

Chuck & Don's
PET FOOD OUTLET

Bowl for the Fix

The Minnesota Spay/Neuter Project (MSNP) was selected by Chuck and Don's to be the sole recipient of the 2009 Pins for Pets bowling fundraiser.

Chuck and Don's, with the help of Art Farm Advertising and McMillen Advertising and Design, created Pins for Pets in 2008 to reduce pet overpopulation. Chuck and Don's believes the best way to end pet overpopulation and reduce the number of animals entering shelters is to prevent unwanted litters. In 2008, MSNP was one of several local organizations to receive a grant from the event.

"The second annual Pins for Pets raised over \$34,000 to help MSNP spay and neuter hundreds of cats and dogs."

In 2009, Chuck and Don's held their Second Annual Pins for Pets event and selected MSNP as the sole beneficiary. Dana Andresen, Director of Operations said they chose MSNP because of what we have accomplished with our small but dedicated volunteer team. Chuck and Don's wanted to work with someone who was making a difference in the lives of animals **right now**.

At the Pins for Pets fundraising event, there were 165 bowlers. Bowlers, their donors, and other contributors raised nearly \$34,000!

With these funds, MSNP will:



Katie K9, Dana Andresen, Ian Punnett from FM 107.1, and Chuck Anderson pose for the cameras at the annual Pins for Pets bowling event.

- continue our ongoing partnership with Pet Haven's Spay Neuter initiative. The Pet Haven and MSNP partnership subsidizes spay or neuter surgeries for dogs and cats based on the income levels of their owners. We expect that this partnership will enable us to spay or neuter, microchip, and provide rabies and distemper vaccinations for at least 40 animals. For more information visit the Pet Haven web site.

<http://www.pethavenmn.org/links-information.php>

- partner with rescue groups who utilize a foster network, to spay or neuter cats that will be adopted out.
- hold at least two "Spay Day" events for the animals of qualifying households. We are able to spay or neuter over 100 cats during each event. Spay Days are held at private veterinary

facilities. We would love to do more events but are in need of additional veterinarian partnerships.

- continue educational outreach.

Thank you so much to Chuck and Don's and to the bowlers and others who donated goods and services.



About the Minnesota Spay/Neuter Project

The Minnesota Spay/Neuter Project is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization organized exclusively for charitable, scientific and educational purposes. More specifically, we educate the general public about the benefits of spaying and neutering companion animals and in an effort to end pet overpopulation and suffering, we provide to qualifying households free sterilization, microchip, and vaccinations against distemper and rabies.

Altered States

Community-wide programs are reducing shelter intake and euthanization rates.

by Carol Schmidt

Each year, millions of homeless animals are euthanized. Others die from starvation, disease, roadside accidents or predators. What feels like an overwhelming issue prompts some to accept defeat, but thanks to countless dedicated individuals, many spay/neuter programs exist and more are being set up across the country.

Who's doing what?

Numerous states, including Arkansas, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, and New Jersey have legislated statewide spay/neuter programs. Though program specifics and funding differ across states, their shared goal is to ensure that those requiring assistance with altering their pets are able to get the help they need. (DE H.B. 425, NW H.B. 437)

In Washington state, legislation has been introduced which will fund a statewide companion animal spay-and-neuter assistance program for low-income pet owners. If the bill passes, pet food distributors will be charged a companion animal spay/neuter fee of \$57.50/ton of food distributed. In Alabama, income from the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association's sale of spay/neuter car tags now subsidizes the cost of surgeries for the pets of Medicaid recipients. Arizona, Massachusetts, and New York offer specialty license plates for sale, where portions of the proceeds are directed to fund spay and neuter services for dogs and cats through grants.

