cups flour (unsifted)  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
1 pinch salt  
1 pint pecans  
½ pound white raisins  
6 eggs  
2 ounces lemon extract

Mix as you would any butter cake (beat eggs separately, adding whites last.) Add lemon extract alternately with flour, baking powder and salt. Grease and flour pan. Bake 2 hours at 250 degrees.

Place a small pan of water on bottom shelf of oven while baking cake.

Recipe makes a 5-pound cake if baked in an angel food cake pan or 5 cakes if baked in one-pound coffee cans. The smaller cakes are baked for 1½ hours at 250 degrees.

Enjoy!!

## Cigarette Smoke Hazardous to Your Pets

A new study reported in the *American Journal of Epidemiology* shows that cigarette smoke doubles your cat's risk for developing malignant lymphoma. If there are two smokers in the house, the cat's risk is quadrupled!



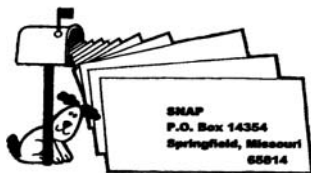
Previous studies showed a connection between cigarette smoke and certain cancers in dogs. So if you're a smoker, make sure Fido and Fluffy aren't in the room when you light up!

**Featured website:  
Denver Dumb Friends League**

Don't let their strange name fool you. If you're owned by dogs or cats, this site is worth your while. Go to [www.ddfl.org](http://www.ddfl.org), click on "We Can Help," and you will be guided through a very comprehensive collection of dog and cat behavior tips. The site provides tips for finding a lost pet and much, much more.

Happy surfing!

**To Contact Us...**



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## Kids' Corner

**Kids, can you match each of the following animals with its babies?**

- |             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| 1. goat     | a. kitten  |
| 2. deer     | b. pullet  |
| 3. frog     | c. foal    |
| 4. bear     | d. tadpole |
| 5. horse    | e. kid     |
| 6. dog      | f. kit     |
| 7. elephant | g. pup     |
| 8. fox      | h. fawn    |
| 9. cat      | i. cub     |
| 10. hen     | j. calf    |

Answer key: 1-e; 2-h; 3-d; 4-i; 5-c; 6-g; 7-f; 8-j; 9-a; 10-b

## Pets As Gifts—Getting it Right

The holidays are approaching, and you're wondering what to give the person who has everything. You know she loves animals and doesn't have any. So you decide that a cute little shelter puppy or kitten with a big red bow around its neck is the perfect gift. Best of all, you are also giving an animal a nice home!

Stop and think about it. Are you being impulsive? Every year, numerous "gifts" are surrendered to shelters right after Christmas – for reasons too many to name. Maybe your friend *would* love to have a new furry companion - but should you be the one to choose it? Don't you think your friend would prefer to select her own companion? A pet and its human will

have a special bond and you may not be the best judge of which pet will seal that bond.

Instead of surprising your friend with a bouncy bundle of fur, why not purchase a gift certificate from the shelter, gift wrap it with that big red bow, and present it to your friend? You can even purchase some pet supplies (food, food dishes, toys, a gift certificate for vet care) to wrap and put under the tree.

The holidays are chaotic, and it is unfair to subject a young animal, already confused and frightened, to all of the noise and activity. Your best bet is to wait until after the holidays, then drive your friend to the shelter to adopt her

own special companion.

It is a wonderful feeling to bring a person and pet together, and you can insure long-term success by thinking it through carefully. A pet is not like a sweater that can be returned or exchanged without a second thought. It is important to get it right the first time.



## Feline AIDS Vaccine Now Available

A new vaccine is now available to prevent Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV), also known as feline AIDS. FIV suppresses a cat's immune system and is spread from cat to cat in a variety of ways, with the highest risk of contagion coming from bite wounds. There is no cure for FIV, and outdoors cats experience a higher risk of exposure. Although some cats with FIV can live many years symptom-free, most FIV positive cats die from infections and other diseases when their weakened immune systems fail to protect them.



Some veterinarians have expressed reservations about the new vaccine, because cats that have been vaccinated will most likely show a false positive if they are later tested for the disease. Also, the vaccine is not 100% effective. However, the vaccine might be warranted if you have a multi-cat household with an FIV positive cat or if your

cat spends time outdoors.

To determine whether your cat would benefit from the new FIV vaccination, contact your cat's veterinarian.

\*Note: According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, FIV cannot be transmitted to humans.

