



# Stitch in Time

The Newsletter of Spay and Neuter Solutions, Inc.  
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## WISHBONE'S CORNER



**WELCOME** to "Stitch in Time," the newsletter for Spay and Neuter Solutions! We hope to keep you and our many other friends updated on our activities and our progress in addressing the challenge of pet overpopulation in southern Arizona.

### For Those of You Who Don't Know Who We Are...

Spay and Neuter Solutions was founded as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization on July 1, 2003. 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." We 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 are dedicated to **PREVENTION** and **EDUCATION**. We provide for free and low-cost spay/neuter surgeries for companion animals in our community. We have negotiated discounted rates with participating vet clinics, and we pay all or part of this cost, depending on the need of the client. We also educate pet owners about the importance of spay/neuter in preventing the birth of unwanted animals and in improving the quality of life for their pets. All donations are used to promote and implement our programs and services. Please visit [www.spayandneutersolutions.org](http://www.spayandneutersolutions.org) to learn more about our mission.

### OUR TEAM

Wishbone, Our Mascot  
Katie Powers, President/Treasurer  
Corey Ames, Vice-President  
Ed Powers, Secretary  
Cynthia Taylor, Program Director  
Sashi Lazar, Webmaster

### CONTACT US

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*Serving animals and  
the people who love them*



*<< A scared and timid Violet covered around people on the day of her capture. After some love and TLC, her true self came out, and she enjoys playing with other dogs and cuddling with people*



## Success Stories

Violet had been running around the Arroyo Chico neighborhood in Tucson for several weeks, being sighted from time to time around yards and dumpsters looking for food and water. She sought out the company of humans but was always a bit too scared to let them touch her when approached.

A woman named Sheila, always looking out for stray animals in her neighborhood, enlisted the support of several friends and neighbors to try to help this homeless dog. Sheila offered a \$5 reward to the kids in the neighborhood for any sightings of the dog, and she put out food to try to lure the dog into her fenced front yard.

After several very close but failed attempts to catch the dog, Sheila finally turned to a professional service for help. The dog was dubbed "Violet" for her purple tongue, a sure sign that she was likely part chow mixed in with her black lab characteristics.

Neither of the local animal shelters was a good choice for Violet, since black dogs are among the most commonly abandoned and least adopted animals in the shelter environment. So Sheila decided to take on the responsibility of helping Violet herself. She found another woman named Linsey who agreed to provide temporary foster care for Violet until a permanent home could be found.

Once Violet was safely off the streets, she was ready to be seen by a vet. She was brought in for a thorough health exam and vaccina-

tions. With a clean bill of health, Violet's caregivers turned to Spay and Neuter Solutions for assistance with getting Violet spayed -- and just in time, because at about 5 months of age, Violet was already showing signs of going into her first heat (yet another case supporting early-age spay/neuter!).

After Violet recovered from her spay surgery, Linsey found a wonderful home for her with one of her best friends. Now renamed Roxie, this lucky dog has a lot of people to thank for her new life -- including Spay and Neuter Solutions for helping with her spay surgery!

Violet's story proves that one person can indeed make a difference in the life of a homeless animal, and that, by working together, we can reduce pet homelessness and overpopulation in our community. Even if you can't get involved with direct animal care, you can help homeless animals by supporting Spay and Neuter Solutions with a generous donation. Your contribution will help animals and the people who love them. Thank you!

**You can be a driving force  
in the battle against  
pet overpopulation!**



**Pet-friendly license plate  
funds spay/neuter in Arizona**  
[www.spayandneutersolutions.org](http://www.spayandneutersolutions.org)

## Our Recent Accomplishments

The new year began with a flurry of spay/neuter activities to hopefully stem the tide of the annual spring kitten and puppy season.

To implement these activities, we are proud to have received two important grants: \$4,000 from the Arizona Companion Animal Spay and Neuter Committee (proceeds from the pet-friendly license plates) and \$10,000 from PetSmart Charities.

