



# **The Need for Low-Cost Spay-Neuter Programs:**

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## **\$aving Tax Dollar\$!**



# !! WARNING !!

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**Your community is spending unnecessary tax dollars if it does not have a low-cost spay/neuter program in place!**

- ❗ **Reducing pet overpopulation prevents many surplus animal births and deaths – lowering the cost of animal control in the future.**
- ❗ **“Spaying and neutering lie at the foundation of any effective animal control program.”** *Animal Control Management: A Guide for Local Governments*, publication #43008



**!! WARNING !!**

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## **Intact Animals are a Threat to YOUR Community!**

- ❃ **Unsterilized dogs are almost three times more likely to bite than sterilized animals.** <sup>(1)</sup>
- ❃ **Unsterilized dogs account for 95% of all fatal maulings.** <sup>(2)</sup>
- ❃ The Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association (JAVMA) reports that unsterilized dogs are more aggressive, and are involved in the majority of reported dog bite incidents. <sup>(3)</sup>
- ❃ Approximately 60% of the victims of animal attacks are children. <sup>(4)</sup>



# The Need for Population Control

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**Each day 10,000 humans are born in the U.S. – and each day 70,000 puppies and kittens are born.**

An unspayed female cat, her mate and all of their offspring, producing just 2 litters per year (in the wild, the average is 3-4), with just 2.8 surviving kittens per litter can total:

**1 year: 12**  
**2 years: 67**  
**3 years: 376**  
**4 years: 2,107**  
**5 years: 11,801**  
**6 years: 66,088**



## The Need for Population Control, cont'd.

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An unspayed female dog, her mate and all of their puppies and their puppies' puppies, if none are ever neutered or spayed, add up to:

**1 year: 16**

**2 years: 128**

**3 years: 512**

**4 years: 2,048**

**5 years: 12,288**

**6 years: 67,000**



# Benefits of Low-Cost Neutering<sup>(5)</sup>

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**“Low-cost neutering doubles the number of poor people who get their pets fixed – and cuts animal shelter intakes in half.”**

*- Animal People, June 1994*

Any doubts about the efficacy of low-cost neutering programs should be laid to rest by the results of a National Survey carried out by Animal People under the sponsorship of the North Shore Animal League (Washington, DC) on behalf of SpayUSA, a project of the NSAL.

The survey covered the time period 1990 through 1993 and included 690 people at local vets and shelters nationwide.

Shelters located in areas with access to low-cost neutering programs reported the following dramatic results:



## Benefits of Low-Cost Neutering, cont'd.

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### **1993 vs. 1990 with low-cost spay-neuter programs in place:**

- **Dogs.** Responding shelters took in an average 2,283 dogs per year (a 22% drop); on average, each shelter euthanized 1,570 dogs (a 35% drop).
- **Cats.** Responding shelters took in an average 2,112 cats per year (a 31% drop); on average, each shelter euthanized 1,895 cats (also a 31% drop).

**Lower admissions + Lower  
euthanizations = Tax Dollar Savings**



# Why a Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Program?

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**THEY WORK!**

## **A State Success Story**

**New Hampshire** launched a statewide spay/neuter assistance program in 1994. The program enables pet owners on public assistance to have their animals sterilized for \$10. Veterinarians participating in the program are reimbursed for 80% of their regular fees. Through 2000, more than 25,000 animals had been sterilized through the program. In the six years since its inception, the state's eight largest shelters (accounting for 95% of animals admitted statewide) admitted 30,985 fewer dogs and cats than in the six years preceding the program. **The estimated savings on impounding and sheltering those animals was \$3.2 million.** The cost of the program was just over \$1 million, meaning the State saved more than \$2.2 million in the program's first six years. Thus, New Hampshire taxpayers saved about \$3.23 for every dollar the state spent on the subsidized sterilization program. <sup>(6,7)</sup>



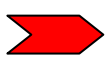


# Why a Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Program?

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## Summary of Benefits in New Hampshire's Program:

- ❗ **Taxpayers saved approximately \$3.23 for every dollar the State spent on the program.**
- ❗ The State's largest shelters admitted 30,985 fewer dogs and cats than in the six preceding years
- ❗ **The State's shelter euthanasia rate has fallen to just 2.4 cats and dogs euthanized each year for every 1,000 people** from between 9.4 and 10.9 dogs and cats euthanized each year for every 1,000 people – a drop of 75% in the euthanasia rate!

