

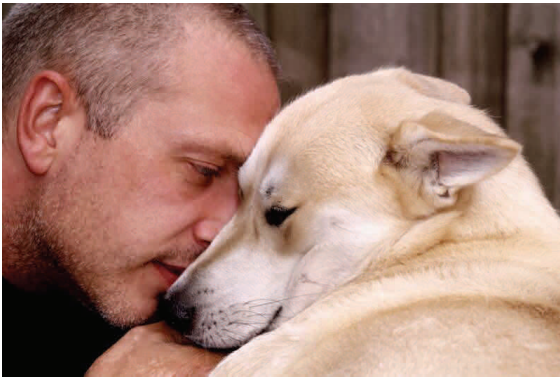


PEOPLE FOR ANIMALS

Since 1986 speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves

2012 Edition

1,321 Surgeries and 70 Referrals in 2012



Again this year PFA has provided assistance for over 1,000 spays and neuters, 1,321 to be exact. **When you “do the math” of potential births prevented by those surgeries, the results are 24,092 puppies and 1,187,136 kittens that won’t be added to our already overpopulated community**

and euthanasia statistics in just the next three years. Now that is something to shout about!

There are several reasons why spay/neuter is still the “most valuable tool in the box.” **Number 1 is that spay/neuter is a 100% effective method of preventing unwanted births.** It also produces health and behavioral benefits for both males and females. Finally, if the *supply* of pets decreases, the *demand* for them—adoption—will increase and less euthanasia will be necessary!

One relatively new issue driving euthanasia rates is an escalating level of owned pets being taken to shelters. Animal Control shelters, who accept all pets that come to their doors, have seen a dramatic rise in owner surrenders. Williamson County Animal Control & Adoption Center reports that almost 50% of their dog and cat intake in 2012 were owned, and at Metro Animal Care & Control of Nashville about 30% were owner surrender. Even when cats are owned, they reproduce so rapidly that without spay/neuter, “in the blink of an eye” there are too many of them. The most common reason given by owners at WCAC&AC for surrendering their cats is that “there are too many of them.” Spay/neuter can help to keep pets in their own homes!

Generous, caring veterinarians are our primary partners in offering spay/neuter assistance and solving the problems caused by too many pets without loving homes. (Participating clinics are listed on p.5.) In addition, Nashville Humane, Happy Tales Humane, Community Pet Center, Williamson County and Robertson County animal control shelters, Williamson Animal Services and Music City Pit Brigade are groups with whom we also collaborate to reach pet owners needing our assistance. The animals are depending on all of us to work together, harder and smarter to give each of them a voice and a loving, lifetime home. Will you add your voice to ours?

Founded in 1986, **PEOPLE FOR ANIMALS** is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit animal protection organization dedicated to preventing intentional or unintentional harm to all animals in our community with a focus on dogs and cats. Our mission is to enhance pet quality of life and address pet overpopulation by reducing the number of healthy pets euthanized in shelters with programs that:

- Reduce the birth rate of unwanted puppies and kittens
- Help people make a lifetime commitment to responsible, caring guardianship of their pets
- Promote adoption from shelters
- Support animal-friendly legislation.

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A MESSAGE FROM PFA'S PRESIDENT

For many years untold effort and countless dollars have been applied to addressing society's failing described as "too many pets, not enough homes." In addition there has been a gut-wrenching emotional toll on those attempting to "rescue" all that they can and on shelter staff that must euthanize when communities fail in their responsibility to prevent those births in the first place!

PFA is always focused on preventing the births of too many dogs and cats.

Twenty-six years ago when PFA was a newborn pup or kitten herself, the need for that focus was obvious. Spay/neuter was first, and whatever was next was a distant second. But 26 years is a long time and PFA and many others have worked hard toward the ultimate goal of fewer pets born and a loving, lifetime home available for every dog or cat. Though we're certainly not there yet, we can see that while spay/neuter remains first and is essential, the problem cannot be solved through spay/neuter alone.

