

Saving Money, Saving Lives: Spay-Neuter Solutions for Indianapolis

*A discussion of
Public safety,
Animal welfare and
Neighborhood quality of life.*

February 2009

Contributors:

Jeff Bennett – Past President, Friends of Indianapolis Animal Care & Control

Susan Hobbs – Volunteer Coordinator, Cats Haven

Christine Jeschke – Director of Operations, Humane Society of Indianapolis

Tammy Sollenberger – Executive Director, Low Cost Spay Neuter Clinic

Lisa Tudor – Executive Director, Indy Feral

Pick One... And Kiss the Rest Goodbye.

There Aren't Enough Homes for Them All.



Approximately 12,000 unwanted cats/dogs were euthanized in Indianapolis last year.



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Executive Summary

Death in local animal shelters has been a fact of life.

Despite recent successful efforts to increase pet adoptions, dogs and cats entering area animal shelters stand barely over a 50 percent chance of survival. In 2008, Marion County animal shelters killed nearly 12,000 unwanted cats, dogs, kittens and puppies—needlessly wasting lives, consuming scarce financial resources, and taking an indescribable daily toll on shelter workers. Such current certainties are not befitting of a Super Bowl city.

The following report examines the breadth and scope of the dog and cat population in Indianapolis. It reviews the connection between stray animals, public safety, public health, and neighborhood quality of life. Further, it seeks cost-effective solutions—with the protection of tax dollars an overriding concern—by exploring national trends and best practices of other cities.

Certainly, by reducing the number of dogs and cats that enter area animal shelters is the first place we can begin to reverse high death rates. In Marion County, a disproportionate number of these dogs and cats come from a relatively small number of “at-risk” neighborhoods, where access to veterinary services and financial resources is limited. While adopting versus buying pets is a great idea to promote, no city can adopt its way out of a pet overpopulation situation. A robust, targeted, community-based spay/neuter program for low-income pet owners and underserved animal populations presents a viable solution.

In other cities across the country, similar programs have proven effective at dramatically reducing animal shelter intake, and thereby reducing shelter death rates. The principles of such a program are simple. The cost: comparable to we already spend as a community on current animal sheltering programs. The results: reduced shelter intake, less death, better use of resources, healthier neighborhoods.

Spay/neuter programs are the best antidote to mass euthanasia, as well as the most humane and fiscally responsible way to address the pet population problem.

This report makes the following recommendations:

- **Increase spay-neuter surgery capacity in the city.** Indianapolis needs to bridge the gap between supply and demand. Most local animal welfare groups that support spay/neuter initiatives report insufficient spay/neuter capacity in some form, particularly the need for pediatric surgeries. Many of these groups report on-going waiting lists of members of the public waiting for spay/neuter surgery assistance.

- **Pursue licensing and ordinance revisions.** Although many pet owners view spaying or neutering their pets as beneficial - and opt for the procedure - some owners do not. A differential licensing program respects that debate and provides pet owners with a choice whether or not to spay or neuter their pets. Certain ordinance revisions need to occur to close loopholes as well.
- **Pursue public funding for spay/neuter surgeries.** Instituting government funded, targeted effective spay-neuter programs increases public safety by decreasing the number of stray animals and free-roaming pets and by increasing the number of rabies-vaccinated and altered pets in the community. This maximizes taxpayer dollars because less pet breeding decreases the number of pets and strays entering shelters, decreases the number of nuisance calls to IACC, and decreases the number of pets euthanized.
- **Consider appropriately timed marketing and education initiatives.** The contributors to this report agree with the need for marketing and education, but caution that more spay/neuter capacity needs to be developed before a large-scale campaign is launched so as to avoid increased waiting lists and frustration from the public.

Introduction

Indianapolis is the 13th largest city in the United States. We recently opened a new international airport; we have 14 museums, 21 art galleries, and 25 performing arts centers and theaters. We built Lucas Oil Stadium in preparation for the 2012 Super Bowl, and we host the two largest single-day sporting events in the world. These are all of the makings of a world-class city – well...almost.

There is one topic you won't see mentioned on any visitor or convention bureau web site: euthanasia of unwanted animals. Between the city's two largest shelters, Indianapolis killed and destroyed almost 12,000 unwanted cats, dogs, puppies and kittens in 2008 alone. A vast majority of these animals were healthy and adoptable.

This report, focused on spay-neuter, was requested by Indianapolis Public Safety Director, Scott Newman and is a follow up to a document entitled *Community Assessment, Indianapolis Animal Welfare*, completed in April 2008. The assessment provides an overview with statistics about efforts related to animal welfare as a whole in Indianapolis. It discusses the two largest agencies—the Humane Society of Indianapolis (HSI) and Indianapolis Animal Care & Control (IACC)—as well as other major grassroots groups. The full assessment can be viewed at www.SpayNeuterServices.org.

In this country, we spend a minimum of one billion dollars annually to pick up, house, and destroy companion animals. If only 5 percent of that one billion were allocated to spay/neuter, we could open 250 clinics across the nation, and sterilize more than four million companion animals every year. This necessary next step would end euthanasia as the current solution to the pet overpopulation dilemma.ⁱ

The city of Indianapolis currently budgets approximately \$3.25 millionⁱⁱ annually for animal care and control services. In 2008, nearly 19,000 animals were processed through the city shelter. Just under 11,000 of them were temporarily housed and then destroyed by IACCⁱⁱⁱ.

As stated in the full text of the Community Assessment, we simply can't afford to keep adopting out a few animals and killing the rest. This takes a financial toll on our city coffers and an emotional toll on the people burdened with this gruesome task. As quoted from an article entitled "Can We Afford the Human Cost of Humane Euthanasia?":

I had a mama and three little kittens, and I euthanized the mama and just laid her there in the cage. Then I injected one of the little babies and laid it next to her, and it got up and crawled over onto its mama—and that was it. I was done. Doing that isn't why I got into this work.^{iv}

According to the Humane Alliance, a national organization whose mission is to provide the non-lethal solution to the homeless, abandoned, and feral animal populations so that euthanasia is no longer an acceptable means of population control:

Spay and neuter programs effectively reduce euthanasia rates and taxpayers' expense. People expect their government to be fiscally responsible, and to pro-actively address the issue of unwanted dogs and cats in their community. Spaying and neutering cats and dogs is not just an animal welfare issue; it's a public safety issue. People support spay and neuter programs.

The Humane Alliance further writes:

The pet overpopulation crisis is a direct result of animals left unaltered in our communities. To succeed, we need to put more of our resources into preventing companion animals from becoming homeless in the first place. We will never stop the euthanasia if we continue to allocate 95% of our resources to treating symptoms instead of devoting more resources to the factors that cause the problem.

The severity of the need for an in-depth report on the topic of spay-neuter can be summarized by the following quote:

No other disease or condition of companion animals takes as many lives as euthanasia. In fact, no other disease comes close. - Janet M. Scarlett, DVM, Ph.D, Cornell University.

We need to invest in solutions now. As Mayor Ballard notes, "Local government officials should make financial decisions based on the welfare of the city 10 to 50 years out."^v

In the state of New Hampshire, for every \$1 invested in spay and neuter programs, it saved \$3.15 in reduced impoundment costs.

Overview of Indianapolis Animal Statistics

People would love to believe that nearly every animal entering Indianapolis' shelter system finds a home. It's simply not true, but due to the collective hard work of all local animal welfare groups, euthanasia statistics numbers are trending down in Indianapolis (even as the city population is increasing).

In 2000, Indianapolis killed approximately 22,000 unwanted cats and dogs. In 2004, that number had dropped to just above 18,000.

In 2007, 14,470 cats and dogs were euthanized in Indianapolis^{vi}. The 2007 figures translate to 40 animals euthanized a day, 365 days a year.

Our city saw further improvement in these figures in 2008, dropping to 11,687 deaths, which equates to 32 animals per day, 365 days per year^{vii}.

When in a shelter in Indianapolis, an animal's chance of getting out alive is currently 52%.

The vast majority of unwanted animals come from the following ten ZIP Codes^{viii}:

46203	(1,860 animals)
46201	(1,492 animals)
46241	(1,488 animals)
46221	(1,354 animals)
46222	(1,239 animals)
46218	(1,151 animals)
46227	(1,009 animals)
46226	(895 animals)
46219	(631 animals)
46205	(512 animals)

These ten ZIP Codes, which are referred to as the "target zone," have a severely disproportionate number of stray and unwanted animals when compared to the total intake for the city. These ten ZIP Codes represent an intake of 11,631 animals in 2008, which is 62% of the total. A review of IACC's records show that these areas are consistently representative of the majority of nuisance calls, as well as stray and unwanted animals. Intake records from 2005 include nearly identical top ten ZIP Codes, the only difference being the last spot going to 46225 (vs. 46205 in 2008).

