



# Solutions

Helping Animals and the People Who Love Them

Issue 7

March, 2004

## SNAP Is “Fixin’ Nixa”

Last year, Nixa pet owners and Nixa Animal Control surrendered more than 520 dogs and cats to the Southwest Missouri Humane Society. Approximately half of these were puppies and kittens.

It is also estimated that there are more than 3,000 unsocialized, free-roaming (“feral”) cats in Nixa, 99% of whom are capable of reproducing, and most likely will do so, mating with pet cats and other strays.

Nixa is not alone. Small towns throughout the Ozarks struggle with pet overpopulation. Beginning March 1, however, Nixa’s low-income pet owners will benefit from a \$3,500 Nixa Community Foundation Grant, which SNAP will use to stop the flow of unwanted litters. SNAP has earmarked an additional \$3,500 to fund the *Fixin’ Nixa* project.

Low-cost spay/neuter certificates will be sold on the first Monday of every month at Least of These Food Pantry in Nixa from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. The cost is \$10 to alter a cat and \$20 to alter a dog. Pet owners must show a photo ID, proof of Nixa residency, and proof of financial need (such as a Medicaid card).

Pet owners then schedule appointments with participating veterinarians and present their certificates to the vet at the time of surgery.

SNAP will solicit support from Nixa veterinarians, merchants, schools, social workers, civic groups, and the general public to fund the *Fixin’ Nixa* project until the time when Nixa’s pets no longer contribute to shelter overcrowding.

We believe that the success of *Fixin’ Nixa* will encourage other towns around Springfield to adopt similar programs to alleviate shelter overcrowding.

For more information about *Fixin’ Nixa*, give us a call.

## Kitten Season Alert!

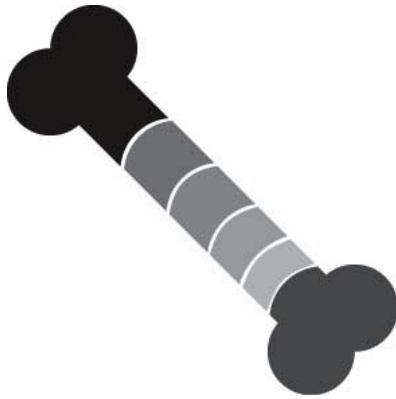
Feline mating season is already in full swing around the Ozarks. As a result, roughly 67% of the cats and kittens entering our shelter system this summer will be destroyed for lack of space.

With your help, we can reduce the euthanasia rate. Make sure your cat is fixed, and encourage *everyone* to support spay/neuter as the solution to pet overpopulation!



*Did you know that a six-month old kitten can become pregnant? Many pet owners don't, which may explain why so many “babies” are having babies of their own.*

# Where the Money Comes From...



<b>41 %</b>	<b>Pet Owners' Co-pay</b>
<b>17 %</b>	<b>Fundraising Events</b>
<b>12 %</b>	<b>Grants</b>
<b>8 %</b>	<b>Donations- Individuals</b>
<b>1 %</b>	<b>Merchandise Sales</b>
<b>21 %</b>	<b>Local Businesses &amp; Organizations</b>

# ....And Where the Money Goes!

<b>1 %</b>	<b>Postage</b>
<b>2 %</b>	<b>Phone</b>
<b>3 %</b>	<b>Fundraising</b>
<b>94 %</b>	<b>Vet S/N Surgeries</b>



<b>419</b>	<b>Dog Neuters</b>
<b>780</b>	<b>Dog Spays</b>
<b>787</b>	<b>Cat Neuters</b>
<b>1,502</b>	<b>Cat Spays</b>

# What's in Store for 2004? 2,004 More!

In 2002, SNAP certificates were used to alter 1,042 pets. In 2003, more than 1,500 certificates were redeemed. With an expanded volunteer force and increased fundraising opportunities, we believe we will easily alter "2,004 in 2004". We're well on our way, because more than 215 SNAP certificates were issued in January!

We have accomplished so much with your help. Please encourage others to get involved. Pet overpopulation is a problem that together we can solve.

