



**OFFICE OF  
PITTSBURGH CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT  
DARLENE M. HARRIS**

**CITY OF PITTSBURGH FREE SPAY & NEUTER PROGRAM  
22 February 2011**

**“Spaying and neutering saves lives.”**

**“Spaying and neutering prevents more animals from becoming homeless.”**

Between six and eight million cats and dogs enter our nation’s shelter system each year and these shelters cannot save and support this huge number of accidental litters and strays.

Often these animals are the offspring of cherished family pets, even purebreds. Maybe someone's cat or dog got out just one time or maybe the litter was intentional, but efforts to find enough good, permanent homes failed. The result is that homeless animals have to be euthanized.

According to The Humane Society of the United States, nearly four million cats and dogs are put down in U.S. shelters each year, many of whom are healthy and adoptable, due to a lack of critical resources and public awareness. That means, during a 40-hour work week, one homeless pet is euthanized every two seconds.

**This tragic overpopulation of pets, costs citizens and taxpayers of this country millions of dollars annually through animal service programs aimed at coping with the millions of homeless animals.**

Research shows that **a single spay surgery can save 55 unwanted animals from being born.**

Those are 55 animals that won't wait in shelters...or worse. The only proactive way to reduce and eliminate pet overpopulation is through spay and neuter.

**Spaying and neutering is the only 100% proven way to dramatically reduce the overpopulation of pets and feral cats, proving to be a wise investment in saving animal lives and taxpayer dollars.**

**The seventeenth annual Spay Day™ takes place Today, February 22, 2011.**

Humane organizations and rescue groups, veterinary clinics and individuals all across the U.S. are organizing reduced cost spay/neuter clinics, hosting fundraisers and bringing awareness to the importance of spaying and neutering.

**The community holds the key to reduce euthanasia numbers significantly – through spaying and neutering their animals.**

**Lives saved  
Financial Savings  
Building a Healthy & Humane Community**

414 GRANT STREET ~ 5<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR ~ PITTSBURGH, PA 15219  
PHONE: 412.255.2135 ~ FAX: 412.255.2129

## Program Key Points

- **Free for any City of Pittsburgh resident**
- **Limit: 5 per resident (feral cat exemption on case by case)**
- **Vaccinations**
- **Advanced Documentation**
- **Application approval through City of Pittsburgh Animal Care & Control**
  - **Available starting March 1<sup>st</sup>**

## City of Pittsburgh Spay & Neuter Program

City of Pittsburgh Animal Care and Control will be responsible for determining if an applicant is eligible for the program. The City of Pittsburgh Animal Care and Control administrator will communicate the documentation to the individual shelter coordinators for scheduling.

### Requirements

**City Resident:** All eligible pet owners and/or caregivers must prove they are city of Pittsburgh residents by showing two bills with a valid city of Pittsburgh address and a driver's license or equivalent form of identification with a valid city address. The cat colony must be located inside the city limits for feral cats.

*Note: All feral cats must be brought in to the shelters in a humane trap. A feral cat that is not in a trap will be turned away and the procedure will be rescheduled for a time when the cat can be properly contained for the safety of the employees, volunteers and felines.*

**Vaccinations:** It is required that pet owners bring up to date vaccination records of all animals before surgery. While the partner shelter organizations will vaccinate animals that are not up to date (for an additional charge), a current record will minimize the redundancies of vaccinating an animal that has already been vaccinated. Vaccines should be completed 7 to 10 days prior to surgery and can be scheduled at some shelter partner facilities or other providers once their application has been approved.

**Advanced Documentation:** It is necessary for all eligible pet owners and/or caregivers to send in their documentation of city residency, valid City of Pittsburgh dog license and up to date vaccination records to the City of Pittsburgh Animal Care and Control for approval prior to scheduling a surgery day. If the application is not properly completed then the application for the City of Pittsburgh Spay & Neuter Program will be denied until the appropriate documentation is received and approved.

### Dates

The city will be running the spay/neuter promotion on a first come first served basis at all of the three participating shelters (Animal Friends, Animal Rescue League, Western Pennsylvania Humane Society) and other providers in addition to the shelters' regular spay/neuter offering and promotions.

### 2010 Data for City of Pittsburgh Animal Care and Control

**\$36,000** paid annually for Euthanization by a Veterinarian

	<b># of Detained 2010</b>	<b>Detention Cost</b>	<b>Total Annual Cost</b>
<b>Dogs</b>	691 (45%)	\$ 197.00	\$ 136,127
<b>Cats</b>	853 (55%)	\$ 197.00	\$ 168,041
<b>Total</b>	<b>1544*</b>		<b>\$ 304,168</b>

\* Only listing Dogs and Cats, internal invoices with ARL list 87 "other species"

## **Out of the TOTAL \$170,000 Legislated toward the City of Pittsburgh Spay and Neuter Program:**

- If Dogs are 45% of total detained = \$ 76,500 / by avg. cost = 1092 Dogs
- If Cats are 55% of total detained = \$ 93,500 / by avg. cost = 2833 Cats

**TOTAL: \$170,000 = 3925 Cats and Dogs**

### **Financial Savings**

For **half** the amount spent last year (\$170k vs. \$340k) on detaining and euthanizing the City of Pittsburgh would have altered more than **twice** as many (3925 vs. 1544) cats and dogs detained in 2010.