For comparison on the low end of the intake, the numbers for 2008 are:

ZIP Code 46278 with 49 animals
ZIP Code 46240 with 60 animals
ZIP Code 46250 with 73 animals.

Affected Pets in the Indianapolis Community

The American Veterinary Medical Association provides a formula to estimate the number of pets in a community.

Dogs

To estimate the number of dog-owning households, take 0.361 x total number of households.

$$0.361 \times 416,045^{\text{ix}} = 150,192 \text{ dog-owning households}$$

To estimate the number of dogs, multiply the previous figure times a mean of 1.6 dogs.

$$150,192 \times 1.6 = 240,308 \text{ dogs}$$

Cats

To estimate the number of cat-owning households, take 0.316 x total number of households.

$$0.316 \times 416,045 = 131,470 \text{ cat-owning households}$$

To estimate the number of cats, multiply the previous figure times a mean of 2.1 cats.

$$131,470 \times 2.1 = 276,087 \text{ cats}$$

Free Roaming (stray and feral cats)

Based on recent research performed by Indy Feral, a local Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) feral cat organization, there are approximately an additional 178,000 feral and unowned cats in Marion County.

Feral (wild) cats are one of two groups of animals that are at particular risk in shelters because they are not adoption candidates. When brought to a shelter, they are almost always euthanized.

Most intact cats are unowned free-roaming (stray and feral cats). See Appendix for a chart from Alley Cat Allies. This segment of the cat population produces 80 percent of the kittens born each year and is the greatest source of cat overpopulation. These cats and their offspring are the victims of abandonment and accidental loss. Their plight is the result of pet owners allowing their intact cats to roam freely, or failing to spay or neuter their cats before they produce even one litter.

The other group of animals at risk in Indianapolis shelters are bully breed dogs. Bully breed dogs are often prohibited by apartment complexes and home owner's insurance

companies, thereby limiting their adoption options. Pit bulls and bully breeds are often the dog of choice for underground and street dog fighters, something the Indianapolis Dog Fighting Task Force is trying to address. Prior to the recent change in administrator at IACC, pits bulls were not put up for adoption at the city shelter and were routinely euthanized because there was no way to screen potential adopters.

Effects on Public Safety, Pet Health, and Quality of Life

Spaying and neutering companion animals and feral cats does more than just simply help to decrease the population of animals. Other components of a comprehensive spay-neuter program include public safety concerns, pet health, and the quality of life for cats and dogs.

Public Safety – Specific to Dog Bites

Unaltered dogs are more likely to bite than altered dogs^x. The number of bites reported to IACC was 1,478 in 2006, 1,335 in 2007 and 1,389 in 2008^{xi}.

The National Canine Research Council stated that in a survey of the sex of the dogs involved in the last 6 years (Jan.2000-Dec.2005) of fatal attacks, it was revealed that the majority were males (91 percent). The overwhelming majority (92 percent) of the dogs were not sterilized.

Eighty-one percent of the fatal dog attacks in 2006 were caused by dogs maintained in semi-isolated conditions (chained, penned, or yard dogs), according to the National Canine Research Council.

According to the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), irresponsible breeding is the root cause of most vicious dog bites and attacks.

“Spay or neuter your dog” is cited as key to preventing dog bites by both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Humane Society of the United States.

Unaltered, free-roaming dogs can become feral (wild) and form packs. Feral dogs commonly kill domestic cats, and may injure or kill domestic dogs. In areas where people have not hunted and trapped feral dogs, the dogs may not have developed a fear of humans; in those instances, such dogs may attack people, especially children. This can be a serious problem in areas where feral dogs feed at and live around garbage dumps near human dwellings^{xii}.

Non-feral dogs will also form packs around a female in heat. The sexual energy makes these packs dangerous as male dogs are more likely to bite in these circumstances.

Public Safety – General

Sterilizing cats and dogs reduces their urges to roam (find a mate) and decreases the risk of contracting diseases or getting hurt while roaming. Surveys indicate that as many as 85 percent of dogs hit by cars are unaltered.^{xiii}

Lessening the desire to roam also decreases the risk of being injured in fights with other animals. Many fights occur over females in heat.

Unwanted animals are becoming a very real concern in many places. Stray animals can easily become a public nuisance, soiling parks and streets, ruining shrubbery, frightening children and elderly people, creating noise and other disturbances, causing automobile accidents, and sometimes even killing livestock or other pets^{xiv}.

The capture, impoundment, and eventual destruction of unwanted animals costs taxpayers and private humanitarian agencies over a billion dollars each year. As a potential source of rabies and other less serious diseases, they can be a public health hazard^{xv}.

A surplus of dogs makes them easily accessible to illegal dog fighters, particularly for use as bait during training and practice fights.

Pet Health

Altering canines increases their lifespan an average of one to three years. Altering felines increases average lifespan three to five years^{xvi}.

Altered animals have very low to no risk of mammary gland tumors/cancer, prostate cancer, perianal tumors, pyometria, and uterine, ovarian, and testicular cancers^{xvii}.

Feline Immunodeficiency Syndrome is spread by bites, and intact cats fight a great deal more than altered cats^{xviii}.

Quality of Life

Spayed and neutered animals are calmer, more obedient, and are more affectionate pets.

Spaying eliminates the female's heat cycle, which can last 21 days and occur two times a year in a dog. In a cat, it can last 3 to 15 days and occur three or more times a year. Females in heat often cry incessantly, show nervous behavior, and attract unwanted male animals.

Eliminating the heat cycle eliminates the bloody spotting or staining that is part of a female dog's cycle.

Neutered cats are less likely to mark territory by spraying.

Spaying and neutering reduces the number of unwanted cats/kittens/dogs/puppies, which in turn reduces the emotional toll on animal care officers and rescue workers.

Why Owners Don't Spay and Neuter Their Pets/Spay-Neuter Surgery Facts

There are a wide variety of reasons people cite for not getting their pets sterilized. The following are just a few of the reasons given, many of which are myths.

- The owner thought the animal was too young to get pregnant.
- The owner chose not to make sterilization a priority.
- The animal escaped and got pregnant before it could be sterilized.
- The owners want their children to experience the "miracle" of birth.
- The procedure will change the animal's personality.
- Cultural and religious differences.
- The owners were concerned that the procedure would make the pet fat and lazy.
- Neutering takes away the male dog's "manhood."
- The owners heard that sterilization would hurt their animal.
- The owners were told that littermates won't breed with each other.

For the purpose of this report we will focus on addressing the top two reasons typically cited for not getting an animal sterilized:

- Cost (owner just can't afford the procedure)
- Accessibility (no transportation or lack of available low-cost resources)

Spay-Neuter Surgery Facts

The gestation period for both dogs and cats is 63 days. Female cats can become pregnant again as soon as ten days after giving birth (while still nursing the first litter)^{xix}.

Kittens and puppies can be spayed or neutered as young as eight weeks of age^{xx}. When performing juvenile surgeries, many veterinarians have minimum body weight requirements such as two pounds to ensure the procedure can be performed as safely as possible for the animal.

Female dogs and cats can be spayed when in heat or pregnant. This can usually be done up until a few days before delivery. These surgeries can take longer, and are usually more costly^{xxi}. Spaying before having a first litter or heat cycle is usually a simpler procedure^{xxii}.

When done on a young animal, spaying or neutering entails at most one or two days of discomfort^{xxiii}.

Early spay and neuter surgery (prepuberal gonadectomy) has been practiced for more than 25 years, and has been shown to have no significant short- or long-term side effects^{xxiv}.

Modern anesthetics are safe and painless, and pets recuperate quickly from surgery. Most animals that are dropped off in the morning for surgery can go home in the afternoon to rest and recuperate, but some vets may choose to keep the pet overnight for observation^{xxv}.

Low cost does not mean low quality. Many animal advocacy organizations can offer low-cost, affordable spay/neuter prices to pet owners because, as a non-profit 501c3 organization, they receive private donations and grants that allow them to subsidize the true, higher cost of spay/neuter surgeries. This keeps the prices low for pet owners. Supporters of low-cost clinics and programs believe that all animals should receive the highest quality veterinary care possible, even if the services provided are at a reduced cost. Partner vets use state-of-the-art instruments and equipment, and do not cut corners or compromise quality.

The Argument for an Aggressive Spay-Neuter Campaign

In brief, we're doing this backwards in Indianapolis. We have historically been dealing with the resulting problem, not with prevention. Prevention is the cure. This has proven to be true and hugely successful in other campaigns, most notably that of cancer for example.

According to national animal welfare expert, Peter Marsh, "The progress we've made in reducing the shelter death toll over the years has come from reducing shelter intakes."^{xxvi} Figure 1 depicts a long-time study done at the Peninsula Humane Society in California. As admissions decrease, euthanasia decreases.