## Thank You, Merci, Gracias, Woof, and Meow

Our success depends upon the generosity of our participating veterinarians, our financial contributors, and our dedicated volunteers. We are very proud of what we have accomplished with your support! Thanks to you, more than 3,600 dogs and cats will live healthier lives, and many thousands of homeless animals will have a better chance to find a forever home.

Dear SNAP Supporters,

There are many pet owners out there who still need to fix their pets. If you can help, then we won't have to constantly compete with kittens and puppies for good homes. Your donations of office supplies and other items allow SNAP to use their funds for spaying and neutering! Can you provide any of the following items?

- Cash donations (these help save lives, plus they're tax deductible!)
- Two four-drawer filing cabinets and hanging file folders
- Envelopes and postage stamps
- Gift certificates for office supplies (Office Depot, Office Max, etc.)
- Products and services for sale or raffle at SNAP's fundraising events
- Long distance pre-paid calling cards
- Empty printer cartridges - SNAP gets money for recycling them!
- Best Choice UPC codes & Summer Fresh grocery receipts
- Clear plastic storage bins
- Auction items
- Sponsors for the pets listed on page 5, so they won't have babies and make it harder for us to find homes!

Sincerely,



Southwest Missouri's Homeless Animals

SNAP is interested in opening a Thrift Store to generate a steady source of funds for spay/neuter. If you have office space or a building that you would be interested in donating to this very worthwhile cause, please call us at 823-7627.

## Volunteer Positions Available

The growth of SNAP's spay/neuter program has created many new exciting volunteer opportunities. In order for us to meet the demand for our critical life-saving service and implement more proactive programs, it is important to fill some of these positions as quickly as possible. The positions include:

- Administrative Assistant
- Program Manager-Cash for Critters
- Program Manager-Public Relations
- Program Manager-Fixin' Nixa
- Program Manager-Fundraising Events
- Research Analyst
- Transportation Coordinator
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Webmaster

There are many other interesting positions available as well. SNAP volunteers enjoy flexible hours, and most tasks can be performed from the comfort of your own home!

One of the easiest ways to get involved with SNAP

as a volunteer is to attend a Volunteer Workshop. Workshops are held once a month at The Library Center on South Campbell.

Volunteers can perform a variety of helpful fundraising and administrative tasks, such as making bandanas, preparing mailings and literature packets, writing thank-you letters, entering data, writing newsletter articles, and lots of other projects that we never seem to find time to finish! There are simple projects, as well as projects that are more challenging.

There will be a brief orientation session at the beginning of each workshop for new volunteers, and all volunteers will have the opportunity to sign up for upcoming events or select projects to take home and complete.

This is a perfect opportunity to become more involved with SNAP and help to make a difference in the lives of homeless animals. You'll meet lots of fellow animal lovers, too!

Workshops are scheduled for March 6, April 17, and May 8. We hope you will join us. For more details, give us a call today!

## SNAP is Raising Funds ... in Style!

What is the fashion-conscious pet wearing this year? A SNAP bandana, of course - each one sewn by one of our talented SNAP volunteers!

We've had lots of fun making pet bandanas from the wonderful variety of fabrics donated by our supporters. There are hundreds of bandanas available in every color imaginable. We have sizes to fit your cat *or* your dog, no matter how large or how small.

Many pets don't like having bandanas tied around their necks. SNAP's bandanas attach to the pet's collar instead, so they are less distracting and much more likely to remain in place.

The bandanas make great gifts for the pet owner who has everything. And if you have a particular fabric you'd like made into a bandana for your pet, just provide us with the fabric, and we can make it for you.

Prices vary from \$5 to \$8 for the bandanas, and all funds raised from bandana sales will be used

to fix pets of low-income families. Call us today to find out where you can get one!



*Shadow Edwards models a fleece bandana featuring yellow Labrador Retrievers on a red background.*

## Sponsor a Spay

We are thrilled with the outpouring of support since we announced our *Sponsor-a-Spay* program less than six months ago. More than 110 pets have found sponsors! Many of these pets had previously produced litters and most likely would have done so again had they not been altered right away.

