



HSCC Position Statement: Spaying and Neutering

Position: Spaying and Neutering of companion animals is a necessary requirement for both the effective control of the unwanted animal population as well providing benefits to animal health.

HSCC supports spaying and neutering of all companion animals, as well as:

- Early spay/neuter of cats and dogs (see below).
- That all licensing authorities offer differential rates for licensing and/or identification of sterilized versus unsterilized dogs and cats. Providing a rate differential has been proven to increase the number of spay/neutered dogs and cats, reducing the number of unwanted and abandoned dogs and cats, as well as the costs for municipal enforcement and animal control.
- That all organizations involved in the sale or adoption of dogs and cats incorporate a spay/neuter program as part of their sale or adoption procedures.

Spay/neuter not only aids in reducing pet overpopulation but also carries additional behavioral and health benefits for dogs and cats. These benefits include the elimination of sexual behaviors (marking, aggression, roaming, etc) that can lead to traumatic injuries as well as a reduction in the risk of some diseases under hormonal influence (cancers, prostatic diseases). As for all veterinary procedures, owners should consult with their veterinarians to discuss the implications of and optimum age for spay/neuter for their pet.

Having your dog or cat spayed or neutered is not only an essential component of responsible pet ownership but also an important civic duty as a responsible citizen. Spay/neutering is the most effective means of decreasing proliferation of unwanted dogs and cats as well as providing considerable health benefits.

Early (Prepubescent) Neutering of Sheltered Kittens and Puppies:

The research on the physical, behavioral, and short- and long-term effects of prepubescent neutering in dogs and cats shows no adverse results. HSCC supports the practice of prepubescent spaying and neutering as a feasible solution to decreasing pet overpopulation and the tragedy of resulting deaths.

Lower Cost Spay/Neuter Resources:

Cat Spay/Neuter Clinic

3619 Roosevelt Hwy
Colchester, VT 05446
802-878-2230

The Cat Spay/Neuter Clinic in Colchester, VT is a great deal and provides excellent service. It has been in operation for more than seventeen years and has "fixed" more than 53,000 kitties! As of June, 2010, the cost for spay or neuter (including rabies and distemper vaccinations) was just \$40. Cats who are receiving their vaccinations for the first time MUST get a 2nd booster shot within 3-5 weeks for it to be effective. For more information or to set up an appointment, please call the clinic directly. You cannot set up an appointment via e-mail or through GMAD's website since the clinic is a separate entity.

VT-CAN! Vermont Companion Animal Neutering Inc.

19A Bailey Meadows Rd
Middlesex, VT 05602
802-223-0034

VT-CAN! wants to help people have their animals spayed or neutered. VT-CAN! offers low cost spay/neuter for cats and dogs owned by people who cannot afford to go to a full service veterinarian because of income or because they have numerous animals. VT-CAN! is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 7:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. Please call 802-223-0034 to schedule an appointment.

VSNIP

The Vermont Spay Neuter Incentive Program (VSNIP) enables income eligible people that provide care for cats and dogs to receive financial assistance with which to have these animals neutered and vaccinated.

Recognizing that the price of sterilization surgery is cost prohibitive for low-income households, a legislative solution was sought. A plan similar to the successful assistance program of New Hampshire, in which humane shelters recognized a 75% drop in their euthanasia rate after ten years of their state assistance program's operation, was drafted in Vermont. It passed the legislature with overwhelming support from humane societies, veterinarians, and voters. VSNIP began servicing the public in May of 2006.

A portion of the fees paid for dog licenses supports this program. This modest increase in fees created a designated fund allowing those on social assistance programs, such as SSI, Food Stamps, Section 8, etc., to obtain financial assistance for these important procedures. The associated costs for vaccinations and surgery are reduced at the participating offices, and the fees are paid to the veterinarians through the designated fund. Clients are responsible for a small co-payment for each animal. To date, over seventy-two offices have joined this visionary program, representing the majority of veterinarians that provide care for companion animals.

VSNIP is under the directive of the VT Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets and has evolved through VT Volunteer Services for Animals Humane Society.

To receive applications for assistance (please request one application for each animal), send a Self Addressed, .61¢ Stamped Envelope (SASE) to:

VSNIP
116 State St.
Drawer 20
Montpelier, VT 05620-2981