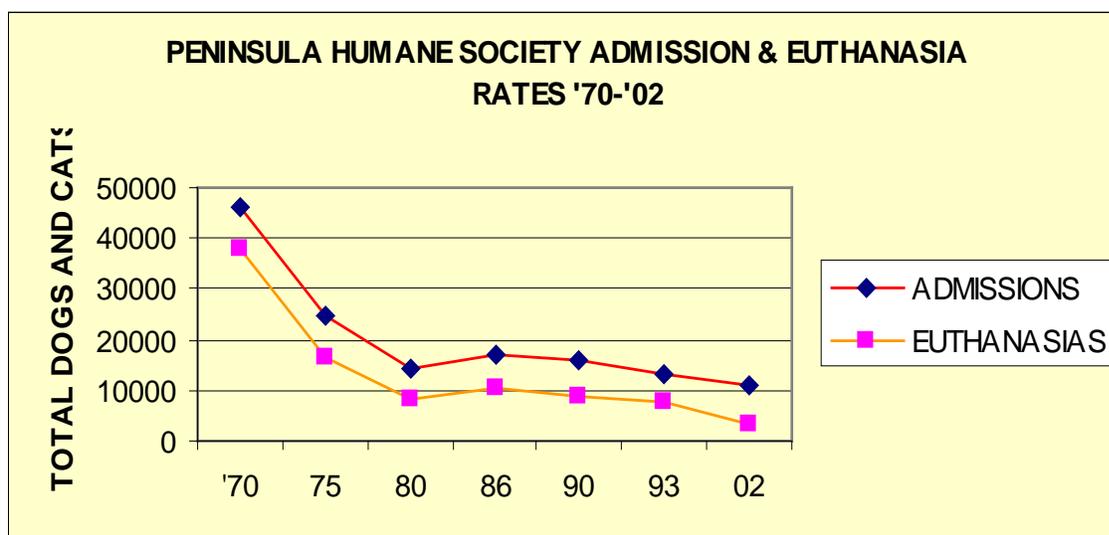


Figure 1: Peninsula Humane Society study chart

Peter Marsh has worked on legislation for animals in New Hampshire and across the country since the late 1970s. He has worked on legislation that secured public funding for neutering assistance programs in New Hampshire, and has helped animal protection groups get public funding for programs in several other parts of the country. As a lawyer, Marsh has privately prosecuted many animal cruelty cases and has defended several "death row" dogs. He has served as the Governor's appointee to the Pet Overpopulation Committee of the New Hampshire Legislature for several years. Marsh is also the founder of Solutions to Overpopulation of Pets. This program is recognized as a national model for its dramatic success in reducing euthanasia in NH animal shelters and has been the inspiration for other public funding initiatives for spay/neuter.

Related to the previous quote on intake/euthanasia numbers, according to Marsh, "A community's pet sterilization rate largely determines its shelter intake rate. As a community's pet sterilization rate goes up, its shelter intake rate goes down."

So it can be easily concluded that euthanasia would also go down.

In 2002, the City of Indianapolis commissioned a report by the Indianapolis Animal Care and Control (IACC) Task Force that outlined a roadmap to begin the process of reducing deaths and improving conditions for our animals. Priority item number one of the final report reads:

Spaying and neutering companion animals is a critical, if not *the* critical, component to address animal overpopulation.

According to Marsh: “Pet sterilization programs only increase a community’s pet sterilization rate if they accomplish sterilizations that would not have taken place otherwise.” Programs need to be targeted at at-risk and previously underserved populations. Even in communities with high pet sterilization rates, there are usually three groups of cats and dogs with lower sterilization rates:

- Pets in households eligible for Medicaid
- Cats and dogs admitted to shelters
- Free-roaming and feral cats and dogs

This targeted approach worked exactly as anticipated for IndyFeral in 2006. They received a grant from Petsmart Charities to perform 800 surgeries for free-roaming cats in three targeted east-side ZIP Codes with the greatest need (see Appendix). They saw intake declines of 43 percent and 39 percent. The Fountain Square neighborhood saw a smaller decline of 22 percent due to the high density of cats in the area, underscoring the need for continuing such targeted programs.

According to Marsh at the National Spay USA conference held in Chicago, Illinois in October 2008, “Preventive programs are more effective in reducing overpopulation than reactive programs.”

This argument is validated and supported by the Bad Rap and Animal Farm Foundation’s Spay-Neuter Partnership program (see Appendix). Their motto is “Cooperation, education and compassion – not compulsion.”

Also at the conference, Marsh went on to say, “Well-designed neutering assistance programs save a life at a cost of less than \$100 per reduced shelter intake, while shelter adoptions programs save a life at an average cost of \$500 per adoption, and sanctuaries save a life at an average cost of more than \$5,000 per animal through the animal’s life.”

Marsh contends that, “Companion animal overpopulation can be eradicated in every community.”

According to Marsh, “Most communities now spend \$3 or more per resident each year on reactive programs to impound, shelter, and kill homeless animals. A comprehensive

set of programs to address all the significant sources of companion animal homelessness would cost \$1 a year per resident.”

Years of validated experience and proven techniques allow Marsh to argue that specialized spay/neuter clinics can generate sufficient revenue for all preventive programs a community needs to eradicate overpopulation. He stated at the Chicago conference that, “High-volume spay/neuter clinics are so productive they can deliver pet sterilization services at about half the cost of a full-service veterinary clinic. As a result, with income-based sliding-scale fee structures, a high-volume clinic can deliver the highest quality pet sterilization services and generate a surplus large enough to fund all the neutering subsidy and other preventive programs a community needs to eradicate companion animal homelessness.”

Recommendations and Action Items

This section offers recommendations and accompanying action items. They were formulated by the report contributors per the request of Director Newman and the Indianapolis Animal Care and Control Board as part of the IACC Review and Improvement Plan.

Recommendation One: Increase spay-neuter surgery capacity in the city

Indianapolis needs to bridge the gap between supply and demand. All of the following animal welfare groups that support spay/neuter initiatives report insufficient spay/neuter capacity in some form, particularly the need for pediatric surgeries. Many of these groups have on-going waiting lists to receive spay-neuter services.

- Alliance for Responsible Pet Ownership (ARPO)
- Cats Haven
- Foundation Against Companion Animal Euthanasia (FACE)
- Friends of Indianapolis Dogs Outside (FIDO)
- Feral Bureau of Indiana (FBI)
- Friends of Indianapolis Animal Care & Control Foundation
- Humane Society of Indianapolis (HSI)
- Indy Feral
- Indy Pit Crew
- Low Cost Clinic in Noblesville
- Southside Animal Shelter
- Spay-Neuter Services of Indiana (SNSI)

There is currently no low-cost clinic in Marion County that performs early-age, pediatric surgeries. These surgeries can be done safely as young as eight weeks of age. The American Animal Hospital Association and the American Veterinary Medical Association support the practice of pediatric spay/neuter as a method to help reduce the overpopulation problem in dogs and cats.^{xxvii}

The closest option in Indianapolis is the FACE clinic, which starts surgeries at 16 weeks. Even without offering early-age surgeries, FACE reports a constant demand for their services, and they are often booked weeks in advance. They are pulling clients from all over Marion and surrounding counties. According to Jeanette Huber at FACE, for a two-year period ending 11/29/07, clients who brought a dog in to be spayed or neutered lived in a total of 223 different ZIP Codes.

Another recent example of the lack of surgery capacity can be highlighted by Spay Neuter Services of Indiana (SNSI's) targeted ZIP Code grant. SNSI received a grant

from the Efroymson Family Fund, a CICF fund, in 2008 to target at risk and underserved areas. The grant selected ZIP Codes 46201 and 46203 because they are the two areas from which most of IACC's impounded animals originate. SNSI hit road blocks early on in this grant, however, due to the lack of veterinary capacity in the target ZIP Codes. SNSI was able to secure partnerships with some vets, but others were not interested in being vendors.

Even with very limited marketing of a "free spay-neuter surgery," SNSI was overwhelmed with interest from the community and had to cease active promotion of the program when participating vets could not keep up with the demand.

The Figure 2 shows the location of all Central Indiana veterinary clinics. It is important to note that there are very few clinics in and around the target ZIP Codes.

