



# Minnesota Spay/Neuter Project

P.O. Box 2067, Minneapolis, MN 55402, 952-996-9292  
e-mail: [minnesotaspayneuterproject@yahoo.com](mailto:minnesotaspayneuterproject@yahoo.com) <http://mnsPAYneuter.org>

## *We Do Better When We Know Better*



.It's always important in every journey to stop occasionally to reflect on where we've been, how we got here and what lies ahead. We've made great strides in animal welfare over the years and experienced much valuable learning that can be effectively apply to our future efforts. However, learning is like rowing upstream . . . it must be a continuous process or we will fall back. Let's continue to look for opportunities to "do better" and make a difference in the lives of many animals.

Despite the best of intentions, we've sometimes used ineffective approaches and practices. Fortunately, we've learned to do a better job of protecting and serving the pet population. Here's what we've

learned:

### **Prevention of unwanted litters is critical to reducing pet overpopulation. That is why Minnesota Spay/Neuter Project was started. These are the ways that work.**

#### Educating the public about spay/neuter.

We know that education has a powerful effect on the numbers of pets sterilized. As the number of spay/neuters increase, the number of intakes and euthanasias decreases..

We know that people care about their animals and are concerned that they get good care. The most effective spay/neuter campaigns educate on the reality of overpopulation and euthanasia and focus on the positive impact a pet owner's decision to sterilize their pet can make—not only for the health and well being of their own pet for many other pets as well..

#### Focused and continuous spay/neuter programs.

We've learned the most effective ways to address the feral cat and dog overpopulation problem. It isn't ignoring the problem. It isn't feeding bans. It isn't trapping and removing them. These don't work. All these methods have resulted in creating a burden on animal control and welfare and public health resources. We can make a very real and positive impact on feral cat overpopulation through a program of Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR). Through TNR, members of a feral colony are humanely trapped, neutered, vaccinated and returned to their original site. This approach, which both effectively reduces the number of feral cats through sterilization and lowers the incidence of disease, has been used in a number of cities around the country with very positive long-term results.

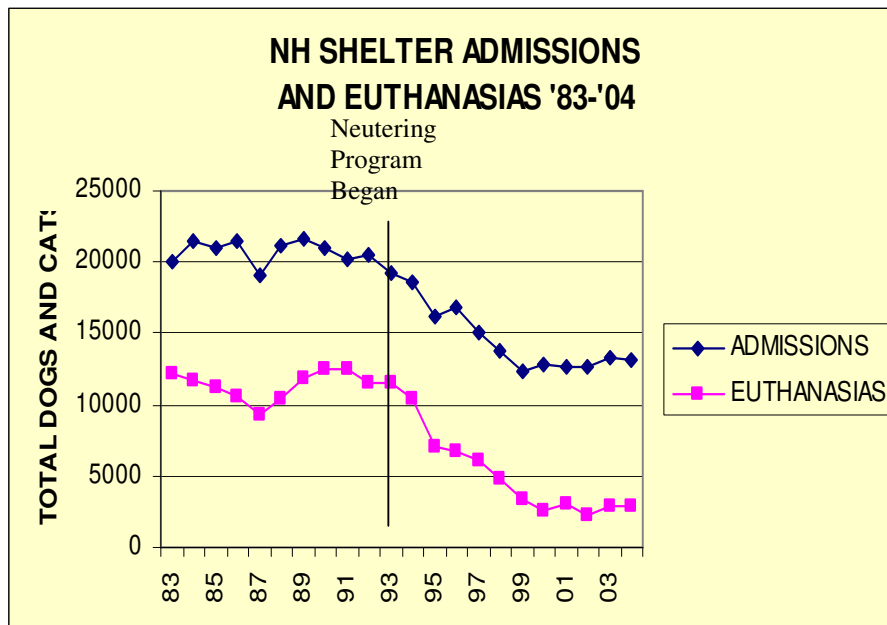
#### Working together and across animal welfare organizations.

While adoption and sheltering are very important efforts, they alone cannot solve the pet overpopulation problem. The reproductive capacity of unaltered dogs and cats vastly exceeds even the most optimistic adoption rates in the United States and there is a limit to how many shelters we can build. Prevention efforts such as education, sterilization at adoption and spay/neuter programs are the key to success.

#### Making pet overpopulation a community effort.

While many agencies have worked diligently on their own and made some progress, the reality is that pet overpopulation is a costly, large-scale public problem. Government and animal welfare groups spend huge amounts of money but the programs are ineffective. State wide legislation and funding models have shown that focusing legislation and funding on spay/neuter reduce the

number of animals coming into shelters much more rapidly, effectively and humanely. This graph shows the impact on Intake and Euthanasia rates when the statewide Spay/Neuter Program introduced in New Hampshire.



What has Minnesota Spay/Neuter Project been doing?

We're collaborating with Pet Haven in their Outreach Program to promote spay/neuter

We've now sterilized 1179 dogs and cats – 79 dogs and 210 cats in 2008

We've helped financially challenged owners sterilize their dogs and cats – 79 dogs and 127 cats in 2008

We've worked with other rescue groups, survivorsRus, Feline Rescue, and Cans for Sam to sterilize outdoor cat colonies and, due to Minnesota's harsh winters, socialize and adopt them or find friendly farm homes for them – 70 cats in 2008

Whose helping us with this important work?

All our supporters provide the funding for spay/neuter. These include individual contributors like you, grants from Chuck and Don's Pins for Pets, Petco Foundation, and Feline Rescue  
 Volunteers do the contacting, scheduling and organizing of the spay/neuter surgeries  
 Veterinarians and tech staff perform the surgeries and administer vaccinations and microchips

We've done some significant work toward ending euthanasia to control animal population but can we do more?

Yes we can, with your help and continued support. It is only since the 1970's that spay/neuter became the focus for resolving the numbers of animals killed. Since then, the numbers throughout the US have come down dramatically.

We know spay/neuter works and that is why it is urgent that we continue our efforts  
 Please complete the enclosed card and support us in the way that works best for you.

Thank You from all us:

Board Members: Charlotte Cozzetto, Heather Cummings, Tracy LaChance, Paula McGranahan, Frieda Wilson

Volunteers: Nina Buzzell, Sonya Henning, Bonnie Randall-Hanson, Melanie Hill, Dave Sanborn, Ann Thomas, Amanda Thompson