### **Lives saved**

Research shows that **a single spay surgery can save 55 unwanted animals from being born**. Those are 55 animals that won't wait in shelters...or worse. The only proactive way to reduce and eliminate pet overpopulation is through spay and neuter.

### **Building a Healthy & Humane Community**

Spaying and neutering is the only 100% proven way to reduce the overpopulation of pets and feral cats, proving to be a wise investment in saving animal lives and taxpayer dollars

## **City Contacts**

### **Darlene Harris, City Council President**

[darlene.harris@city.pittsburgh.pa.us](mailto:darlene.harris@city.pittsburgh.pa.us)

City County Building – 5<sup>th</sup> Floor

414 Grant Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

412. 255.2135

Gerald Akrie, Supervisor

[gerald.akrie@city.pittsburgh.pa.us](mailto:gerald.akrie@city.pittsburgh.pa.us)

### **City of Pittsburgh Animal Care and Control**

3001 Railroad Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15201

412.255.2036

## **Shelter Partner Contacts**

### **Animal Friends**

**562 Camp Horne Road**

**Pittsburgh, PA 15237**

**412.847.7000**

Kathleen Beaver, Chief Operating Officer

[kbeaver@ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org](mailto:kbeaver@ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org)

[www.ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org](http://www.ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org)

*To ensure the well being of companion animals, while ending overpopulation, abuse and unwarranted euthanasia.*

### **Animal Rescue League of Western Pennsylvania**

**6620 Hamilton Avenue**

**Pittsburgh, PA 15206**

**412.661.6452**

Dan Rossi, Executive Director

[drossi@animalrescue.org](mailto:drossi@animalrescue.org)

[www.animalrescue.org](http://www.animalrescue.org)

*The Animal Rescue League of Western Pennsylvania has a rich history, filled with many triumphs and heartaches, beginning in the early twentieth century. In all the events that have occurred throughout the years, there is one common concern that we consistently stands for: the well-being and love of animals.*

**Western Pennsylvania Humane Society**

**North Shore Shelter  
1101 Western Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15233  
412.321.4625**

Lee Nesler, Executive Director

[lee.nesler@wpahumane.org](mailto:lee.nesler@wpahumane.org)

[www.wpahumane.com](http://www.wpahumane.com)

*The Western Pennsylvania Humane Society is proud to be an open door shelter. Our open door policy means no animal is ever turned away. We counsel the customer, cuddle the animals, take photos to upload to our website, and are also always trying to reunite lost pets with their owners.*

**Animal Welfare Partners**

**Animal Care & Welfare, Inc.**

P.O. Box 8257

Pittsburgh, PA 15218-0257

412.244.1372

[www.animalcareandwelfare.com](http://www.animalcareandwelfare.com)

*Through donations received from members and the public, Animal Care and Welfare, Inc. helps low-income animal guardians obtain medical care for their sick or injured pets and also promotes spaying and neutering through education and financial support.*

**Hello Bully**

4885-A McKnight Rd

Suite 197

Pittsburgh, PA 15237

412.235.1997

[www.hellobully.com](http://www.hellobully.com)

*Hello Bully is an advocacy and education group dedicated to repairing the reputation of the American Pit Bull Terrier and other bully breeds. Our Pit Bull 101 educational presentation is available at no cost for groups and organizations in the Pittsburgh area.*

**Homeless Cat Management Team**

P. O. Box 100203

Pittsburgh, PA 15233

412.321.4060

[www.homelesscat.org](http://www.homelesscat.org)

*The Homeless Cat Management Team is an organization whose mission is to humanely reduce the population growth and minimize the suffering of homeless cats through sterilization and the promotion of responsible colony management in Southwestern Pennsylvania.*

**Humane Options Pittsburgh**

P.O. Box 99332

Pittsburgh, PA 15233

[hop.pittsburgh@gmail.com](mailto:hop.pittsburgh@gmail.com)

[www.humaneoptionspittsburgh.org](http://www.humaneoptionspittsburgh.org)

*Our specific goal is to encourage, at a healthy distance, the co-existence between humans and those other city-dwellers who live in our backyards and parks, and to help residents find peaceful, non-lethal ways of dealing with any conflicts that arise within the smartest and safest approach.*