Veterinary Clinics - Central Indiana

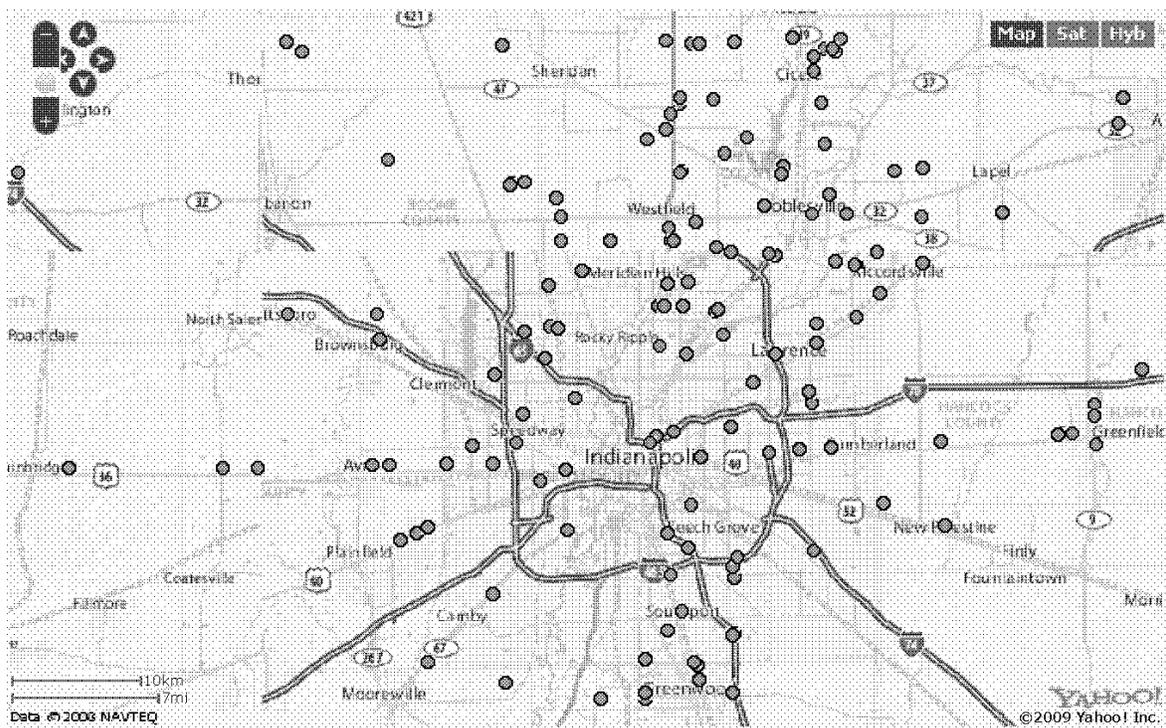


Figure 2: Locations of Central Indiana veterinary clinics

Indyferal typically has an average of 800 free-roaming cats on their waiting list at any given time. 65% of those cats are located in the target zone.

Transportation to veterinary clinics is often cited by low-income pet owners as a barrier to obtaining spay and neuter services so closer access is essential in addition to exploring transportation assistance.

Action Item #1

Open another stationary high-volume spay-neuter clinic on the southeast side of Indianapolis as the first site priority.

This clinic would be geared toward serving low-income residents, rescue groups, feral cats, bully breeds, and would offer pediatric spay-neuter services (similar to the Hamilton County Low Cost Clinic in Noblesville). A later priority would be a clinic on the southwest side of Indianapolis.

A letter of support for high quality, high volume, low cost clinics is attached. It was submitted by Dr. Pamela Carpenter, DVM.

A sample of clinic startup costs is attached to this report as provided by the Low Cost Spay Neuter Clinic in Noblesville. Hamilton County owns the building where the privately operated low-cost clinic is located. The county, which charges the clinic no rent, carries the property insurance; the clinic carries its own liability insurance. The county provides maintenance, including upkeep of the HVAC system and care of parking lot. The clinic pays for trash removal and janitorial duties.

In Marion County, a clinic could occupy a county-owned building or it is possible that either a county-owned or city land bank property might be acquired at minimal cost. The clinic(s) could be owned, insured, and maintained by a private operator.

It is worthwhile to note that the possibility of a mobile spay-neuter unit often comes up at this juncture because it seems quite practical and appropriate on the surface. Unfortunately, it was already attempted in Indianapolis, and was not entirely successful. It was called the Friends of Indianapolis Animal Care & Control - Fixer-Upper project that sought to provide no-cost animal services in neighborhoods identified with the greatest need. The easy availability (convenient location and low or no cost) of these services removed a very real barrier for literally hundreds of residents.

In the case of the Fixer-Upper Project, the mobile spay/neuter van itself presented challenges to the success of the program. A standard recreational vehicle, the van was converted into a clinic by a previous owner. The narrow width of the interior passageway and small exterior steps made it difficult to perform surgeries on large animals. And despite the addition of portable lighting, veterinary staff felt that the quality of surgical lighting onboard was inadequate for the safe performance of the more complex spay procedure. To remedy these problems, all large animal and spay surgeries were shifted to a fixed veterinary clinic.

National research indicates that the average cost per surgery in a mobile unit is often two to three times higher than the cost of the same surgery in a fixed location clinic.

Demand for affordable animal services remains high in the community; however, rather than a surgical van traveling from neighborhood to neighborhood at greater expense, it

makes sense to equip a low-cost or no-cost clinic (or clinics) with a targeted focus on underserved areas being essential. Programs could be implemented if necessary to assist with transportation to the clinic.

The Low-Cost Spay Neuter in Hamilton County has expressed interest in expanding into Marion County with an additional clinic. In addition, the Friends of Indianapolis Care and Control Foundation has offered to donate their equipment for future use at a stationary clinic. Both options should be explored in greater detail.

Action Item #2

Continue plans for a public spay/neuter clinic at the Humane Society of Indianapolis.

HSI has already committed to opening a clinic in 2009 that will serve the low-income public and partner animal welfare and rescue groups. HSI is currently in the process of developing the business plan. There is an existing wellness and surgery suite that has two surgery tables which serves the needs of the resident cat and dogs. HSI will need to secure some additional funding and equipment in order to handle a higher volume of animals. There are also plans to offer spay-neuter services for feral cats in the new clinic.

Action Item #3

IACC needs to expand contracting with additional vets and spay-neuter facilities to ensure pre-adoption spay-neuter.

Action Item #4

IACC and HSI should serve as resource centers for the community, and facilitate the promotion of existing low-cost or no-cost spay and neuter programs and services for residents with the greatest need in the target zone.

These existing programs and services include:

SNSI offers a year-round voucher program for low-income pet owners. The voucher offers a spay or neuter surgery for \$20 available from participating veterinarians.

SNSI's "Quick Fix" for multiple pet households. They offer coupons for the already low-cost options available at FACE and the Low Cost Spay Neuter Clinic in Hamilton County.

SNSI's "Return-to-Owner" (RTO) program for IACC funds surgeries for unaltered impounded animals that are being reunited with their owners.

SNSI's "Momma Cat/Dog" program for IACC funds surgeries for the mother or father dog or cat when litters are surrendered to the city shelter.

IndyFeral offers surgery fee assistance for low-income feral colony caretakers who live in the target zone.

FIDO offers surgery fee assistance for owners of dogs living outside.

Indy Pit Crew offers surgery fee assistance for owners of bully breed dogs.

Action Item #5

Offer public support of the national "Five Saves Lives" campaign, an early-age sterilization initiative intended to prevent companion animals from having "just one litter."

Early age sterilization is the most effective way to halt pet overpopulation while also preventing many health problems, including mammary tumors, at a far greater rate than later sterilization.

Five Saves Lives refers to the need to spay pets *before* five months of age, preventing the first heat cycle in dogs and the first litter in cats. Many people still believe that pets should be spayed or neutered after the age of six months. The goal would be to educate the public that it's healthier for the animal and saves lives to spay by five months of age. As noted earlier in this report, juvenile spays and neuters can be done as early as eight weeks.

A Massachusetts study completed in 1994 showed that nearly 90 percent of unwanted litters released to shelters were born to female dogs and cats that were later sterilized^{xxviii}. Closing this gap with early-age sterilization can help halt pet overpopulation.

Action Item #6

The community needs to recruit more veterinarians to help with this problem in Indianapolis. Veterinarians could participate as a partner with Spay-Neuter Services of Indiana for low-income pet owners or they could volunteer at spay days.

Recommendation Two: Pursue licensing and ordinance revisions

Whereas many pet owners view spaying or neutering their pets as beneficial—and opt for the procedure—some owners do not. A differential licensing program respects that debate and provides pet owners with a choice whether or not to spay or neuter their pets. A mandatory spay/neuter ordinance would remove any such option from the pet owner.

Pet owners in other cities have shown a willingness to support the differential license concept as a means to encourage spaying and neutering; preserve individual choice on the matter; and fund spay/neuter programs for pet owners of limited economic means.

In Indianapolis, licensing fees could be used to fund targeted low- or no-cost spay/neuter programs, which would, in turn, help reduce shelter intake from some of the neighborhoods of highest volume. Differential licensing reaches two distinct sources of overbreeding; those owners who choose not to spay or neuter their pets and those owners who would spay or neuter their pets but cannot afford to do so, with the former essentially underwriting the cost of the surgery for the latter.