 **Important Note:** This progress came during a decade in which the number of New Hampshire citizens increased by 11.4%. <sup>(8)</sup>



# Why a Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Program?

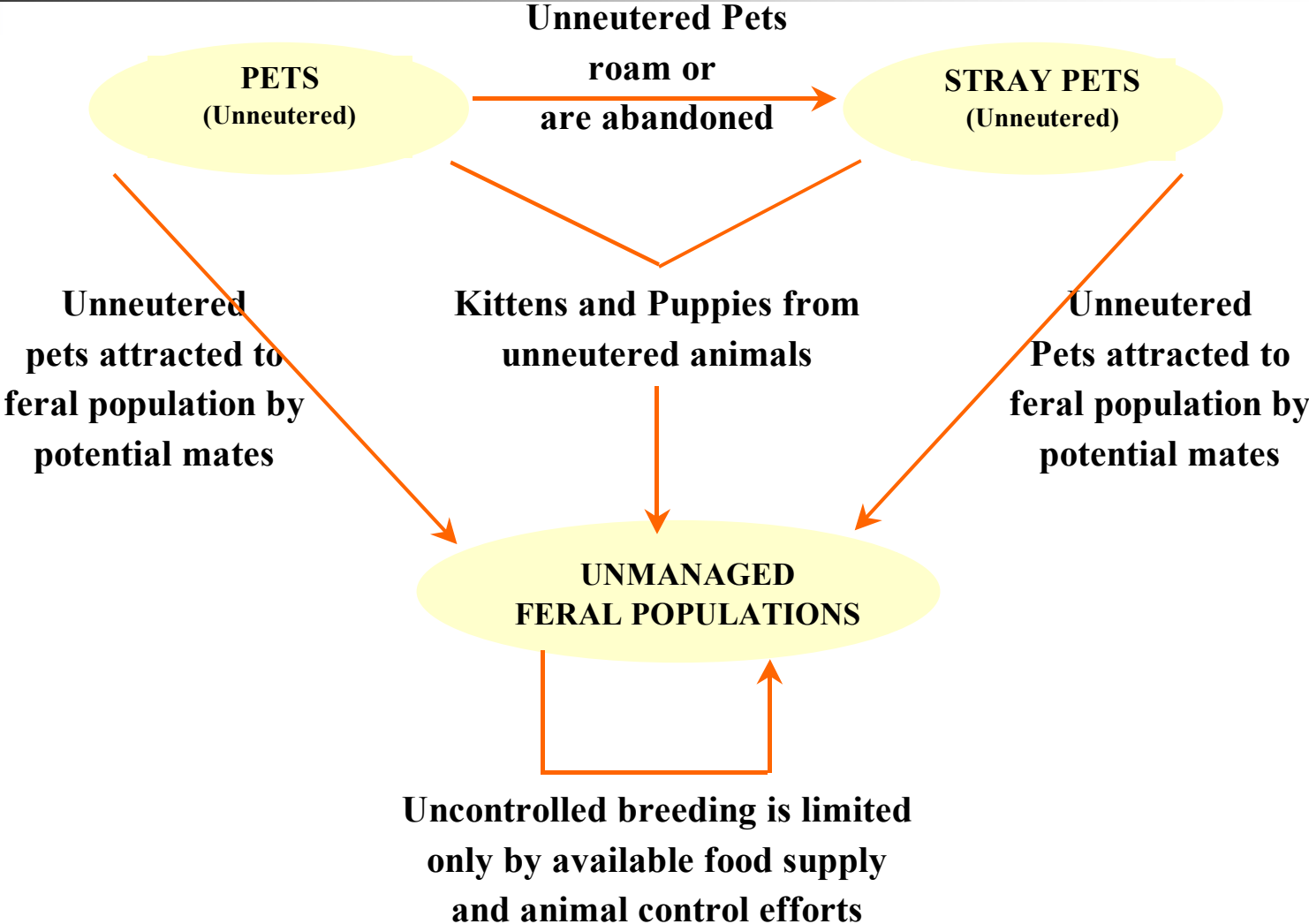
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## A County Success Story

**King's County, Washington** (Seattle, WA) launched a low-cost spay/neuter assistance program in 1991. “Had euthanasia statistics at the King County shelter kept pace with the human population growth, 101,106 animals would have been expected to have been euthanized between 1992 and 2000. During this same time period however, only 69,185 animals were euthanized and the lives of approximately 31,921 animals saved. In the decade since this policy has been implemented, euthanasia at the King County animal shelter should have been 46% higher than the actual numbers proved to be.”<sup>(9)</sup>