At many shelters there is a new and alarming statistic emerging. **For a variety of reasons, up to half of the animals coming into shelters are owned pets: pets with a home one day and the next day they're being taken to a**



shelter where they will hopelessly wait for their human to return. At many shelters every effort will be made by caring staff and passionate volunteers to find each pet a new home, but as we all know, there aren't enough good homes for them all.

This new, particularly troublesome source of incoming pets is a reality that requires a solution beyond spay/

neuter. Though spay/neuter often helps to keep pets in their homes by eliminating heat cycles, pregnancies, undesirable male behaviors and costly health issues, it won't prevent all surrenders. So we must remain vigilant and agile as we continue to combat this daunting, multi-faceted problem.

We need to address the reasons that animals lose the homes they have. Animals deserve that our intelligence equals our passion! Let's all give a little more of ourselves—our time or resources—to the animals who give so much to us.

For the Animals,

Ann Logan

Spay/Neuter and Behavior

Authored by: Anna Henley, Master of Science, Friends University
Co-Founder, Pet Community Center anna@petcommunitycenter.org

Send your training and behavior questions to info@petcommunitycenter.org. We are here to help!

"Is Molly spayed?" "Is Max neutered?" "Is Fluffy fixed?" Unfortunately, the question is too often followed by "Why not?" and an exasperated, "Don't you know how many animals die in shelters??"

Conversations like this can be heard regularly throughout the animal welfare community. As a member of this community—including volunteers, paid employees and advocates—I regularly have this conversation with pet owners.

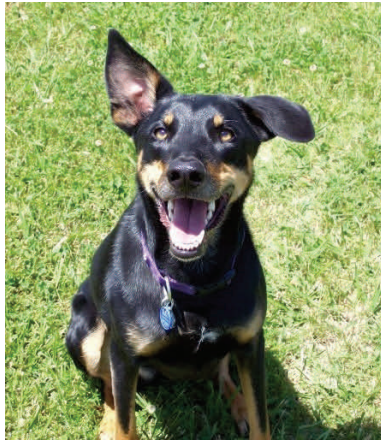
I work with "animal behavior issues," or more precisely, the behaviors that animals do naturally that people dislike. I hear a variety of statements: my dog escapes the fence; my cat doesn't always use his litter box; the neighbor's outdoor cats are constantly fighting. All of these are behaviors of intact animals and although natural, not appealing to



most pet guardians. Many of the clients I work with are not aware these are natural animal behaviors.

To encourage pet owners to spay and neuter their pets, I often introduce them to other practical reasons to fix their animals, beyond the hormones and pet overpopulation issue.

Whether they are dealing with their own pets or animals around their neighborhood, I remind them that getting an animal fixed has benefits to all of us.



One practical reason many pet owners overlook for spaying or neutering their pet is dealing with problem pet behaviors. While surgery will not completely correct the negative behavior, it can give the guardian and trainer time to change the rules and environment. Surgery and recovery time can interrupt a negative behavior pattern. For example, during recovery a dog needs to remain calm and relaxed for several days to a couple of weeks. If the dog needs to acclimate to a crate, this can be a great time to use some tasty treats and toys to make the crate a fun place. (Quick training tip: if you don't change the rules or the environment, the behavior will not magically change on its own- with or without surgery!) The increase in toys and attention can also help ease the pet parents' feelings of guilt for the surgery. (Yes, you know you had some guilt! No one likes to see their pet dopey on meds.)

As the pet recovers, house rules can change. If a cat jumps on the counter regularly, surgery can interrupt this behavior and allow time to work on behavior modification. During recovery, while limiting kitty's activity, you can reward him for remaining on the floor. As he feels better, introduce a new climbing post and encourage interactive play. While this won't eliminate the counter roaming, it's a good start, providing multiple opportunities to reward your kitty for good behavior. Changing the rules is just another step in modifying the pet's problem behavior. While this is not generally the sole reason to get a pet spayed or neutered, it may convince someone to get their pet fixed.