From an ordinance enforcement standpoint, pet licensing would be no more difficult for IACC to enforce than the current permanent identification ordinance. In fact, it could be used to replace that ordinance almost entirely. A mandatory spay/neuter program would be difficult to enforce for animal control officers who are already overextended.

A licensing program provides other opportunities for animal welfare progressivism. For example, IACC could institute a procedure where an animal control officer would attempt to bring the animal directly home, instead of taking it to the shelter. This could be done under the current “permanent identification” law if animal control officers are equipped with microchip scanning devices, and can contact a customer service representative at the shelter to conduct the ownership research.

Licensed animals could receive a longer holding period at the shelter (if they’re picked up at large) and the possibility of home quarantine in the case of a bite. In addition, some localities with licensing requirements (i.e., Belmont, California) charge higher impound fees for unaltered and/or unlicensed animals.

Action Item #1

It would be a recommendation of this report that Indianapolis/Marion County should institute a differential licensing program for owned dogs and cats.

Pet owners who can show proof of spay/neuter would pay \$15 (\$11.25 for seniors) for an annual license; an annual license for an unaltered pet would cost \$75 (\$56.25 for seniors). The license would include appropriate protections for senior citizens, pets with

medical exclusions, and assistance animals. The direct proceeds would supplement the existing Animal Care & Control budget and to help underwrite the cost of spay/neuter surgeries for pets of low-income owners. These figures are based on the successful licensing program instituted by the Palm Beach County Animal Care and Control agency in Florida.

Per Peter Marsh, "It is a fact that without differential licensing laws, people who maintain intact pets have no financial incentive to have them sterilized." An added benefit to licensing is an increase in RTO rates.

Action Item #2

It is the recommendation of this report that the City-County Council should close the spay/neuter loophole in the existing animal ordinance (Section 531-731) so that it reflects the current IACC policy No. K-001 which currently states that "All animals will be spayed or neutered prior to adoption except in rare instances where there animal is too young or ill for surgery."

The current ordinance reads that all animals adopted from Animal Care & Control must be spayed or neutered within 60 days of adoption. Local groups such as ARPO and Southside Animal Shelter have historically had adoption spay-neuter contracts and voucher programs, but reported significant difficulties in getting the public to follow through with their commitments even with diligent follow through from the organizations. Both ARPO and Southside Animal Shelter have since switched to a mandatory spay-neuter before adoption policy.

According to national expert, Peter Marsh, "Without sterilization-at-adoption laws, many shelters and rescue groups add to pet overpopulation by placing intact homeless animals back into the community." He continues by noting, "Shelter intakes dropped 10 percent during the first five years after the sterilization-at-adoption law was passed in California despite an 8.2 percent growth in the human population. During the five year period before the law was passed, shelter intakes had increased by 8.6 percent."

Action Item #3

In conjunction with Action Item #2, it is the recommendation of this report that the City-County Council should further revise the current ordinance and hold pet stores, rescue groups, and independent shelters subject to the same spay/neuter requirements as adoptions from Indianapolis Animal Care & Control.

Dogs and cats purchased from pet stores or adopted from animal rescue groups or independently operated shelters in Marion County are currently not required to be spayed or neutered. Because pet store purchases account for approximately 85 percent of animals brought into homes, this renders the spay/neuter provision for IACC

adoptions pointless as a means to reduce the animal population. The purchase of unaltered animals from pet stores undermines pet adoption programs, and leads directly to more breeding and, as a result, more intake at area shelters.

Action Item #4

It is the recommendation of this report that the City-County Council should require dog and cat breeders to purchase an annual breeders license for a fee of \$150 in addition to the annual licensing fee.

Many cities require breeder permits for owners who chose to breed their pets. The advantages of issuing permits include: eliminating the “honor” system for breeders operating under the radar and not reporting/under reporting their income for the sale of animals, IACC could deny permits to breeders with known violations of inhumane care, it would allow IACC to hold all breeders to the same standards and it would help eliminate the number of unwanted animals.

The list of licensed breeders should be published prominently. The direct proceeds would be used to supplement the existing Animal Care & Control budget and to help underwrite the cost of spay/neuter surgeries for pets of low-income owners.

This program would be based on the successful breeding permit program implemented by the Palm Beach County Animal Care and Control agency in Florida. The \$150 permit fee is based on the cost incurred by IACC to pick up, house and destroy a stray animal at the shelter.

Recommendation Three: Pursue public funding for spay/neuter surgeries

In response to those who may question why government should fund spay/neuter, Richard DuCharme presented compelling arguments at the 2008 national Spay USA conference. DeCharme was appointed to Jacksonville, Florida's Mayoral Task Force for Animal Care and Control in 2001 before going on to found First Coast No More Homeless Pets in 2002. He stated that "the role of the government is to provide for the safety and health of the governed, government is expected to invest the taxpayers' money wisely, governments are looking to solve problems and that animal control is a core government service and spay/neuter programs are an important part of that service."

DuCharme reported that instituting government funded, targeted effective spay-neuter programs will increase public safety by decreasing the number of strays and free-roaming pets, and by increasing the number of rabies vaccinated and altered pets in the community. This maximizes taxpayer dollars because less pet breeding will decrease the number of pets and strays entering shelters, decrease the number of nuisance calls to IACC, and decrease the number of pets euthanized.

According to Peter Marsh, the reality is that feral and unowned cats and dogs will continue to be a significant source of shelter admissions in the absence of neutering subsidy programs. It is also a fact that without subsidy programs for indigent pet owners, more of the pets they keep will remain intact and more will be relinquished to shelters. At the national Spay USA conference in 2008 Marsh noted that between 1983 and 1993, a decade in which no neutering subsidies were available, the statewide shelter euthanasia rate in New Hampshire did not improve. In the first six months after neutering subsidy programs were established in 1994, the euthanasia rate dropped by 77%.

Action Item #1

Indianapolis could look to a variety of states for ideas on funding spay-neuter programs. Several examples are noted as follows.

Voluntary License Checkoff

In Maricopa County, Arizona, pet owners are given the option to donate funds at the bottom of the county's dog license renewal form. This option raises approximately \$10,000 per month. Funds are used to underwrite programs that the Maricopa County Animal Care and Control budget does not cover, such as treatment for sick or injured animals and spay/neuter clinics for feral cats.

Voluntary State Income Tax Checkoff

In Illinois, since 2005, state income taxpayers have had the option on their tax form to donate to the state's Pet Population Control Fund. The fund assists spay/neuter programs across the state.

The state of Colorado gives state income taxpayers the option to donate to a Pet Overpopulation Fund, which grants money to spay/neuter programs. The fund is governed by a volunteer board of seven, appointed by the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture. In 2002, this fund awarded more than \$200,000 in grants.

Pet-Friendly License Plates

Twenty-two states currently have some form of optional license plate, with proceeds generated from the sale of the plates used to fund spay/neuter programs. Closest to home, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee have spay/neuter license plate programs.

Action Item #2

Expand public/private partnerships with the city and non-profit animal welfare organizations currently providing spay/neuter services in the community.

These partnerships could increase opportunities for funding through grant opportunities, and improve the efficiency and coordination of services with IACC.

Action Item #3

Increase the role of the Friends Foundation's role in researching and seeking out grant opportunities in an effort to increase funding for spay/neuter efforts in the city or for the shelter.

Recommendation Four: Consider appropriately timed marketing and education initiatives

There is consensus among animal welfare providers that there is a lack of awareness of why spay/neuter is important. According to the previously cited Indianapolis task force report, “The City and ACC should be aggressive in educating the public about the issues associated with and consequences of pet overpopulation, and support programs that can help reduce existing overpopulation and euthanasia rates in Indianapolis.”

According to Peter Marsh, from 1970-2000, the shelter euthanasia rate dropped by more than 85 percent due to effective public education programs about the benefits of pet sterilization.

The contributors to this report agree with the need for marketing and education, but caution that more spay/neuter capacity needs to be developed before a large scale campaign is launched to avoid increased waiting lists and frustration from the public.

Action Item #1

A city-wide marketing and education program should be pursued after the surgery capacity problem is solved. A media and advertising campaign should include all resources available including radio, TV, and web-based, and should reach out to diverse demographic populations.

This marketing and education program should also seek to work with local CDCs because area community centers and non-profit community development corporations serve as the “front door” to so many social services (and, indeed, some animal services such as low- or no-cost vaccination clinics) for residents of underserved neighborhoods. These hubs of activity should be enlisted to communicate any new animal welfare program, whether educational or legislative.

Conclusion

This report concludes that spay/neuter programs are the best antidote to mass euthanasia, as well as the most humane and fiscally responsible way to address the pet population problem.