## Dogs As Furry Early Warning Systems?

For years, dogs have helped mankind in amazing ways. Therapy dogs bring smiles to patients in nursing homes and hospitals and help paralyzed individuals live independently. Pet dogs save children from drowning and their human families from house fires. Police dogs use their keen sense of smell to detect illegal drugs and bombs.

As if dogs don't already do enough to make themselves indispensable, now it appears that they can be trained to detect certain types of cancer!

Studies are being conducted in England in response to several instances where dogs have detected skin cancers on their owners. Researchers are particularly excited

about the possibility that dogs can be trained to detect prostate cancer by sniffing urine.

Stay posted on this important development, and if your dog seems overly interested in one of your moles, you may want to schedule an appointment with your dermatologist!

## “Stamp” Out Animal Homelessness

On September 20, the U. S. Postal Service introduced its spay/neuter commemorative postage stamps. The wildly popular stamps feature a puppy and a kitten, along with a reminder to spay and neuter.

Animal welfare organizations hope the new stamps will raise public awareness, encourage responsible

pet ownership, and alleviate overcrowding in our nation's shelters.

Commemorative stamps generally have an introductory print run of 80 million stamps. The Postal Service has been so supportive of efforts to introduce the spay/neuter stamps that the initial print run was increased to 250 million!

According to one local postal worker, the stamps are so popular, they can't keep them in stock.

Next time you need stamps, choose to send an important message along with your cards, letters, and mortgage payment. Show everyone that you care by promoting this worthwhile cause.

## Holiday Safety - Do You Know the Dangers?

Most responsible pet owners are already aware of the potential dangers our pets are exposed to during the holiday season. But we would be remiss in our duty as an animal welfare organization if we didn't take a moment to remind you. Here are some things to watch for, so you can avoid an emergency trip to the vet.

**Table Scraps.** Your pets will do their best to convince you to share your holiday meals. Your best bet? Don't. Overfeeding table scraps can cause health problems in your pets, and it will reinforce that annoying habit of begging. Chocolate, onions, and turkey bones are just a few of the food

items that can be particularly dangerous for pets.

**Decorations.** The possibilities for harm are endless. To name just a few--pets can swallow sharp objects, knock over trees or burning candles, chew on power cords, and swallow ribbons. Certain plants, such as Poinsettia, mistletoe, and holly are poisonous to pets. Dogs and cats are fascinated by any new item in your home, so try to anticipate problems and adjust your decor accordingly.

**Increased Activity.** The noise and excitement of the holi-

days can negatively affect your pets' behavior. Constant traffic through your front door increases the chance a pet will escape and become lost. Loud children can make pets cranky and prone to bite or scratch. Again, just be aware of the effect on your pets, and take extra precautions.

**Mother Nature.** Cold weather poses a threat to outdoor pets as the temperatures drop. So make sure your pets have adequate shelter. The best option is to keep them indoors as much as possible.

Have a safe holiday Season!



## How to Recognize Frostbite and Hypothermia

Did you know that frostbite and hypothermia can occur in small animals within minutes in subzero temperatures? Luckily, we live in a region where the temperature rarely drops that low. Still, it can get very cold, and some of our pets spend more than a few minutes outside. It's a good idea for pet owners to recognize the symptoms of frostbite and hypothermia.

Frostbite in dogs and cats usually occurs on the ears, tail, scrotum and feet. Initially, the skin or foot pads may be flushed or red, followed by white or grayish color changes. The skin may appear scaly and begin to slough. The animal may show signs of shock.

Hypothermia symptoms include mental dullness, severe mental de-

pression, or loss of consciousness. The skin is usually very cold to the touch.

Frostbite and hypothermia are serious conditions. If you suspect your pet is suffering from either one, call your veterinarian immediately!

The best prevention? Keep your pets indoors during the cold weather.

## SNAP's Wish List

- 🐾 A home for every animal (hey, it's Christmas-- the season for miracles)
- 🐾 Cash - your cash donations save lives (and they're tax-deductible)
- 🐾 Postage stamps (preferably with the Spay/Neuter design)
- 🐾 Envelopes (business-sized)
- 🐾 Discounted printing services
- 🐾 Tax preparation and accounting services
- 🐾 Volunteers
- 🐾 Pet-themed products and services for sale or raffle at our fundraising events

# SNAP Program Provides a Happy Ending

When you donate money to SNAP, you help people like Suzanne. Suzanne is a 37-year-old single mother. She and her twin daughters have significant health problems, making it impossible for her to work outside of the home. But Suzanne has a big heart and couldn't say "no" when her daughter brought her a sick cat.