Neighbor's pets (and those that no one claims) can also have nuisance behaviors. *Community cats* is a general term used for the cats seen wandering neighborhoods and behind businesses. These may be cats with homes that spend a lot of their time outside. They may have been pets that were abandoned, or their feral offspring, and may or may not be social towards humans. They typically have one thing in common: THEY REPRODUCE.

Community cats' fearful behavior toward humans greatly increases their survival in the wild. While their survival skills are necessary, their ability to reproduce is not. The additional behaviors that relate to mating can be problematic for people who live near colonies. Increased marking, howling and competition for mates can be a nuisance. If you've ever heard a cat fight or the start of one, it will give you

chills. Cats can scream. LOUDLY! The solution: Trap-Neuter-Return or TNR.

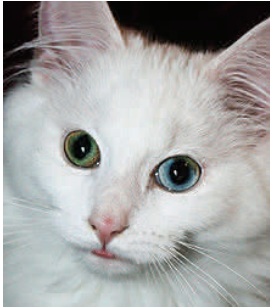
TNR is the process of humanely trapping community cats, having them spayed or neutered, ear-tipped (a snip of the tip of the left ear, the universal sign an outdoor cat has been altered) vaccinated and returned to their outdoor home after recovery.



All of my outdoor cats have been through this process. I was tired of seeing stray kittens hop across my deck, thanks to the unaltered cats that wander around my rural area. After talking to my neighbors, who didn't claim any of the cats, I had them fixed.

This is a necessary and practical solution in urban environments as well. It's relatively simple, although there are some cats that require a bit of creativity to trap. If outdoor cats are a nuisance and especially if they aren't, TNR is a great way to turn a negative into a positive. Besides reducing the nuisance behaviors, it will also reduce the number of cats reproducing. And in the end, isn't that one of the best reasons to take responsibility for them!

SNAP STORIES



♥ **The Caretakers** For weeks an elderly woman in East Nashville fed a beautiful stray kitten with one green and one blue eye. Before they knew it, she was four months old and a permanent family member, needing to be spayed. PFA stepped in to help them afford the surgery on their fixed income. They

say she follows them everywhere, and now they don't know who is taking care of whom!

♥ **No Kittens, Please!** PFA received a call from a Montgomery County woman who had large medical debts and a special-needs child. Living on a disability income was difficult, so she was not sure she could take in the sweet cat frequenting their backyard. Her daughter was attached to the cat and seemed to be thriving, but they definitely couldn't afford kittens. The mom and daughter were very grateful that PFA could help both the family and their community that "didn't need any more homeless cats."

♥ **A Friend in Need** A woman in Rutherford County called for a neighbor who is socially and mentally challenged. The man cannot work regularly but whenever possible picks up odd jobs. His dog is his only companion. He could pay for the dog's vaccines, but not for an expensive surgery. We spayed the dog so that he would not have to worry about the burden of her getting pregnant.



♥ **Homeless** A man who sells *The Contributor* on the roadside appealed to PFA to help spay his dog. Homeless since 2011, he lives in a Cheatham County friend's barn with his five well-cared-for dogs. (He and "Bear" are pictured here.) He recently paid \$40 to buy "Little Boo," a Lhasa Apso allowed to run loose. He

said, "This little dog was going to be hit by a car or get pregnant. I needed to save her and get her shots and spayed." After surgery, he called again to thank us and the veterinarian "for being so courteous to [him] and Boo."

♥ **Income Chopped** A veterinarian in Williamson County referred a client for assistance with a dog spay because the family was living on one-fourth of their previous military income and could barely afford food. Puppies would have been "overwhelming." PFA not only helped pay for the dog's spay, but also recommended that the woman check into the Helping Hands Pantry in Fairview where she could receive free dog food.