On a sheltering/euthanization cost basis of approximately \$105 per animal, this represents a savings to the county of approximately \$3.4 million. **Thus, for every \$1 spent, King's County taxpayers saved approximately \$3.40.**

# The Need to Break the Cycle! (10)





## The Need to Break the Cycle!, cont'd.

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- ❖ **More than three out of every five U.S. households own at least one pet.** <sup>(11)</sup>
- ❖ Americans care for more than 73 million cats and 68 million dogs. <sup>(12)</sup>
- ❖ **Studies indicate that 30-60% of unneutered cats will stray or go feral.** <sup>(13)</sup>
- ❖ Intact males (dogs and cats) roam in search of mates.
- ❖ Unspayed females (dogs and cats) also roam if they can smell an unneutered male nearby.



## The Need to Break the Cycle!, cont'd.

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In the search for mates, many animals simply stray too far from home and become lost. Frequently, unwanted kittens and puppies are abandoned because owners cannot afford them and are unable to find homes for them.

**To break this cycle, it is absolutely critical that pet cats and dogs are sterilized in order to:**

- a) reduce the likelihood of straying**
- b) prevent unwanted kittens and puppies which will also stray (if not already abandoned) and breed repeating the cycle over and over again.**



## Euthanization Does Not Work!

**If euthanization worked as a method of animal population control, the U.S. would not have approx. 60 million feral cats.**

### **The Example of Marion Island – Eradication Does Not Work**

Marion Island, southeast of South Africa is a small inhospitable island (12 miles x 8 miles). In 1949, a group of scientists left the island, leaving behind five unsterilized cats. By 1975 there were 2,500 cats on the island preying on ground-nesting seabirds. Deliberate infection with feline enteritis killed about 65% of the cats. The remaining 35% developed immunity and continued to breed. Jack Russell terrier dogs were used to flush out the remaining cats, and between 1986 and 1989 further cats were exterminated by hunting. At that time, it was determined that further poisoning was necessary. Poison that also killed the birds was used to eliminate the balance of the cat population. <sup>(14)</sup>



# Let's put our Tax Dollars to more Productive Use!!!

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**It took 16 years to eradicate 2,500 isolated cats from a small island with “rapid” methods of eradication that could not be used in populated areas. How can euthanization be successful as a method of animal control anywhere that new animals can move in and recolonize cleared areas?**

**We need to spend our tax dollars on proven methods of effective animal control.** The effectiveness of low-cost spay/neuter programs have been demonstrated in States, Counties and Municipalities across the country: New Hampshire, New Jersey, San Diego CA, Santa Clara CA, Sacramento, CA, Eugene OR, El Paso TX, Seattle WA – just to name a few. So many communities in the United States and around the world have a terrible animal control problem – we need to address it constructively now!



## Notes and Credits

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- 1) “Animal Control Management: A Guide for Local Governments,” International City/County Management Association, pub. #43008
- 2) Ibid.
- 3) Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association (JAVMA, Vol. 218, No. 11, 2001)
- 4) National Centers for Disease Control.
- 5) “Who Needs Low-Cost Neutering,” from ANIMAL PEOPLE, June 1994. <http://www.animalpeoplenews.org/Low-costNeut.html>
- 6) New Hampshire Federation of Humane Societies, 2001
- 7) “Animal Control Management: A Guide for Local Governments,” International City/County Management Association, pub. #43008
- 8) U.S. Census Bureau. <http://quickfacts.census.gov>





## Notes and Credits

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- 9) “Pet Overpopulation: The effectiveness of Municipal Spay & Neuter Programs,” Tamar Puckett, MPA.  
<http://paws.org/work/factsheet/advocacyfactsheets/spay3.html>
- 10) “Do Pets Contribute to the Feral Problem?” © 2000, Sarah Hartwell  
<http://www.messybeast.com/feralcycle.htm>
- 11) American Pet Products Manufacturers Association, *2000/2001 APPMA National Pet Owners Survey*.  
[http://www.appma.org/membership/survey\\_toc.asp](http://www.appma.org/membership/survey_toc.asp)
- 12) Ibid.
- 13) “Animal Control Management: A Guide for Local Governments,” International City/County Management Association, pub. #43008
- 14) “Feral Cats – Extermination is not the Answer,” © 1994, 1995, 2000, 2002, Sarah Hartwell. <http://www.messybeast.com/eradicat.htm>