Illinois and California have laws requiring dogs and cats leaving shelters and rescue groups to be spayed or neutered prior to or soon after adoption. (IL H.B.4036, CA H.B. 30503) Pennsylvania and New Jersey have similar legislation pending. (PA S.B. 560, NJ S. 1694). Other creative methods for encouraging



Some states use special license plates to help fund spay & neuter services for dogs & cats.

alterations are also being considered. New Jersey has a pending bill which will establish a voluntary gross income tax check-off donation for residents to support low-income and shelter-adoption spaying and neutering programs and would grant continuing education credits to veterinarians who provide free spay or neuter services to qualifying families. (NJ A. 3655). The District of Columbia and New York City have instituted pet licensing laws which charge substantially higher fees for unaltered pets to promote spay/neutering. (DC-Code 6-1004)

Shelters and other animal welfare non-profits are also promoting pet spay/neuter through various programs. An Oregon shelter began charging owners \$500 for the return of their lost pets if the animal was not spayed or neutered. Non-profits have set up statewide referral

programs in the states of Alabama, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin. Residents are referred to participating spay and neuter surgery providers. These providers include private veterinarians and veterinary practices, high volume spay/neuter clinics, animal care and control agencies, and nonprofit organizations that perform low-cost spay and neuter surgeries on companion animals. Many also offer their services to organizations focusing on trap-neuter-release (TNR) of feral or free-roaming cats. Non-profits in Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas and Georgia supplement their referral service with subsidies to qualifying households by way of vouchers/certificates.

Why are these laws and initiatives important?

Studies have shown that low-income households relinquish a greater percentage of pets to shelters. It is unfair to assume that low-income households do not want what's best for their pets, but they often find they cannot afford the cost of surgery. Providing low-cost spay/neuter options to qualifying families reduces unwanted births, shelter surrenders, and euthanasia; it also decreases costs to tax-supported city and county animal shelters, along with non-profit animal rescue organizations.

These laws and initiatives can also improve the lives of pets that might otherwise not be spayed or neutered by eliminating certain cancers and prostate disease, as well as decreasing behavioral problems such as aggression and spraying which ultimately translates into fewer pets being relinquished to shelters. In addition, altered animals roam less and

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are therefore less likely to be picked up by animal control officers, saving taxpayer money.

Statistics also lend support. Between 2000 and 2005, shelter intakes in the six largest counties of California dropped by 10% after the Sterilization-at-Adoption law was passed, despite an 8.2% increase in human population. In contrast, during the five-year period prior to the passage of the law, shelter intakes in these same counties increased by 8.6%. These statistics are

not unique and other facts demonstrate that shelter

intakes drive euthanasia of adoptable pets. New Hampshire reduced their shelter euthanasia by 77% by establishing a neutering subsidy for indigent pet owners after data showed that they accounted for 48% of the kitten intakes.

What's going on in Minnesota?

There are several initiatives including Minnesota Spay/Neuter Project, MN Spay Neuter Assistance Program, and the Northland Spay/Neuter non-profit of

Duluth raising awareness and funding for lower-cost spay-neuter programs, but there is much more to do. Minnesota State Statute No. 156.11 (2009) Sec(a) restricts animal welfare organizations, even those that employ Minnesota licensed veterinarians, from providing spay and neuter services directly to family-owned pets. As a result, there is extremely limited access to high volume, high quality spay/neuter for owners whose pets represent the overwhelming source for litters, surrenders, and abandoned pets.

What can I do?

The common goal of these programs is to reduce the overpopulation of companion animals and to assist financially challenged families in keeping their pets by providing lower-cost spay/neuter services. Minnesota Spay Neuter Project needs your help to continue our efforts. Please consider how you might support our cause through volunteering, legislative or veterinarian contacts, donations, or simply by encouraging every pet owner you know to spay or neuter their pet.

“Over 15,000 adoptable pets are euthanized each year in the Twin Cities.”

Build-a-Bear Awards MSNP \$1000 Grant

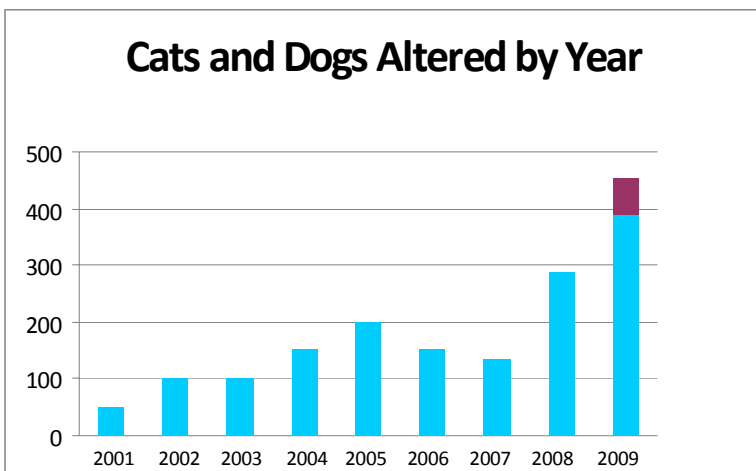
In July 2009, Matt Oldani, Build-A-Bear Foundation Bear, awarded Minnesota Spay/Neuter Project a generous grant of \$1000. Their donation paid for the alteration of 20 stray female cats at the AHS Mobile Services Unit.


The Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation is committed to making life more bearable for children, families and pets, in need of a helping paw.


We appreciate Build-A-Bear's support for MSNP and other domestic pet programs including local animal shelters, stray pet rescue and rehabilitation organizations, and pet education programs around the country.



MSNP's Impact Through the Years



 The number of cats and dogs altered by MSNP each year.

 The number of cats and dogs altered through our partnership with Pet Haven's Spay/Neuter Initiative.

Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic Opening Soon

by Angela Scaletta

Thanks to Dr. Kim Culbertson, a Minnesota veterinarian, The Minnesota Spay/Neuter Project will soon be able to spay and neuter even more pets.

Dr. Culbertson has opened Blue Sky Veterinary Services, a mobile clinic dedicated exclusively to spay and neuter. The fact that the clinic is on wheels will allow Dr. Culbertson and her technicians to reach pet owners who may otherwise not have been able to get their animals to a vet. The clinic will work in tandem with Minnesota Spay Neuter Assistance Program (MN SNAP), a non-profit corporation, to offer low-cost services to low income families as well as shelters and animal rescue organizations.

The Minnesota Spay/Neuter Project is very proud to work with Dr. Culbertson. While working for the Animal Humane Society, she designed a safe, high quality assembly-line style system of performing sterilization surgeries. The protocol reduces the cost of surgery and limits the amount of time the animal is under anesthesia, reducing recovery time. The system has been so successful it has been adopted by other animal welfare agencies, private veterinary practices, and the University of Minnesota's College of Veterinary Medicine.



Through MN SNAP, The Minnesota Spay/Neuter Project will have access to high quality spay and neuter surgeries at a cost greatly reduced from MSNP's current rates. This will allow MSNP to significantly increase the volume of spay/neuter procedures for the same amount of funding money. In addition, MSNP will be more competitive when applying for grants. When donating to spay/neuter organizations, foundations often look at the number of animals their money will be able to help. Lowering the cost per procedure will make MSNP more attractive to grant providers.

MN SNAP services are available to animals belonging to income-qualified families and 501(c)(3) animal welfare organizations. To find out more information about Mn-SNAP, go to www.mnsnap.org.

How to Help

There are many creative ways that people have found to help the Minnesota Spay Neuter Project.

- One group of kids raised over \$60 by washing bikes and cars.
- For her birthday, one girl asked people to donate to MNSP instead of giving her gifts. We received a \$50 donation because of her generosity.

Now for the holidays, instead of exchanging gifts, perhaps you could agree to send donations.

Other Ways to Get Involved

There are a number of ways to get involved.

- Spay or neuter your own pet and encourage others to do the same.
- Volunteer with the Minnesota Spay/Neuter Project and assist us in our efforts.
- Research and prepare funding requests.
- Contribute to the MSNP to help us fund our projects. Send donations to:

MSNP
P.O. Box 2067
Minneapolis MN 55402
952-996-9292
minnesotaspayneuterproject@yahoo.com

MN Animal Welfare Groups Working Together

by Tera Arnold

The Minnesota Spay/Neuter Project believes strongly in the power of numbers. That's why we are a founding member of the newly formed animal welfare coalition known as MNPAW (Minnesota Partnership for Animal Welfare). By joining forces with other dedicated, state-wide animal welfare groups, we will be able to make a greater

impact on reducing euthanasia of adoptable animals as a means of population control.

MNPAW's goal will be to reduce the number of animals coming into sheltering facilities while simultaneously increasing the number of animals being adopted out of

sheltering facilities. To achieve this, initiatives will focus on spay/neuter efforts, adoption partnerships, education and advocacy. For more information about MNPAW, please visit:



The MnPAW Logo

<http://www.mnpaw.org>.