We have the opportunity to change the fundamental way our city's animal welfare system currently does business. An animal control and sheltering system that promotes "killing" is at odds with the humane values of most members of our community. Together we can appeal to the public's respect for all life to change a "reactive" system that has forgotten its responsibility to protect and care for all animals. The thousands of animals that die each day demand that private and government entities work together to develop *proactive* solutions that prevent the thousands of unwanted animals.

Spay/neuter is one such solution. In 1993, there was a national animal surplus population of 12 million. Today, the number is 4 million. The progress made in reducing the shelter death toll over the years has come from reducing shelter intake. The driving force is the same. Intakes drive euthanasia. A community's pet sterilization rate largely determines its shelter euthanasia rate.

We must look at the big picture in our community and set out to work smarter with our limited resources in our efforts to develop and target programs and services that will assist "underserved" populations, such as pets of low-income owners, shelter animals, free-roaming cats, and pit bulls. Effective policy solutions and funding must align with these targeted populations, or they will continue to be a significant source of shelter intake.

Attachments

- 1 Alley Cat Allies chart
- 2 IndyFeral PetsMart grant project
- 3 Spay-Neuter Partnerships: Bad Rap and Animal Farm Foundation
- 4 Vet letter of support from Dr. Pamela Carpenter, DVM
- 5 Sample start up cost for high volume clinic

ⁱ <http://www.humanealliance.org/HA2/what.htm>

ⁱⁱ Data from IndyGov's controller's web page, Public Safety & Criminal Justice section.

ⁱⁱⁱ Data from the Chameleon Kennel Statistics Report for 2008.

^{iv} Kent Robertson in California, Feral Cat Activist June 2005.

^v From the Ballard Rules: <http://www.ballardformayor.com/rules/Pages/default.aspx>.

^{vi} Data combined for Indianapolis Animal Care and Control and the Humane Society of Indianapolis from year-end 2007 reports.

^{vii} Data combined for Indianapolis Animal Care and Control and the Humane Society of Indianapolis from year-end 2008 reports.

^{viii} As reported by IACC intake reports.

^{ix} 2006 US Census Bureau, Total housing units in Marion County, IN

^x From http://www.hsus.org/pets/pet_care/dog_care/stay_dog_bite_free/preventing_dog_bites.html.

^{xi} Data from the IACC 2006 annual report.

^{xii} From <http://www.unitedwildlife.com/AnimalsFeralDogs.html>.

^{xiii} Info from www.spayusa.org - Top 3 Reasons to Spay and Neuter.

^{xiv} The American Veterinary Medical Association.

^{xv} The American Veterinary Medical Association.

^{xvi} Info from www.spayusa.org - Top 3 Reasons to Spay and Neuter.

^{xvii} Info from www.spayusa.org - Top 3 Reasons to Spay and Neuter.

^{xviii} Info from www.spayusa.org - Top 3 Reasons to Spay and Neuter.

^{xix} From <http://www.rainanimals.org/spayneuterbenefits.html>.

^{xx} From <http://www.rainanimals.org/spayneuterbenefits.html>.

^{xxi} From <http://www.rainanimals.org/spayneuterbenefits.html>.

^{xxii} From <http://www.rainanimals.org/spayneuterbenefits.html>.

^{xxiii} Fox Valley Humane Association.

^{xxiv} From <http://www.dogchannel.com/puppies/articlespay5.aspx>.

^{xxv} Fox Valley Humane Association.

^{xxvi} Peter Marsh at the Spay/USA Road Map Conference 10-2008.

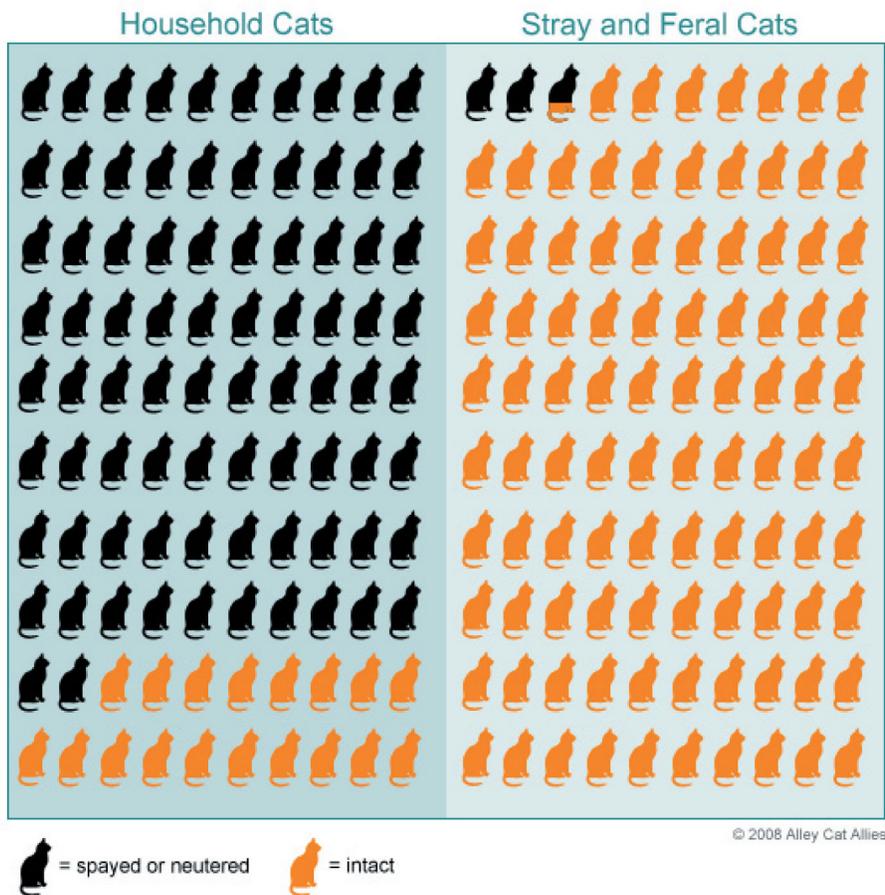
^{xxvii} DVM: The Newsmagazine of Veterinary Medicine, Pub.: 2005-03.

^{xxviii} Manning & Rowan, Tufts University

Spay/Neuter Status of U.S. Cat Population

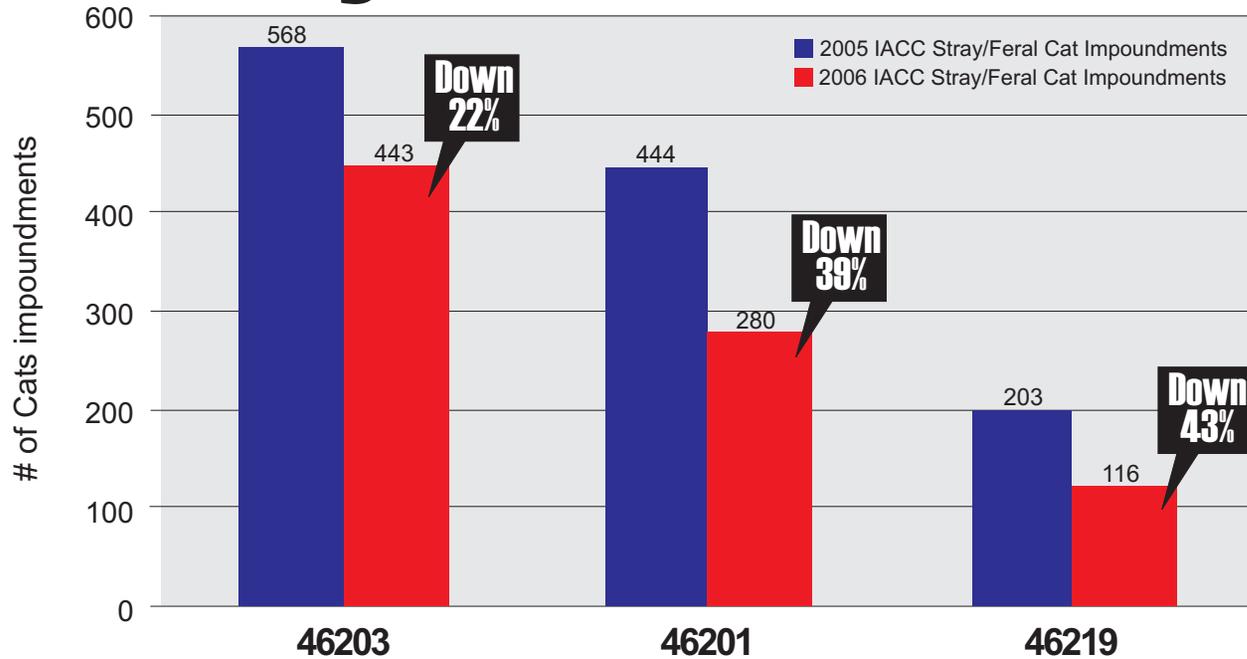
The total U.S. cat population comprises both cats living in households and stray and feral cats living outdoors. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, 82 million cats live in U.S. households. Of those household cats, 77% to 87% are neutered.

