

Spay and Neuter Solutions
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Welcome to the first issue of **Stitch in Time**, the newsletter for Spay and Neuter Solutions. We hope this will be the first of many such newsletters that will keep you and our many other friends up to date on our activities and progress in addressing the challenge of pet overpopulation in southern Arizona.

WHO WE ARE

Spay and Neuter Solutions was founded as a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization on July 1, 2003, to address the issue of unchecked reproduction among companion animals. Pet overpopulation is an issue of great concern to virtually every animal welfare organization, many of which are overwhelmed by the number of homeless or abused pets in our communities. The goal of Spay and Neuter Solutions is to help make Arizona a pioneer state that can soon claim “no more homeless animals.” To that end, in our first six months of operation we facilitated the spay/neutering of more than 160 companion animals which, in the long run, helped prohibit the birth of tens of thousands of dogs and cats.

We are a member of AWASA (Animal Welfare Alliance of Southern Arizona) and work closely with other animal welfare organizations, each of which has its own mission and goals. The sole focus of Spay and Neuter Solutions is in its name: we concentrate all of our efforts on spay and neuter issues. We **PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE** to defray the cost of spaying and neutering for individuals in need, and we **EDUCATE** pet owners about the importance of these procedures in preventing the birth of unwanted animals and in improving the quality of life for their pet.

Please visit our website at www.spayandneutersolutions.org to learn more about our mission.

WHAT WE’VE DONE SO FAR

In August 2003, Petco Foundation gave us a much-appreciated start with a \$1,000 grant. That money, along with generous donations from friends and supporters, financed operations for 43 cats and 21 dogs by the end of September 2003. Animal Birth Control of Tucson, a new animal clinic at the N.W. corner of Grant and Stone (4.W. Grant Rd. phone: 624-5005) provided low cost operations and shots. September marked our merger with Mary Phelan, founder of Feline Uprising. Mary has been helping feral colonies for 13 years. Our cooperative effort has resulted in operational cost savings for Mary and enriched our staff with a devoted, experienced, hard-working individual.

October 14, National Feral Cat Day, was a very active day for us. With the help of Mary Phelan we managed to trap, spay/neuter (and immunize), and return 48 feral cats. This means that although these cats will continue to live on the streets, they will not reproduce any more unwanted offspring or pass along diseases. Our first fundraising event took place at the Sunflower by Dell Web community on October 24, where we sold Christmas cards - designed by our volunteers – each of which featured the customer’s cherished companion pet. At the end of October American Airlines placed Spay and Neuter Solutions on its charity list. Donations from employees are deducted from their paycheck and deposited directly into our bank account.

November went fast in preparation for the holidays. In December we participated in the International Bazaar at the St. Michaels and All Angels Episcopal Church and a week later, in the 4th Avenue Street Fair (Coyote Wore Sideburns Hair Salon provided the space for us). On both of these occasions we raised funds by selling various items, all of which were donated by volunteers and supporters. Debbie Mitchell, author, donated her books, Fran French Gibbs, one of our most diligent volunteers, donated her self-designed Clown greeting cards, and Busy Paws supplied us with beautiful animal toys and accessories. We also raffled off donations from local businesses, including Starbucks Coffee, a \$100 Gift Certificate from Dobbs Honda, and our own free Spay and Neuter Certificate.

2004: OFF AND RUNNING

With an additional \$500 from Petco Foundation, Spay and Neuter Solutions financed “**Operation Stitch in Time**”, a free spay and neuter day on January 22, 2004, and launched the “**Win a Prize**” prevention program to encourage pet owners to have their animals spayed and neutered at the Animal Birth Control of Tucson before the spring mating season. Local businesses, including Mimis Café, Starbucks Coffee, Michelangelo Ristorante, Trader Joe’s, Lucciola, Busy Paws, and New York based Paw and Chick donated goods and services as prizes. Kimberly Matas, an Arizona Daily Star reporter, helped publicized both events.

Spay and Neuter Solutions maintains that if everyone who believes in preventing pet overpopulation can work together, we can make a difference in the lives of so many animals who depend on us. That’s why in February 2004, we invited all animal welfare organizations in Tucson to participate in the “**Pull Together, Win Together**” project, the aim of which is to finance two more free spay and neuter days before spring, when we typically see a tremendous increase in the number of kitten and puppy births. Thanks to the generosity of FAIR (Foundation for Animals in Risk) and other contributions, our first date under this project, is set for March 1, 2004 at Animal Birth Control of Tucson.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

You don’t have to be an animal welfare organization to participate in this project. Everyone who cares about pet overpopulation can make a difference by **CONTRIBUTING NOW! EVERY PENNY HELPS!!** Please make your check payable to **Spay and Neuter Solutions** and mail it to **P.O.Box 762, Cortaro, AZ 85652** or make your donation on our website, www.spayandneutersolutions.org via our secured PayPal account. If you would like to volunteer or donate supplies such as paper, postage, gift certificates, etc. please contact us at **520-247-6469**.

All of your donations are tax deductible!

Note: Because of funding practices, we cannot apply for grants until the end of our first fiscal year, June 30, 2004. Petco Foundation was the only one who granted money to us without an official financial statement (Form 990). Therefore, during our first year of operation we depend solely on donations and individual contributions.

PLEASE REMEMBER US IN YOUR WILL !



LOW COST SPAY AND NEUTER PROVIDERS IN TUCSON

Animal Birth Control of Tucson 4 W. Grant Rd. (SW corner of Grant & Stone) 520-624-5005	Humane Society Spay and Neuter Clinic 3450 N. Kelvin Blvd. 520-881-0321	Grant Road Small Animal Hospital 1675 W. Grant Rd. (Cross Sts: Grant & Dragoon) 520-623-3830	Crafty Cats Volunteer hotline 520-321-3703 ext. 129
Animal Crusaders Provides spay & neuter certificates (takes about 3 weeks to process) 520-327-7427	PAL-SAL Prevent a litter– save a life Spay & Neuter for \$5.00 . Program of Humane Society 520-881-0321	Good Samaritans For those who have low income, food stamps, AHCCCS , etc. 325-1055	Spay / Neuter Hotline of Pima County Program of the Animal Defense League of AZ 520-624-7729

PLEASE BE A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER !