



People for Animals
401 Hillside Avenue
Hillside, NJ 07205
www.pfaonline.org
973-282-0890

Newsletter Summer 2011

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Union, NJ
Permit 101

This issue: SPAY BY FIVE!!!

Most pet owners don't know that dogs and cats can often reproduce by the time they reach 5 months of age. They also have no idea that much of the pet overpopulation problem is caused by accidental first litters. So many pet owners want to have their pets altered but do not know the facts—please help us make sure everyone knows to spay or neuter at the right age—**BEFORE 5 MONTHS, BEFORE they make the problem worse!**



Go ahead, pick one.

Each year just under 50% of cats who enter NJ shelters are put down.

Are they your cat's kittens?

Spay or neuter your cat by the age of FIVE MONTHS to be sure they're not.

Call 877-SPAYNJ1 or visit spaynj.org for low-cost options near you

People for Animals: Ending Pet Overpopulation

By Diane O'Donnell

It was the best day I've had since starting animal rescue over 10 years ago. I actually cried for joy, such an alien feeling in this industry where in order to function we've learned not to waste energy on emotion that is better spent on some lifesaving task. I would like to share with you why.

Our key clinic managers recently attended the first ever Spay Neuter Industry Professionals (SNIP) conference—2 days of information and networking about high-volume low-cost spay/neuter clinics. Over 800 people from across the country attended. Seminars for vets, vet technicians, and management were offered on every subject from the latest surgical techniques to strategies for garnering support of feral cat spay/neuter initiatives. We were pleased to learn that our standard operating procedures, while they were developed independently, nonetheless matched quite closely with the progressive thinking of the industry. We came away with many ideas for offering additional services and making our current services more efficient.

What we instinctively knew, and what was at long last proven by the amazing statistics presented at the conference, is that spay/neuter is ridiculously effective. It works. Graph after graph of the spay/neuter rate in an area going up, and the euthanasia rate falling. When spay/neuter is reduced through lack of funding, euthanasia goes up. Cause and effect—DIRECTLY related. One clinic reduced their area's euthanasia by 75%. Given these overwhelming statistics, the largest funders of animal welfare are now aggressively supporting the establishment of new clinics and programs around the country.

As I sat for the opening presentation, overwhelmed by staff photo after staff photo— of over 90 new high-volume clinics opened in the last 5 years - it hit me between the eyes that ***if the current trend continues I may actually live long enough to see the end of overpopulation and the end of the accompanying mass euthanasia.*** Spay/Neuter is a movement gaining momentum, and PFA is proud to be at the front of it with **our surgery volume matching some of the largest clinics in the country!**

Together with hundreds of others, I celebrated the fact that spay/neuter was at long last becoming the recognized solution to pet overpopulation. I was not the only one crying. ***If we all keep supporting spay/neuter, educate and encourage everyone we know to have their animals spayed and neutered earlier, we'll ALL see the end of senseless euthanasia a whole lot sooner.***

What a joyful day that will be.

Cinco de Mayo

PFA is always looking for new ways to get people to spay/neuter. This past May, our clinic celebrated Cinco de Mayo with discount surgery for Mexican breeds! Small dogs need spay/neuter too!



Studies show:

- 38% of people surveyed think between 250,000 and 500,000 animals in US shelters are euthanized annually. The real number is closer to 4 MILLION.
- 16% of pet owners admit that their pets have had at least one litter—54% of those say it was an accident. We need to reduce this rate to have a true effect. But we're closer than we've ever been.
- 42% of people think that 6 months is the best age to spay or neuter their pet. Unfortunately, this age is often too late to prevent an accidental first litter, a main contributor to pet overpopulation. Spread the word: SPAY BY FIVE (months)!!
- 68% of people spay or neuter to prevent unwanted litters (as opposed to other reasons such as health or to prevent behavioral problems)
- Reasons people do not spay/neuter: 34% think their pet is too young, 31% think it is too expensive, 24% say they just haven't gotten around to it and the rest say there is no need.
- 18 to 34 year olds are least likely to spay/neuter on time. They are also less educated about the link between breeding, overpopulation and euthanasia.



Walk for Animals—THANK YOU!!

This year's dog walk raised thousands of dollars for our rescue and clinic programs! Several of our dogs for adoption attended, and Talli (grey pit mix below pictured with PFA board member Kristina Paris) was adopted!



Also pictured are Jane Guillaume, our clinic director, and Anna Liccardi, our certified dog trainer who conducted the Canine Good Citizen certification tests at the event. On behalf of all the animals PFA helps every year, thank you to all our volunteers and especially to all who came out to support us!!

YES! I want to be part of the solution!

**Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution to support PFA's programs and services.
Or donate online at www.pfaonline.org!**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Return to: People for Animals, 401 Hillside Ave, Hillside, NJ 07205

Casino Night Saturday, Nov 5, 2011!



People for Animals will be holding a Casino Night on Nov 5, 2011. Come join us, for BlackJack, Roulette, Craps, Poker, Money Wheel, and have a great time while supporting pro-

grams for homeless animals!

Can't make it to the event? You can still sponsor a table or donate a prize!



The event will be held at the VFW, 600 Washington St, Manville, NJ. Doors open & buffet starts at 6pm, games begin at 7pm, prize drawing 10:30pm.

See our website pfaonline.org for more information, to pre-register or to become a sponsor!



Happy Talli Tail!



Talli, relaxing on his new orange pillow in his new home. A little birdie told us the cat likes him too!

Innovative ways to help

People for Animals counts on our supporters to continue our quest to end pet overpopulation.

Join us, and help us by donating to our innovative, highly effective programs. As spay/neuter climbs, euthanasia falls. It's what we all want, and while it may not be glamorous it is certainly effective.

See the page www.pfaonline/help/donate for more information on how to donate a dog bed, donate your used car, planned giving, bequests, living wills, life insurance, remainder trusts, transfer on death (TOD) accounts, and more! Planning now will assure that your resources are used for the things you care about.

You can have your lawyer or financial planner contact us for any further information that they may need.

Mercer Clinic Update



In May, ground was broken to start the renovations of our new Mercer County clinic. Our Hillside clinic now performs 18,000 spay/neuter surgeries per year. The Mercer facility will perform an additional 12,000. These numbers equal the current annual surgeries that the ASPCA performs in New York City. We still have quite a bit of fundraising to do in order to finish the new facility. With your continued support we will soon be equal to the largest spay/neuter programs in the country, and that's GREAT news for NJ pets!

Tricky Tray Items Needed!

People for Animals Tricky Tray held in November netted over \$10,000 to support our clinic and programs! Won't you support our next event by donating new, unused items? Drop off is at our clinic in Hillside or at any Bridgewater adoption day (see our website pfaonline.org for specific dates/times).