

2008 Spay/Neuter Totals are In!

Just in time for the yearly national and local celebration of SpayUSA during the month of February, the Community Pet Center has gathered the statistics summarizing our activities on behalf of the pets in Rutherford County and their owners who, in many cases, cannot afford to have their pets sterilized to avoid unwanted litters of puppies and kittens.

Last week in the editorial section of the Daily Courier a county resident wrote about the need for pet sterilization in order to control breeding and to reduce animal control intake and destruction. This woman, and so many others, are dissatisfied and heartbroken with the status quo solution of killing domestic animals to control the population when sterilizing them before they have the opportunity to breed randomly is a much more sensible and proactive solution. In the end, or not too far down the road, spending our tax dollars to promote spaying and neutering of our pets will save money because the funds required to pick up, house and destroy so many animals will be sharply reduced. It just requires some foresight to make these projections.

In 2007 and again in 2008, the Community Pet Center facilitated the sterilization of 700 dogs and cats owned by Rutherford County residents. Following is a breakdown of how our spay/neuter funds—from both grant and community donations—was spent in 2008. Note that to handle the volume of surgeries required to make a dent in this problem we relied on several resources: local veterinary clinics as well as clinics sponsored by the Spartanburg Humane Society and Animal Allies of Spartanburg. We wish to extend our thanks to everyone who has supported our efforts to make a difference.

The Community Pet Center 2008 Spay/Neuter Assistance Summary

January 2009

Animal Allies Public Surgeries:	400
SHS Male Cat Surgeries:	30
Local Clinic Surgeries:	<u>269</u>
TOTAL:	<u>699</u>

Clinics held at Animal Allies & Spartanburg Humane Society 22

Included in the totals above in addition to the financial assistance surgeries, The Community Pet Center transported 129 animals to the Animal Allies Spay/Neuter Clinic in Spartanburg, SC on behalf of residents who didn't qualify for financial assistance but wanted to take advantage of favorable prices available through the clinic.

Included in the above total were 177 surgeries done in the month of December alone during our December Blitz. Our volunteers are more committed than ever to saving lives by uniting in our efforts to get as many resident pets sterilized as possible. Please join us in reaching our goal of not having to kill a single adoptable pet because of overcrowding at the Animal Control facility or because there is no place for it to go. The farther down we can push the numbers of animals coming into the Animal Control Program by having our pets sterilized, the closer we will come to making this goal a reality.

If you need help fixing your pet, please call the spay/neuter hotline at 287-9761 or The Community Pet Center at 287 – 7738. We are here to help.

You can show your support by participating in the SpayUSA celebration. You can enter a special national photo contest which will return spay/neuter funding to Rutherford County. The more photos we submit the better the end result (\$\$\$\$) will be for spay/neuter.

Enter the Spay Day Online Pet Photo Contest! Visit www.humanesociety.org/spayday by Feb. 27.