



## Help Stop Pet Overpopulation

Please spay or neuter your pet and help stop pet overpopulation.

- For every person that is born 15 Dogs and 45 Cats are also born.
- In seven years, one female cat and her offspring can theoretically produce 420,000 cats.
- In six years, one female dog and her offspring can theoretically produce 67,000 dogs.

There are not enough homes for all of these animals. The Humane Society of the US estimates over 5 million healthy, friendly cats and dogs will be euthanized this year simply because they are not enough homes.

**Save a life and help solve the pet overpopulation tragedy by spaying or neutering your pet!**

HATS has paid for or financially contributed to spaying/neutering several hundreds of cats and dogs through our Spay/Neuter Assistance Program.

### ***The Humane Animal Treatment Society Spay/Neuter Assistance Program***

Thank you for taking action to prevent pet overpopulation in Isabella County! The Humane Animal Treatment Society (HATS) Spay/Neuter Assistance Program is intended to help families in financial need spay or neuter their companion animals.

HATS will pay a portion of each spay or neuter surgery for companion cats and dogs as follows:

C	Cat Neuter (male)	\$20
C	Cat Spay (female)	\$30
C	Dog Neuter (male)	\$30
C	Dog Spay (female)	\$40

HATS will make the above payment directly to your veterinarian and pet owners are responsible for the balance of the bill.

To request a spay/neuter certificate please send a letter with your pets information (cat or dog, male or female) and your contact information along with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

HATS  
P.O. Box 732  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804-0732

When HATS receives your request, you will receive a certificate that must be used within 60 days. Complete instructions will be sent to you with the certificate. Please obtain the certificate before making your vet appointment, as it may take several weeks to receive your certificate.

### **No Animal Should Go Unaltered**

It is so important to our organization that all animals be sterilized that we want to work with you!

- If you currently don't have a vet for your animals please contact us. We will work with you to see that your animal receives the care it needs at a price you can afford!
- If you are in extreme financial need please contact us. We will work with your situation to see that your animal receives the care it needs at a price you can afford!

### **Why Spay & Neuter?**

Allowing your pets to breed contributes to the pet overpopulation problem in Isabella County. Spaying and neutering is part of being a responsible pet owner.

There are many benefits to spay/neuter:

*Female cats* will no longer go into heat, and you will no longer endure the obnoxious yowling and pacing that occurs. Unwelcome visits by hordes of tomcats that mark your yard and further frustrate your cat will be a thing of the past.

*Male cats* will be less likely to spray that foul-smelling urine in your house. Because he won't be distracted by the neighborhood females in heat, he'll be more content staying inside, rather than getting out into the street-where he could get into fights or get hit by a car (which could lead to costly vet bills or even the death of your cat.)

*Female dogs* will no longer go into heat, thus putting an end to that messy, bloody discharge in your house. Or those stray male dogs lining up outside your door.

*Male dogs* will become more focused on being a part of your family, instead of being constantly distracted by the scent of stray female dogs in heat. By not wanting to escape from the house and roam, the chances of him getting into fights with other dogs or getting hit by a car are decreased. And he'll be less likely to do those embarrassing and annoying things like mount your legs or furniture.

### **Spay & Neuter Q & A**

1. What does spay, neuter and sterilize mean?
  - These terms all refer to the surgical procedure a veterinarian performs to prevent a dog or cat from having babies. This is sometimes referred to as having your pet "fixed." Females are spayed, males are neutered.
2. Will my pet's behavior change after the surgery?
  - Spay/neuter can result in some behavior changes – for the better! Spayed or neutered pets are often less aggressive, more relaxed, and even more affectionate. Contrary to what some people fear, pets show no signs of "missing" mating or breeding. Rather, they are less likely to escape the yard and "roam" looking for a mate.
3. Will my pet become fat?
  - Just like people, pets become overweight when they eat too much and/or exercise too little. An appropriate diet and sufficient activity will keep your pet slender and healthy.
4. Isn't it healthier for my pet to have one litter?
  - Medical evidence indicates just the opposite. In fact, the evidence shows that females spayed before their first heat are typically healthier. Cats can go into heat and get pregnant as early as five months of age, so it's important to spay early.

### **Myths and Facts About Spay/Neuter**

***Myth:*** *But my pet is purebred.*

***Fact:*** So is at least one out of every four pets brought to animal shelters around the country. There are just too many dogs and cats-mixed breed *and* purebred.

***Myth:*** *I want my dog to be protective.*

***Fact:*** Spaying or neutering does not affect a dog's natural instinct to protect home and family. A dog's personality is formed more by genetics & environment than hormones.

**Myth:** *I don't want my male dog or cat to feel like less of a male.*

**Fact:** Pets don't have any concept of sexual identity or ego. Neutering will not change a pet's basic personality. He doesn't suffer any kind of emotional reaction or identity crisis when neutered.

**Myth:** *But my dog (or cat) is so special, I want a puppy (or kitten) just like her.*

**Fact:** A dog or cat may be a great pet, but that doesn't mean her offspring will be a carbon copy. An entire litter of puppies or kittens might receive all of a pet's (and her mate's) worst characteristics.

**Myth:** *I'll find good homes for all the puppies and kittens.*

**Fact:** You may find homes for all of your litter. But each home you find means one less home for dogs and cats in shelters who need good homes. Also, in less than one year's time, each of your pet's offspring may have his or her own litter, adding even more animals to the population. The problem of pet overpopulation is created and perpetuated one litter at a time.

### **You Can Make a Difference!!!**

Thank you again for helping control animal overpopulation. Please remind your friends and family how important it is to spay or neuter their pets too!

### **Want to Learn More?**

If you are part of a group or organization that would like to learn more about humane animal care or spay/neuter please contact HATS. Our volunteers would love the opportunity to speak to your group about the humane treatment of animals and proper animal care. You can always leave a message on the HATS answering system at 989-775-0830.