

PRESS RELEASE

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February is National Spay/Neuter Awareness Month

5 reasons you should spay/neuter your pet.

During **National Spay/Neuter Awareness Month this February**, Haywood Spay/Neuter reminds the public that there is nothing cool about pet overpopulation.

“There are too many cat and dogs in our communities that don’t have homes” explains Linda Sexton, Haywood Spay/Neuter’s Acting President. “Every year, animal shelters like the Haywood County Animal Shelter are inundated with stray and surrendered puppies and kittens that are the result of unplanned litter.”

In fact, national studies have found that among pet owners who indicate that their pets had a least one litter, 59% of cat owners and 38% of dog owners described the litter as “unintentional” or “accidental”.

In addition to the benefits to the community, here are **5 more reasons why you should spay/neuter your pet:**

1. You Snip, You Save. The cost of caring for an unplanned litter of puppies or kittens far outweighs the cost of having a pet spayed or neutered. Haywood Spay/Neuter fees are based on income, with most paying \$10 or \$20 for surgery, rabies vaccine and a microchip!

2. Snipping Reduces Spraying. Neutering resolves the vast majority of marking behaviors – even when a cat has a long standing habit. Other nuisance behaviors such as howling in cats and excessive barking in dogs eases and even disappears after surgery.

3. Snipping Stops Scuffles. According to the National Canine Research Foundation, approximately 92% of fatal dog attacks involved male dogs, 94% of which were not neutered. Neutering males dogs and cats reduces their urge to roam and fight with other males.

4. Snipping Lengthens Life Span. The USA Today reports neutered male dogs live 18% longer than un-neutered males, and spayed females live 23% longer than unspayed females.

5. Snipping is a Safeguard. Neutering male cats and dogs before six months of age prevents testicular cancer. Spaying cats and dogs before their first heat offers protection from uterine infections and breast cancer. *Be advised kittens can come into heat at 4 months!*

Right now in Haywood County, cats and dogs are going into heat as evidenced by data collected at Haywood Spay/Neuter on incidences of heat and pregnancies on dogs/cats sent to ASPCA Humane Alliance Low Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic in Asheville.

For more information, call the Haywood Spay/Neuter office 828 452-1329