We helped to spay/neuter 66 animals on January 27 for our "Start the New Year Off Right" promotion, held at both locations of Animal Birth Control of Tucson. We also ordered 15 additional humane traps to loan out to people trying to catch feral cats to bring in for spay/neuter.

On February 10, our "Do It For Love" promotion at Eastside Spay & Neuter Pet Clinic helped 31 people to

spay/neuter their dogs and cats. Also in February, we attended the Arizona Animal Fair and sold low-cost spay/neuter certificates for \$5 for cats and \$10 for dogs.

We also started selling

our new T-shirts, with the slogan "Spay & Neuter Your Pets -- And Your Weird Friends and Relatives." These are very popular! If you're interested in purchasing one or more T-shirts, they are on sale at Sit! Stay! Play! doggie daycare at 2003 E. 14th St. Their phone number is 882-7529.

Throughout the spring, we facilitated 119 spay/neuter surger-



ies with our "Sexless in Tucson" promotion.

In March, we sold spay/neuter certificates and T-shirts at the 51st Annual Founder's Day in Marana. We also welcomed new volunteer Susan Shuman-

Platte, who is helping out on our fundraising committee.

On April 21, some of our volunteers participated in the Sunflower Community Garage Sale in Marana. We raised \$440. Thanks Angie, Betty, Marcia, Corey and Joyce!

Also this spring, we are collaborating with the Spay/Neuter Hotline of Pima County, a project of the Animal Defense League of Arizona (ADLA). We are making referrals and issuing spay/neuter certificates to help spend \$12,500 that organization received in grants for spay/neuter in Pima County.



## Spay/Neuter for Older Animals

Keeping unwanted litters from being born and adding to the pet overpopulation problem is the most obvious and often the most urgent reason to spay and neuter dogs and cats. But many people are not aware of the potentially life-saving health benefits of spaying or neutering senior pets.



Female pets can become pregnant even at an advanced age, and giving birth can have devastating health consequences for the mother as well as the pups. A dog may be considered "senior" as young as 7 years old, or 12 years for cats.

Spaying and neutering can increase lifespan, reduce the risk of cancer and tumors, life-threatening infections, and prevent complications from diabetes, epilepsy, or demodectic mange.

In addition to the health benefits, there are behavioral benefits as well. Altered animals are less likely to become aggressive or to bite. And neutering a male pet makes him less likely to run away, mark his

territory with urine, or get into neighborhood fights. It is estimated that 80% of all pets hit by cars are males that have not been neutered and are looking for a mate. Just because the pet is older, does not mean he will not still try to breed.

Your senior pet will not become fat or lazy because she has been spayed or he has been neutered. Like all pets, senior animals need regular exercise and appropriate meals. Senior pets require fewer calories as they age and become less active than they were as young animals. If you walk your senior dog every day and reserve some time for active play, she will not gain weight or lose her zest for life. If your senior dog has arthritis or other health conditions that make active play difficult, take several short walks a day to keep your older dog active and healthy.

Does spay/neuter surgery present more risks to older pets? All surgical procedures involve some risk. However, most senior animals can be safely spayed or neutered. Age alone should not be used to rule out surgery. Your vet may choose to run some pre-surgery blood tests to assess the animal's overall health and suitability for surgery. In addition, a special kind of anesthesia for older animals may be used.

Spay and Neuter Solutions does work with several local vets who are experienced at spay and neuter of older animals. If you or someone you know has an unaltered older pet, contact us for more information.

## How to Support Spay and Neuter



► **A Dollar in the Donation Envelope.** If we could ask everybody who receives this issue of the newsletter to put at least \$1 into the envelope and send it back to us, it wouldn't break anybody's budget AND we would be able to spay and neuter approximately 35 more animals this summer!

► **Network for Good.** If you would like to make a **tax-deductible donation** with your credit card, it's easy by visiting the site [www.networkforgood.com](http://www.networkforgood.com) or by using our secured PayPal link from our website. Checks may be made payable to Spay and Neuter Solutions. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 762, Cortaro, AZ 85652.

