



# NEWSLETTER

August 2024

Every year nearly a million cats and dogs are euthanized at our nation's shelters. Millions more homeless and abandoned animals die from starvation, disease, predators or are killed on our highways. Despite the best efforts of rescue groups and adoption/foster programs, there are simply not enough good homes to accommodate all the cats and dogs born every year. The only long-term solution to this problem is PREVENTION through spay and neuter. Decreasing the number of unwanted, unplanned litters born every year, would decrease the number of innocent animals that often face a death sentence.

The White County Humane Society, whose mission is to "end pet overpopulation in our community, via an aggressive spay/neuter assistance program" sponsors a Spay/Neuter Assistance Program, available to residents of White and Van Buren Counties. For those who qualify for financial assistance, we help pay the cost of spay/neuter surgery. Since our program began in Nov 2006, we've funded 11,690 surgeries. We work with three area low-cost clinics and in some cases with local vet clinics. Twice each month we sponsor transports to low cost clinics in Lebanon and Dunlap. Clients drop their pets at the White County Library, pay a small fee, and we transport them to and from the clinic. For those that prefer to transport their own pets, we work with the Major Mike Shipley Memorial S/N Clinic in Cookeville, and as stated above also work with area vet clinics. Assistance is just a phone call away...please call Monica at 931-935-8377 to learn more about our program, reserve a spot on one of our transports or to make arrangements to receive assistance having your pet fixed at a local clinic.

PLEASE...if you make the decision to give a homeless cat or dog a home, call us immediately. The waiting list for appointments is long...especially for large breed dogs. Be proactive and start making plans to have your new family member spayed or neutered...sooner rather than later.

Controlling pet overpopulation is the number one reason to spay or neuter your pet. But there are other benefits as well. Spaying and neutering helps prevent medical and behavior problems in pets. In females it prevents uterine infections and breast cancer, especially if done before their first heat cycle. In males it prevents testicular cancer, especially if done before six months of age. Female cats and dogs will try to seek out a mate when in heat. Males will do anything to escape if a female in heat is in the area. Spaying and neutering prevents this desire to roam, and the likelihood that a pet may be injured or lost while seeking out a partner. Neutering prevents spraying or marking of territory in males. It also limits aggressive behavior. Spaying or neutering your pet will NOT make him or her fat. Lack of exercise and overfeeding are what makes pets fat.

Finally, if you plan to bring a new pet into your home, stop by the White County Animal Shelter and see the many beautiful, healthy dogs looking for a forever home. If it's a cat you want, PetSmart sponsors adoption events every weekend. Many of the cats available for adoption are from White County, and all are fully vetted. ADOPT DON'T SHOP!!

Written by: Monica Jicha