Stray and feral cats may account for up to half of the total U.S. cat population. Although no census has directly counted the number of stray and feral cats, scientists estimate that the size of this population rivals that of the household population. Of stray and feral cats, the most comprehensive study to date indicates that less than 3% are neutered. The graph below visually captures the difference in the spay/neuter rate between the two subpopulations of U.S. cats.



Most intact cats are stray and feral cats. This segment of the cat population produces 80% of the kittens born each year and is the greatest source of cat overpopulation. The stray and feral cat crisis was ignored for far too long and their numbers have exploded. The feral cat issue must be addressed more aggressively. Effective policy solutions and funding must align with these facts or they will continue to be a significant source of shelter admissions.

IndyFeral PetsMart Grant Project



In 2006, IndyFeral received a \$20,000 grant from PetsMart Charities to be used to offer 800 free spay/neuter surgeries for unowned free roaming cats.

IndyFeral and Indianapolis Animal Care and Control (IACC) targeted three high priority ZIP Codes located on the east side of Indianapolis that have a disproportionately high number of free roaming cat impoundments. They include ZIP Codes 46203, 46201, and 46219.

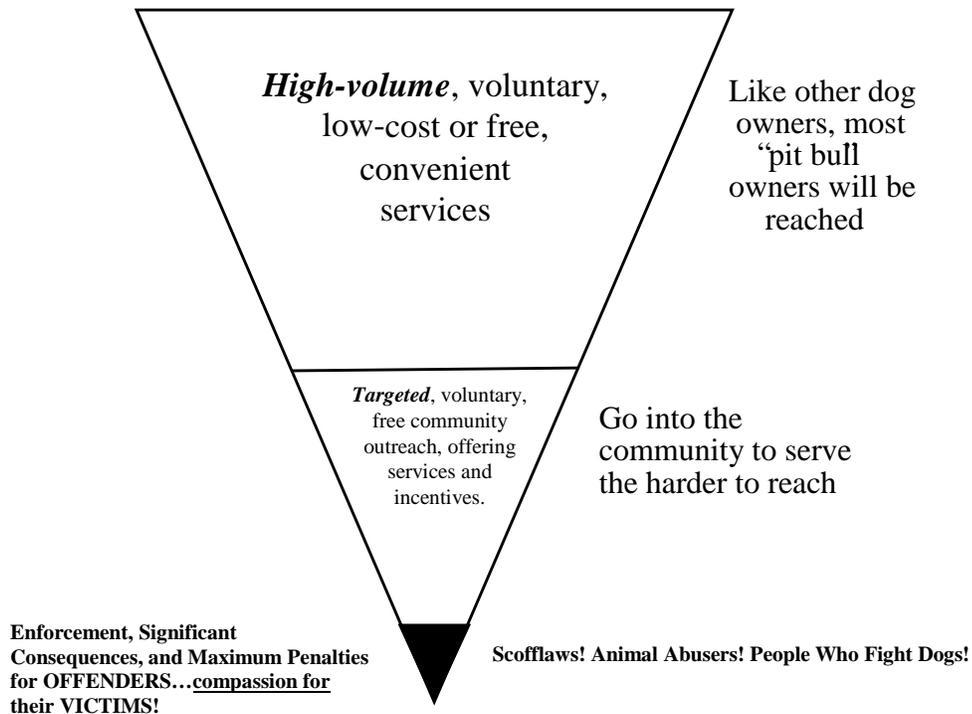
Whereas the city averaged an overall decline of 35% in impoundments, the targeted areas saw declines of 43% and 39%. Although 46203 saw a decline of 22%, this can be attributed to the extremely high density of cats in the area, underscoring the need for such targeted programs.



SPAY-NEUTER PARTNERSHIPS: COOPERATION EDUCATION AND COMPASSION NOT COMPULSION

The service and support triangle: To decrease euthanasia rates, encourage responsible ownership, and support the human-animal bond.

Animal welfare organizations best serve their communities when they develop strong partnerships with stakeholders, utilizing each organization’s strengths to deliver to every member of the community: low-cost or free, accessible spay/neuter, dog training; education; and owner support.



Strengthen your community, don't divide it

Breed-specific mandatory spay/neuter laws divide the community and break the human-animal bond:

- In 2005, San Francisco, California, implemented a mandatory spay/neuter law for pit bulls and pit bull mixes. As soon as the measure passed, some San Francisco pit bull owners faced landlord ultimatums: keep the dog and move, or be evicted. Although pit bulls were still legal, the law’s designation of pit bulls as a special “problem” had stigmatized both the dogs and their owners. Breed specific mandates endorse discrimination and profiling of all kinds, including by landlords and insurance companies.

Breed specific mandatory spay/neuter laws miss the owners they were designed to reach:

- San Francisco’s breed specific mandatory spay/neuter did nothing to lower the overall dog population in its shelter. While the pit bull numbers dropped, non-pit bull shelter intake increased. Furthermore, while the number of pit bull bites went down, the number of non-pit bull bites increased 13.4% dogs. Most dog bites in SF were attributed to spayed/neutered dogs, which helps demonstrate that reproductive status alone cannot make dogs 'safer'. Owner management and responsibility will always be the key to bite prevention.
- Kansas City, Missouri’s breed specific mandatory spay/neuter resulted in a steady increase in not only its pit bull euthanasia, despite the mandate, but also the number of all dogs euthanized as well.

Rather than criminalize a dog’s sexual status, communities must call owners to account, educate, and when necessary enforce leash and licensing laws, anti-cruelty laws, and anti-dog fighting laws; and offer a variety of services, including spaying and neutering, along with advice and support for proper pet care and training.

Community Partnerships: Targeting the right end of the leash

- Over a period of 10 years, Berkeley Animal Services reduced impound numbers by 50% and euthanasia numbers by 90%, euthanizing only 50 dogs in 2007. Berkeley managed to do so using available local resources: working with rescue groups, providing educational materials and support to potential adopters, and partnering with local groups to provide training for its dogs.
- Shot fairs in lower income communities offering affordable and easily accessible vaccinations and spay/neuters, as well as education about responsible dog ownership, have had a positive impact on dogs and owners, and have resulted in fewer shelter intakes and euthanasia. Over a period of 2 years, at shot fairs in Oakland, California, over 2500 canines were vaccinated; and more than 1700 dogs identified as pit bulls or pit bull mixes were spayed or neutered. At the most recent fair, not only did pit bulls make up less than 25% of the clientele, but so-called “hard to reach” and “irresponsible” pit bull owners were educating other owners about the benefits of spaying and neutering, as well as offering pet care tips.
- The harder to reach are reachable with voluntary, breed-specific programs that make special offers where there are special needs, and offer services designed to make the dog part of the family. Operation Spot (OPSPOT) North St. Louis offered “love your pit” services for Valentine’s Day, and altered 280 pit bull dogs in only two weeks.
- In 2006, Calgary, Alberta, a city of over 1 million people, enacted its Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw. Calgary’s breed-neutral approach is built on its “four principles of responsible ownership”: licensing and permanent identification; spaying and neutering; proper care and training; and appropriate management and control. Through outreach, licensing discounts for altered pets, and appropriate enforcement of licensing and nuisance provisions, Calgary has increased licensure compliance to 93%, increased its return-to-owner rate to 88%, and reduced dog bites and shelter intakes. Its canine euthanasia rate is now 6%, and confined to dogs with significant health or behavioral issues!

“Not only are proactive programs . . . cost effective, in the end they are our only hope to end pet overpopulation. Bitter experience has shown that we cannot adopt our way out of pet overpopulation or build our way out. A system that continues to spend upwards of 95% of its resources on reactive programs is doomed to failure and frustration. . . . Investing in proactive programs allows the increasing reallocation of resources to proactive programs, building momentum to the day when shelters will realize their century-long mission--to rescue and rehabilitate homeless animals and find a loving home for each and every one.”

Peter Marsh, Esq.

Pamela S. Carpenter, DVM
1125 Aqueduct Way
Indianapolis, IN 46280



(317) 846-7387
psc52655@yahoo.com

December 3, 2008

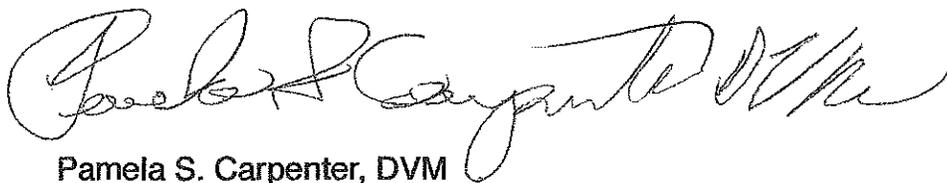
I joined the staff at the Low Cost Spay Neuter Clinic in April 2007. My background was 27 years in private practice, so I had no prior experience with a high quality/ high volume surgical sterilization clinic. Like many other veterinarians, I had never visited such an establishment and thus had the usual concerns regarding the high number of procedures that were done in a day, and questioned how they could all be safely and proficiently completed. But any veterinarian who has these kinds of doubts has only to visit our clinic and observe our staff in action- our doors are always open and we welcome this kind of communication with the veterinary community at large.

