

## What is the Spay/Neuter Initiative (SNI)?

Pet Haven received a very generous donation earmarked to be used to help reduce the overpopulation of companion animals and to help families keep their pets by providing low-cost spay and neuter services. The donor's hope was that the funds be used to reach animals not already being served by Pet Haven's adoption program. Pet Haven used this donation as the "seed money" to start its own low-cost spay/neuter outreach and to offer grants to humane and rescue groups to assist with their spay/neuter efforts. In the Twin Cities metro area, Pet Haven subsidizes spay/neuter surgeries for families with financial needs through veterinary clinics that have an existing relationship with Pet Haven.

## How does SNI Work?

The Twin Cities metro area spay/neuter support to families with financial needs is continuous up to a yearly amount of \$10,000, which may also include vaccinations. Pet Haven is able to help about 100 families per year, which amounts to about 1/3 of the calls we receive asking for help.

For **SNI** grant program, Pet Haven accepts applications once a year from the shelter and rescue organizations based on the following criteria:

- Increasing the percentage of animals altered at any age prior to placement in new homes.
- Starting a program or increasing the percentage of alters for puppies and kittens at the age of 12 weeks, 16 weeks or 20 weeks.
- Altering the parent animals (who remain in their homes) of litters surrendered to the shelter or rescue group.
- Altering feral cats as a part of a trap and release program or a rehabilitation program.
- Increasing the number of animals the organization can rescue and rehome because the grant will pay for their spay/neuter.
- Outreach efforts to provide spays/neuters for the pets of low-income families or situations where there is intervention by concerned neighbors, friends or family due to uncontrolled or potential breeding, health issues, or behavior problems because the animal is unsterilized.
- Using AHS Mobile Services Unit to alter puppies and kittens at age of 12 weeks, 16 weeks or 20 weeks when local veterinary facilities cannot provide this service

Grant amounts awarded are up to \$2500, contingent upon available funds in Pet Haven's budget.

To assure that these funds are used effectively and only for spay/neuter purposes, the organizations that receive **SNI** grants must demonstrate they have the capability to use the funds in the manner intended and provide an accounting using a standardized format of how the funds are actually used.

## What are the Outcomes?

Several of the shelters have used the initial funding provided by Pet Haven's **SNI** to raise awareness of the companion animal overpopulation problem and to start their own grass roots initiatives by seeking additional local funding, especially for farm cat populations. As a result, there has been a 19% decrease in the average number of strays, surrenders, or requests for spay/neuter help through their outreach programs from 56 to 37 per shelter.

Grant Award Year	Number of Grants Awarded	Total Number of Animals	Number of Cats Sterilized	Number of Dogs Sterilized	Pediatric Surgeries	Large Breed Surgeries
2005	10	562	463	99	104	36
2006	8	294	248	46	19	16
2007	8	279	216	63	48	1
2008	8	322	284	38	52	11
Total to Date	34	1457	1211	246	223	64