Mr. Tom, an abused stray, was suffering from an infected wound. Suzanne didn't have the financial resources to have Tom seen by a vet, so she treated his wound herself. Over time, she treated the many battle wounds of this prowling

tomcat.

Then they added Princess to their cat family. Suzanne knew both cats needed to be fixed, but she also knew she didn't have the money to do it. So Suzanne reached out to SNAP for help. SNAP was able to pay for the surgeries thanks to a generous contributor and the support of a participating veterinarian. A SNAP volunteer transported the cats to and from the vet clinic. Suzanne said, "There is no way I could have done it" without SNAP's help. The truth is that there is no way SNAP could have done it

without our financial supporters, our veterinarians, and our volunteers. Mr. Tom has repaid Suzanne's loving care with a lot of love of his own, providing excellent therapy for Suzanne and her children.

Suzanne's cat population could have quickly gotten out of control. That is why your donations are so important. There are many more people like Suzanne out there – people who want to be responsible pet owners and who need the psychological benefits derived from the unconditional love of their pets.

## Singing the Blues To Benefit the Animals

Abandoned Cadillac, a local blues band, will perform a benefit concert at Nathan P. Murphy's on February 1. A portion of the ticket proceeds will be donated to SNAP for spay/neuter.

February is a *critical* month in the fight against animal overpopulation, with kitten season kicking into high gear. We need

your help to prevent a surge of surrenders at the shelter next spring.



So join us at Nathan P. Murphy's, bring your friends, enjoy some great music, and support a great cause!

When: February 1, 2003  
 9 p.m. 'til 1 a.m.  
 Where: Nathan P. Murphy's  
 216 S. Campbell  
 Cost: \$5 per person

To purchase tickets, send \$5 per ticket to SNAP, PO Box 14354, Springfield, MO 65814. For further information, call us at 823-7627.

*Where the money goes...*

<i>Surgeries</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b>Dog Neuters</b>	45	109	86	240
<b>Dog Spays</b>	64	177	172	413
<b>Cat Neuters</b>	43	172	167	382
<b>Cat Spays</b>	87	292	380	759
<b>Total</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>805</b>	<b>1794</b>

## Thank You, Merci, Gracias, Woof, and Meow

There are always so many people to thank for supporting SNAP's spay/neuter efforts. We appreciate everyone's help!

Southwest Missouri Humane Society  
 Andy Williams Moon River Theatre  
 All Creatures Animal Clinic, LTD - Bolivar  
 Angel Animal Hospital  
 Animal Care Clinic - Bolivar  
 Animal Medical Center  
 Bradford Park Veterinary Hospital  
 Buffalo Veterinary Clinic  
 Country Club Veterinary Hospital  
 Grant Avenue Pet Hospital  
 Heartland Animal Clinic  
 Goldie Adams  
 Dee Angle  
 JoAnn Bardeen  
 Anna Bruening  
 Wes Buffington  
 Dorothy Cashier  
 Database Systems  
 Phyllis Fotopulos  
 Gloria Galanes  
 Vera Haynes  
 John Heitz

Musgrave Foundation  
 Lakes Country Cat Fanciers Association  
 Kirbyville Veterinary Clinic  
 Mt. Vernon Animal Hospital  
 Ozark Veterinary Clinic  
 Rogersville Animal Hospital  
 Strafford Veterinary Clinic  
 Taneyville Veterinary Clinic  
 Town & Country Small Animal Hospital  
 Trokey Animal Hospital  
 Willard Veterinary Hospital  
 Carolyn Krause  
 Marcy McReynolds  
 Chris Meyer  
 Dorothy Michael  
 Helga Nicholas  
 Polyfab Plastics & Supply, Inc.  
 Candy Trogolo  
 Andy Williams  
 Debbie Williams  
 Jeanne Williams

We'd also like to say a special thanks to Susan Tolliver, who donated the materials and an extensive amount of time to create the 18 beautiful Christmas wreaths which now adorn the doors of our participating vet clinics. Great job, Susan!!

And last, but not least, we wish to express our gratitude to the Andy Williams Moon River Theater for their ongoing support!

*In Memoriam:*

*Gerry Barron*

*"Doodah" Carnahan*

### Still looking for donation canisters....

SNAP needs canisters to replace our outdated donation jars. We are looking for canisters that are clear, plastic, and take up minimal space on the merchant's counter. We want something unique, eye-catching, and appealing to the public. We have tried to find plastic dog and/or cat banks, but we have been unsuccessful so far.

If you have a great idea for our canisters, please let us know!

P.S. We're also looking for merchants who will allow us to display our jars in their places of business.

*Inside This Issue.....*

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