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<http://www.mnspayneuter.org>

Dear Animal Friend:

We know you're probably tired of fundraising letters. To be honest, we don't like them either. But we find ourselves in a critical position at this time. Several of our long-standing funding sources for projects have dried up – and we have a waiting list of over 200 animals (148 cats and 56 dogs) and not enough funds to help these animals.



We provide spaying and neutering to low-income neighborhoods because unaltered companion animals in these neighborhoods are a significant source of unwanted litters and residents in these neighborhoods are generally not helped by already overburdened humane agencies and rescue groups. Rather than debate the issue of whether persons who cannot afford to spay/neuter their companion animals should have these animals, we simply acknowledge that the human-animal bond is very strong and people will choose to bring animals into their families regardless of financial circumstances.

This summer has been an especially difficult one for cats. While the intake numbers for dogs are declining at local shelters, the cat population is exploding, with literally thousands of our feline friends being euthanized for lack of homes just in the Twin Cities metro area alone.

To date, we have spayed and neutered 755 cats and dogs. Each pair of unsterilized cats or dogs can produce an average of 3 to 4 offspring per litter. *This means that the 755 cats and dogs that we have sterilized would have resulted in over 2,200 additional unwanted animals in the community in just the first generation of uncontrolled breeding!*



Thankfully, some local humane societies and rescue groups are starting to realize the overpopulation problem needs to be solved at the source. However, for most of these groups, 30% of their clients are "no shows" and do not go through with the spaying and neutering. We take the time to follow up with each client personally and our percentage of no shows is only 5 to 10% per project.

We deal with the clients that other groups can't seem to reach – and these clients have the highest impact on the number of cats and dogs surrendered to metro area shelters and rescue groups. Some of the sobering facts of life about our clients – the majority of our clients have never been to a vet – of the surgeries completed to date, 20% of the females were pregnant – many of our clients had multiple animals, both males and females, creating a high incidence of uncontrolled breeding.

A 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to provide veterinary and educational services regarding companion dogs and cats in low-income neighborhoods within the seven county Metro area.

Our most recent project at in October targeted the cat overpopulation crisis by not only spaying and neutering cats from low-income families, but also by helping the many groups that rescue stray cats, socialize them as needed, and adopt them into good homes. We spayed and neutered 55 cats; 27 cats from low-income families and 28 cats from rescue groups such as St. Francis of Assisi Animal Rescue, Stray Feral Rescue, Feline Rescue, and SCRAM. Two of the cats we helped in this project are pictured to the right. With your help we can conduct a similar project in March before the kitten season starts.



Besides spay/neuter surgeries, vaccinations, and microchip IDs, we provide clients with information about animal health, care, and behavior, improving the animals' quality of life and veterinary care. By partnering with local veterinarians, we encourage project participants to establish an on-going relationship with these veterinarians.

We are asking for your financial support to help us continue our efforts on behalf of these animals. **Your support has a very real and important impact on the lives of the people and animals that MSNP serves.**



With the help of caring, committed individuals like you, we can continue conducting projects to spay and neuter companion animals, including the over 200 animals already on our waiting list.

Please take a moment to make as generous a donation as you can. **MSNP makes every cent of your donation count. We are an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff – not a penny goes towards salary expenses – and your donation is tax deductible.** Please send your donation today and thank you for all you do every day for animals.

Sincerely,

*All the Minnesota Spay/Neuter Project Volunteers*

**P.S. Every dollar you give will help save a cat or dog from having several unwanted litters – and those litters from being abandoned on the street or killed for lack a good home.**

#### **Some Comments from Project Participants**

"I thank God for this project! Thank you so much for paying for our cat to get neutered, chipped, and have his shots. We could not have done it without your help. We love animals, but I lost my job and was not able to pay for these services. When I am able to send money to help others that some day may be in my spot, I will. Thank you again for helping my family."

"Thank you so much for a service I couldn't afford. My dog is my companion and now I know she will not have an unwanted pregnancy again."

"I appreciate the help you give to people who love their animal family members to be able to help make sure that they can keep their babies from having more babies and creating a big baby-making mess. Especially, if you're unable financially to stop that from happening..."