Our staff is highly trained and motivated. Everyone who comes to work here is a firm believer in our mission. The animals are monitored carefully, beginning with a visual health screen at check-in, and ending with a final inspection at time of discharge. They are monitored constantly while under anesthesia and in recovery, both electronically with a pulse oximeter, and visually by a technician. We have state of the art equipment, drug protocols, and pain medications for all animals. Our rate of surgical or post-op complications is extremely low, and I am confident it would rival and most likely be lower than at a full service clinic. When you concentrate your skills on one area of expertise, you become exceedingly proficient.

Another worry of neighboring veterinarians that needs to be laid to rest concerns whether a low cost clinic takes business away from them. We do get a few clients who could afford to take their pets to their own veterinarian to be neutered, but that is the exception. Most of our clients would not have their pets sterilized at all if a clinic like ours did not exist. Many state that they have had to save money for some time to be able to pay a \$22 fee to have their cat neutered. Others bring in several older pets at one time that have never been neutered, and are so relieved to finally find a place they

could afford. Most people want to do the best thing for their pets, and do not want unwanted litters, but they have had to forgo neutering because they were struggling to feed their families. Every single day, we have several people who express their gratitude that we are able to offer this affordable service for them. In addition to personally owned pets, we have multiple humane societies, shelters, and rescue organizations that bring us animals to neuter before they adopt them out, and thus insure they can never breed. They certainly could not afford to do that through a full service clinic. One last group in need of a low cost alternative consists of those striving to humanely decrease the feral cat population. They also could not be expected to pay full price for doing their selfless and caring work.

Is it difficult to work at a high volume spay/ neuter clinic? Sometimes, as some days might bring an unusually heavy work load, and the nature of the business calls for repetitive surgical skills. Is it rewarding to work at a spay/ neuter clinic? Absolutely. Not only do we have grateful clients who could not otherwise afford to have their pets surgically sterilized, but one only has to walk into our neighboring humane society to be reminded that we are doing the community a great service. It is crammed full of pets waiting for loving homes; pets who are sitting in cages because there are far too many of them. The answer to this problem is simply to cut their numbers, and the way to do that is to offer high quality, high volume, low cost neutering, and I am proud to be a part of that solution.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pamela S. Carpenter, DVM'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'P' and 'C'.

Pamela S. Carpenter, DVM

LOW COST SPAY NEUTER CLINIC, INC

1721-A PLEASANT STREET, NOBLESVILLE, IN 46060, 317-706-0537

Start-up cost - Clinic		#1	#2	#3
	Facility	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,196
A	Equipment/Furniture	\$ 107,938	\$ 107,938	\$ 107,938
B	Computer System - Server, Operating system, installation, warranty, and training	\$ 14,795	\$ 14,795	\$ 14,795
C	Clinic Supplies	4,128		
	Surgery Supplies	18,666		
	Vaccines	26,100		
	Surgery Drugs	<u>8,568</u>	\$ 57,462	\$ 57,462
D	Product for Resale	24,000		
	Drugs for Resale	<u>504</u>	\$ 24,504	\$ 24,504
	TOTAL	\$ 204,699	\$ 204,699	\$ 245,895

NOTES

- #1 City provides existing building and improvements
- #2 City builds new facility per specifications
- #3 Solicit contributions/grants to fund capital lease payment with bargain purchase price

Assumptions

- A See attachment
- B See attachment
- C Inventory based on 6 months supply
- D Inventory based on 2 months supply
- #3 based on \$5.15/sq.foot annually

LOW COST SPAY NEUTER CLINIC, INC

1721-A PLEASANT STREET, NOBLESVILLE, IN 46060, 317-706-0537

Monthly Operating cost - Clinic

	Monthly	Annual
INCOME		
Program Income	28,949	\$ 347,385
Vaccine Clinic - Saturdays	7,816	93,795
Product Sales	11,094	133,132
Cost of Goods Sold	(6,500)	(78,000)
Gross Profit	41,359	496,312
EXPENSES		
Vet Services	1,667	20,000
Payroll (including taxes and health insurance)	27,573	330,873
Other Employee expense	567	6,800
Facilities and Maintenance	1,777	21,324
Clinic Expenses	3,375	40,500
Surgical drugs & Vaccines	3,417	41,000
Operations and Supplies	713	8,560
Other	1,420	17,041
Business Expense	84	1,010
Total expenses	\$ 40,592	\$ 487,108
Net Income	\$ 767	\$ 9,204

NOTES

Payroll includes payroll taxes and health insurance

Other employee expense includes:

conferences
workers' compensation
professional insurance
payroll processing
employee recruiting

Clinic Expenses includes Supplies, Emergency Vet Services, and Uniforms

Operations includes:

printing
postage
office, cleaning, and misc supplies
telephone

Other includes interest expense, merchant process fees, bank fees, and accounting fees

Assumptions

Amounts do not take into account start-up inventory of supplies, vaccines, and surgery drugs

Amounts are based on the following average monthly counts

Spays	386
Neuters	298
Vaccines with surgery - cats	138
Vaccine Clinic - cats	79
Vaccines with surgery - dogs	200
Vaccine Clinic - dogs	88

LOW COST SPAY NEUTER CLINIC, INC

1721-A PLEASANT STREET, NOBLESVILLE, IN 46060, 317-706-0537

Description	Count	Cost	Vendor	Date placed in service	life
Anesthetic Machines	5	18,179.04	Webster	12/29/2006	7
Anesthetic Parts + Oxygen System		2,037.99	Webster	12/29/2006	7
Cages	53	19,174.79	Palmer	12/29/2006	7
Exam Lights in Prep	2	2,608.00	Webster	12/29/2006	7
IV Stand	1	35.00	Webster	12/29/2006	7
Gasvak Multi Station	1	3,950.00	Webster	12/29/2006	7
Autoclave MII	2	8,171.90	Webster	12/29/2006	7
Surgery Lights	1	4,500.00	Webster	12/29/2006	7
Larngoscope	1	695.00	Webster	12/29/2006	7
Heated Surgery Tables	3	6,211.80	Webster	12/29/2006	7
Mayo Tables	3	411.00	Webster	12/29/2006	7
Prep Table	1	4,779.00	Webster	12/29/2006	7
Monitor - oxyimeter	6	6,890.40	Butler	12/29/2006	7
Monitor	1	1,100.00	J. Heinzelman	12/29/2006	7
Narcotic Safe - Prep	1	295.00	Webster	12/29/2006	7
Ultrasonic Cleaner Unit	1	399.00	Webster	12/29/2006	7
Refrigerator	1	459.99	Searfs	12/29/2006	7
Cart Utility - Prep	1	257.23	Webster	4/3/2007	7
Cautery Kit	1	60.00	Webster	4/3/2007	7
Clam Grasper/Scratch Shield	1	155.15	Webster	4/3/2007	7
Clipper turbo	1	165.00	Webster	4/3/2007	7
Stethascopes	2	140.00	Webster	4/3/2007	7
Monitors	2	4,003.36	Webster	12/1/2007	7
Narcotic Safe - Office	1	975.20	Johnson	5/1/2007	7
Surgical Instruments	1	5,357.52	Columbus	3/1/2007	7
Wildlife control traps	15	667.68	Wildlife	11/1/2007	7

LOW COST SPAY NEUTER CLINIC, INC

1721-A PLEASANT STREET, NOBLESVILLE, IN 46060, 317-706-0537

Audio Visual Alarm	1	520.00 Webster	12/29/2006	3
Oster Clippers	1	517.44 Webster	12/29/2006	3
Walk-on Scale	1	726.45 Webster	12/29/2006	3
Dental equipment		500.00 Carpenter	12/1/2007	3
Fatigue mats, instruments		738.65 Webster	10/1/2007	3
Office furniture	1	513.98 Office Depot	9/1/2007	3
Mini Clip Probes	15	1,572.00 Webster	4/3/2007	3
Phone system + install	1	4,301.62 Van Ausdall	2/14/2008	7
Sign for Clinic (L-shaped)	1	5,000.00 Ace Sign System	1/11/2008	7
Exam Table (donated)		775.00	12/29/2006	3
Washer + Dryers (donated)		778.00 Thorne & Myron	12/29/2006	3
Shop Vacs (donated)		316.00 Thorne	12/29/2006	3
TOTAL		107,938.19		