♥ **Living Paycheck to Paycheck** A Houston County family living on disability income explained to a PFA screener that



there was only \$25 per week left from their check for nonfood items. While they dearly loved the 70 pound German Shepherd mix they'd found, they couldn't afford to neuter such a large dog. They

didn't "want to create more babies," but "need to keep him outside part of the day." PFA gladly helped with his surgery.

♥ **Momma Cat Abandoned** A man from Perry County, unemployed for the past year, had just found a job two days before calling PFA. He realized that he needed to spay the calico cat he had found with her four kittens in a ditch on the side of the road. He wanted to give all of them a good home, but couldn't afford surgeries for any additional pets. After she finished nursing, he called back, and we spayed the calico. In a few months he will call about the kittens too.

♥ **What a Relief** In Dickson County a woman supporting her five children on a disability check had recently moved to a trailer with her three pit bulls. There was no fenced area, and many dogs roamed the neighborhood. She called about getting just her females spayed, but we were able to help her pay also to neuter her two male dogs, both of breeding age. She was so grateful she said she felt like crying, not only because of the health benefits, but because she "didn't want to contribute to the problem."



SNAP Continued

Thank You Notes

Pet owners often express their gratitude for our help during their phone conversation with us. Occasionally they also write a note. **Here are excerpts from a few of them.**

Just a note to say thank you very much for helping me get Stormy fixed. She is doing just great! An extra big thank you to Adrienne who spoke to me and was so kind. Your organization rocks! - Fairview, TN

Thank you so much in showing us your love and granting us the money to get the dog fixed. That was a great blessing to us.

- Pleasantville, TN

We just wanted to take the time to thank you all so much for your help in getting our puppy Sherman neutered. Ann R. was the volunteer who worked with us & I can't say how much she helped. She was kind, patient & tireless in her efforts to get this done. The community is very fortunate to have this resource available, and it was a very pleasant experience to work with you all. - Nashville, TN

Description of Our Screening Process

All PFA assistance begins when a pet owner makes a call to our spay/neuter phone line, answered 365 days a year. A volunteer returns the call. In a conversation that begins with "Tell me about your situation," the screener learns of the circumstances that create a need for assistance. A decision is made about the type and level of assistance that will be offered and which participating clinic works best for that pet owner. (We strive to send pet owners to clinics near their homes so that they can establish relationships and be encouraged to return to them for other vet care their pet will need.) When the financial agreement and clinic location have been concluded and the conversation is complete, pet owners are asked to make their appointment. When that has been done, the screener then faxes the PFA certificate to the designated clinic. All surgeries are performed in private clinics by qualified, licensed Tennessee veterinarians in good standing.



Participating Clinics/Counties Offering Reduced Prices to PFA

Cascade Veterinary Hospital – Bedford
Animal House Veterinary Care - Davidson
Bellevue Animal Hospital - Davidson
Hickman Veterinary Hospital – Hickman
Shoal Creek Animal Hospital - Lawrence
Hohenwald Animal Hospital - Lewis
Animal Medical Clinic – Maury
Linden Animal Clinic – Perry
Caring Hands Animal Hospital – Williamson
Fix For Life – Wilson

Woodbury Veterinary Hospital - Cannon
Apache Trail Animal Hospital - Davidson
Animal Medical Hospital – Dickson
Houston County Animal Clinic - Houston
Greenview Veterinary Hospital - Lewis
Meredith Warner Animal Clinic – Marshall
Animal Medical Center – Montgomery
Sumner Spay Neuter Alliance – Sumner
Fairview Animal Clinic – Williamson

Did You Know?

Again this year PFA is the beneficiary of an offer to match up to \$5,000 in contributions to PFA. For every \$ you contribute, up to \$5000, the donor will match it. What a wonderful opportunity, about 100 more dogs and cats will be spayed and neutered with each \$5,000!!!