We always have a waiting list of pets who need sponsors. In fact, we are currently working on a barn cat situation that the owner readily admits he let get out of control. Now he is making an effort to do the responsible thing and fix all of the cats. He has altered eleven female cats so far, and he is determined to fix the rest as soon as he can. But there are 22 more females to be spayed, and if they are not done immediately, the sad fact is that there will be many more to fix.

We also have many new dogs and cats on our waiting list. Your tax-deductible donation of \$40 can sponsor a dog's spay/neuter, while a \$25 donation allows you to sponsor a cat. These pets and their owners are truly grateful for your generosity!

### ***Dogs Awaiting Sponsors:***

Aussie; adult /F, rat terrier  
Sam; adult/M, rat terrier  
Huckleberry; pup/M, rat terrier  
Otis; 6YO/M, lab mix - yellow

Precious; 10MO/F, terrier mix, brown & white  
Baby; 6MO/M, Chow/Shepard mix, brown  
Casey; 6YO/M, Pomeranian/Spitz mix, white

### ***Cats Awaiting Sponsors:***

Ozzy; 6MO/M, short haired, black & white  
Levi; 3YO/M, short haired, grey & white  
Nala; 2YO/F, short haired, black & white  
Jerri; 2YO/F, short haired, black  
Tan-Tan; 2YO/M, long haired, gold/brown tabby  
Belle; 6MO/F, short haired, black  
Daphne; 6MO/F, short haired, black  
Lucy; 6MO/F, short haired, calico  
Ellie Mae; 8MO/F, short haired, white w/ points  
Miss Kitty; 1YO/F, short haired, black  
Felicity; 8MO/F, short haired, black  
Tom; 1YO/M, smoky grey & white  
Jerry; 1YO/M, dark grey & black tabby w/ white  
Sheba; 9MO/F, short haired, black  
Hope; 9MO/F, short haired, grey & white  
Kiara; 2YO/F, Siamese; white w/ dark points  
Gray Baby #4; 9MO/M, grey tabby  
Toby; 2YO/M, black  
Tree Bee; 3YO/M, yellow  
Charles; 2YO/M, long haired, black  
Simmy; 4YO/M, Siamese  
Jinx; 10MO/F, short haired, black

## Your Trash Means Cash to Us!

Don't forget about these *easy* ways you can help SNAP and homeless animals....

Allow us to recycle your empty printer cartridges. Cash for Critters pays us for every cartridge we recycle! You can take your empty cartridges to the Southwest Missouri Humane Society at 5135 S. Campbell or to CARE's adoption center at 1328 W. Sunshine. You can call us to locate other convenient drop points or request a prepaid mailer for your inkjet cartridges. If neces-

sary, we'll even find a volunteer to pick up your cartridges! Proceeds from this program also benefit the Southwest Missouri Humane Society and CARE.

SNAP collects Best Choice UPC codes and Summer Fresh grocery receipts and redeems them for cash! So please don't throw money away. Your trash can save lives!

# Upcoming Events

## KY3 Family Fair

This year, SNAP is hosting a booth at the 12th annual KY3 Family Fair. We hope you will stop by to meet our volunteers, learn more about SNAP, explore our volunteer opportunities, and check out our fashionable pet bandanas. No pet should be without one!

### *KY3 Family Fair*

When: February 27-29, 2004

Friday: 3pm - 9pm

Saturday: 9am - 6pm

Sunday: Noon - 5pm

Where: The new Expo Center in downtown Springfield

### *CFA Cat Show*

When: April 10-11, 2004

Saturday: 10am - 4:30pm

Sunday: 9am - 3pm

Where: Ozark Empire Fairgrounds Center Building E-Plex, Gate 4

Admission: \$5 (adults)

\$3 (children 6-12)

\$4 (seniors)

