

Spotlight on the Shelter



*It's Winter—
a hard time for
unwanted pets*

February 2021

FEBRUARY IS SPAY/NEUTER AWARENESS MONTH

Did you know that on any given day in the United States there are an estimated 70 million homeless dogs and cats struggling to survive? Did you know that female cats and dogs can go into heat as early as four to five months of age? Did you know that in just one year a female dog can have up to 20 puppies and a female cat can have up to 25 kittens? The shocking fact is that every year over 1.5 million dogs and cats, puppies and kittens, are euthanized.

The good news is that responsible pet owners can make a huge difference. Spaying and neutering are crucial steps we can take to save cats and dogs from suffering and death. Some of these unwanted animals are brought to shelters, but many more are abandoned to fend for themselves. These strays often starve, die from untreated injuries, exposure and disease, or are killed by predators and cars.



Both this young female dog and her 7 puppies and the 3 kittens were abandoned, but found shelter at the NCSPCA.

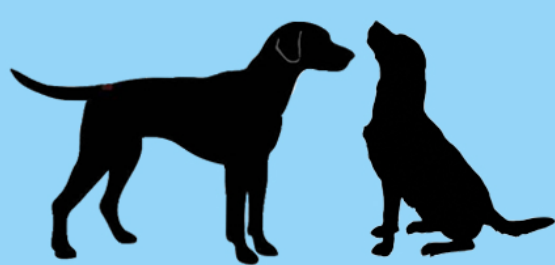
An important part of our mission as a no-kill shelter is to decrease the number and the suffering of unwanted animals in our community. Every cat and dog adopted from the NCSPCA is spayed or neutered before adoption. In addition, to make spay/neuter more financially accessible to people within our community, we established **SNIP (Spay/Neuter Incentive Program)** in 2014. SNIP is a community assistance voucher program. Since its inception, SNIP has helped spay/neuter over 1,100 cats and dogs, which has prevented up to 19,539 litters!



In addition to helping control the overpopulation crisis, spaying and neutering have many positive benefits. For example, a neutered male dog will be less likely to roam from home and also be less aggressive. Behavior problems associated with female cats and dogs going into heat will disappear. Spaying and neutering also greatly decreases the occurrence of reproductive cancers, thus increasing the lifespans of dogs and cats. And don't we all want more healthy, happy years with our beloved pets?

Our SNIP program is made possible through the support of generous donors and our fundraising efforts. In January 2021, we implemented new guidelines to better serve those who need SNIP in our local communities. **For more information about our new SNIP guidelines, to apply for a voucher, or to donate to our SNIP fund, please click the buttons at the bottom of the page. Every dollar helps!**

How does spay/neuter affect pet populations?



**Female dogs average 2
litters a year**



**Average number of puppies
per litter is 8**



**Unspayed female dogs average
160 puppies per lifetime**

(2 litters/year x 8 puppies/litter x 10 year lifespan)



**Female cats average 3
litters a year**



**Average number of kittens
per litter is 5**



**Unspayed female cats average
195 kittens per lifetime**

(3 litters/year x 5 kittens/litter x 13 year lifespan)

**As of January 2021, SNIP has helped 558 dogs and 604
cats get spayed or neutered,
preventing up to 19,539 litters**

(312 dog spays x 2 litters/year x average 10 year lifespan = 6,240 dog litters)

(341 cat spays x 3 litters/year x average 13 year lifespan = 13,299 cat litters)

*Whether or not you have an animal that needs
spaying or neutering, please consider
making a donation to SNIP. Our
work saves countless cats and
dogs from lives of misery.*