Ongoing research continues to support concern about over-vaccination of pets. In an effort to reduce the side effects associated with frequent vaccination, the American Animal Hospital Association's Canine Vaccine research recommends people discuss with their veterinarians the option of titers rather than *assuming* an adult dog or cat needs annual vaccines. A simple blood test, titers will show the level of immunity the pet currently has to certain diseases. Another vaccine *may not be necessary* for your pet. Your pet's health makes it well worth a talk with your veterinarian!

Pets, like humans, can have cancer and the key to successful treatment is early detection. Pay attention to these signs.

- Sores that do not heal
- Weight loss
- Loss of appetite
- Offensive odor
- Abnormal swellings that persist or continue to grow
- Bleeding or discharge from body openings
- Difficulty eating or swallowing
- Hesitation to exercise or loss of stamina
- Persistent lameness or stiffness
- Difficulty breathing, urinating or defecating

If your pet exhibits any of these symptoms, it's time to visit your vet. Go to <http://trupanion.com> for more information

The best way to fight a flea infestation is to make sure it never occurs. Fleas are more than just a nuisance; they can cause serious medical problems. Ask your vet's advice about new flea preventives and protocols. They work!

"We don't realize how determined our pets are to eat the things they shouldn't," says Dr. Tina Wismer, DVM, medical director for the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center. Of the 165,900 calls handled by the Center in 2011, most of



them involved pets who'd ingested human prescriptions. Dr. Wismer says, "Even nonprescription medications can be a problem because many brands have a sweet coating - it's like candy for dogs." Some of the most common toxins are acetaminophen, batteries, chocolate, ethylene glycol (antifreeze), gasoline, grapes, kerosene, lilies, mothballs, non-prescription & prescription meds, sago palms, windshield wiper fluid, xylitol (artificial sweetener in gum/breath mints/ toothpaste) and zinc (in pennies). For more information visit the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center website to learn about other potential poisons. It's also a good idea to post the organization's phone number — 888-426-4435 — on your refrigerator for easy reference in the event of an emergency. The call center is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Our pets' diets are as important to their well-being as ours is to us. Most of us know we should make any change in our pet's regular diet gradually. Fatty foods cause potentially deadly pancreatitis and cooked bones can splinter and cause internal tears, obstructions or choking. There are specific foods that are toxic, such as raw eggs, chocolate, caffeinated drinks, salty foods, alcohol, macadamia nuts, onions & garlic, and candy & gum. Foods that are safe for pets are cooked lean meats with no extra fat or bones, plain canned

pumpkin, apples, oranges, bananas, watermelon (no seeds, leaves or stems), carrot sticks, cucumber, green beans, zucchini, and white rice /pasta. Rice or pasta with boiled chicken can sometimes help with a gastrointestinal upset. WebMD is a good resource for further details.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST.... Dental problems and obesity are common but serious health issues for our pets. Brush your pet's teeth regularly with pet toothpaste--not human. Dental exams/cleaning by your vet will save your pet bad breath, pain, tooth loss and even more serious systemic problems down the road.

Obesity is most likely the result of too much food—or the wrong food—and not enough exercise. Sound familiar? The consequences for your pet's health and quality of life are profound. Please take your pet's weight seriously: Ask your vet's advice and do some research of healthy eating on your own. We hope we've helped to get you started!



SPECIAL GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

For all of us who make a lifetime commitment to our pets, that last day does come; and unless it comes suddenly, we will be faced with a decision. Certainly it is a solemn decision to be made with your veterinarian's advice and your own love and commitment to your animal companion. But what greater gift of unselfish love could you offer?

In Honor Of . . .

Greycee, Puddles, Miss Evilness, Loroo & S'Kitty

MooMoo Buddy Laroo...Charles & Marvenell Atwood

Dr. Jennifer Bess, whose loving commitment to the well-being of others is so appreciated.