## Lakes Country Cat Fanciers Cat Show

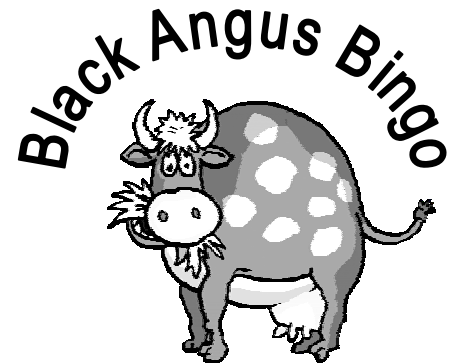
SNAP will once again participate in the CFA Cat show. This event is always entertaining, with lots of fun cat items for purchase and gorgeous cats to admire. SNAP will host a table with plenty of cool cat merchandise, including our bandanas, of course!

The SAFE shelter will also be on hand with sweet, beautiful cats looking for forever homes.

A percentage of the proceeds will be donated to SNAP, so the higher the attendance, the more funds we raise. Be sure to stop by SNAP's table and say "Hi"!

## 2nd Annual Ice Cream Chill Out

As promised, SNAP will host our 2nd Annual Ice Cream Chill Out on July 17, 2004. Festivities will include games, live entertainment, an auction featuring Auctioneer Clint Shortt, Black Angus Bingo, and lots of delicious ice cream. Last year, the Chill Out raised more than \$8,500, allowing us to spay and neuter 458 dogs and cats! This year, our goal is to raise \$15,000. We're already signing up booth sponsors and collecting auction items. If you would like to sponsor a booth, volunteer, or donate an auction item, please call Susan at 767-2937.



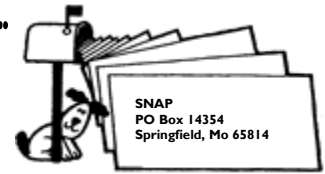
*Last year, Angie Bolin won \$500 when Babs, SNAP's favorite cow, "selected" Angie's Black Angus Bingo square. Who will win this year? It could be you! If you would like to get in on the fun, contact SNAP!*

**Mission Statement**

*SNAP's mission is to eliminate the need for euthanasia in our community's animal shelters, to reduce the number of homeless animals, and to educate the public about the importance of spay/neuter.*

SNAP is a Missouri 501c3 not-for-profit corporation.

**To Contact Us...**



Spay Neuter Assistance Program, Inc.  
 P. O. Box 14354  
 Springfield, MO 65814  
 Phone: (417) 823-SNAP (7627)  
 E-mail: snap123@att.net  
 Web address: www.snap123.org

**Yes! I want to make a difference...**

We are grateful for the generosity of those who have helped us to accomplish so much. There are many simple ways to make the Ozarks a happier and safer place for our fur-covered friends. Please let us know how you would like to help by checking the appropriate spaces and returning this form to: SNAP, PO Box 14354, Springfield, MO 65814. Thank you for your support!

- I want to support SNAP's work with the enclosed tax-deductible donation.*
- Please send me a volunteer application. I want to help!*
- I would like to organize a fundraiser to benefit SNAP.*
- Please add me to SNAP's e-mail distribution list.*
- I can recycle my printer cartridges to raise "Cash for Critters". Please contact me.*
- I would like to "Sponsor a Spay". I am enclosing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to sponsor:*
  - a specific pet (indicate pet's name) \_\_\_\_\_*
  - the pet at the top of SNAP's waiting list*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (day): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (evening): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Printing by



(417) 886-0400

## ***What's Inside....***

### *Fixin' Nixa*

A Nixa Community Foundation grant will help SNAP end pet overpopulation in Nixa.

### *Bandana Bonanza*

See what the best-dressed dogs and cats in the Ozarks are wearing.

### *Volunteer Positions Announced*

Find out about exciting new volunteer opportunities.

### *Program Updates*

Sponsor-a-Spay, Cash for Critters

### *Upcoming Events*

KY3 Family Fair, Cat Show, 2nd Annual Ice Cream Chill Out



## ***Solutions!***

**PO Box 14354**

**Springfield, MO 65814**