Lucas & Bo, you are the BEST... Bobbie Cupp

Toby, my very best friend...Ann Conway

Billie Rutledge, a true friend and lover of animals...Judy Flatt

Denver & Dakota, our rescued bichons that have brought much happiness... Susan Pate

Mo, found by a PFA volunteer and adopted by us. He rules...Joni & Don Langevoort

Googer, a homeless kitty who needs a safe home...Kathlyn McCaughna

Harry, our happy, lovable rescue Westie who hates squirrels...Martha Wilson

People for Animals - Happy 25th Anniversary...Lexie Hagan



Olive, beloved dog of Dr. Lisa Karst...Marti Loyd

Gino, Romalo & Mr. Marigold--missed dearly..Jane & Donald Ames

Cricket--Jack Russell Terrier--my best friend....Freda Garrett

Smoky--the beloved pet of the Hutton's...Holly Tashian

My precious Otis, Dee Dee & Piper - I love you and miss you...Nancy Whittemore

Beautiful Dee Dee Whittemore, we will never forget you...Charlie & Will Dunn

George Bailey, a PFA newsletter feature - what a blessing to us..Joni & Don Langevoort

Darlene Nall's beloved Mother, **Mary Evelyn**...Nancy Whittemore

Blondie, Dee Dee, Piper - we miss you...Chesney, Susan & Kenny Rudd

Commodore, you are so missed....Angela Ingram

Quincy, a special little guy that was so loved by my good friend... Bobbie Cupp

Piper, Dee Dee, Blondie, my granddogs and grandcat... Bobbie Cupp

Quincy, you were loved by many...Nancy Whittemore

Beloved **cat of Dr. Leigh Redden**...Marcia Williams

Jake, beloved dog of Greer and Leigh Redden....Marcia Williams

Quincy, you gave us hours of cuddling and love...Ann Conway & Toby

In Memory of . . .

Cosmo, our Siamese cat who died last summer and whom we miss a lot...Chrissy & family

Ivan, my noble and magnificent Borzoi/Greyhound. I miss him so...Robert Chatham

Rupert, we miss our sweet dog...Ruth & Tim Munsell

Anonymous Donor Offers to Match Your Gift to the Animals

In the true spirit of the season, a generous donor has made a very special gift to the animals AGAIN this season...**an offer to match the first \$5,000 given to PFA for our spay-neuter efforts. A guaranteed opportunity to "double your money"** just by sending it right away doesn't come along very often! What a wonderful way to remember your human and animal family members and friends! Speaking for those who can not speak for themselves, we offer thanks for your gift of caring.

People for Animals truly appreciates those who understand the special bond that forms between animals and people. We dedicate this space to those fortunate enough to feel that kind of love. PFA sincerely thanks all members and friends for their generous gifts.

Gift: \$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 Other

All donations are tax-deductible and are greatly appreciated. You can now make your donations, honorariums, and memorials online at www.PeopleForAnimals.net

Special Gifts: Honor your special animal or human friend with a gift to PFA!

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____



PEOPLE FOR ANIMALS

P.O. Box 991
Franklin, TN 37065
615-794-8925



**PFA Board celebrates!!
1,321 Surgeries
and 70 Referrals
in 2012**



**NON-PROFIT
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Nashville TN
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People for Animals is a not-for-profit animal protection group serving Davidson, Williamson, and 17 other surrounding counties. All members are unpaid volunteers dedicated to ending the tragedy of pet overpopulation. Donations are tax-deductible and welcomed in any amount.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

PFA SPAY/NEUTER ASSISTANCE 794-8925

ADOPTION, ANIMAL BITES/INJURIES

Metro Animal Care & Control 862-7930
Williamson Co. Animal Control & Adoption Center 790-5590

EMERGENCY VETERINARY SERVICES

BluePearl Veterinary Partners 333-1212
Nashville Pet Emergency Clinic 383-2600
Nashville Veterinary Specialists 386-0107

www.PeopleForAnimals.net

PFA
OUR 26th
YEAR

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Anonymous donor AGAIN makes special gift to the animals...an offer to match the first \$5,000 donated to PFA for our spay-neuter efforts! See page 6 for details.