

2004 ANNUAL REPORT

Spay Neuter
Assistance Program



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.

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INTRODUCTION

In 2004 16,548 animals entered Springfield's animal shelters. Of those, 8,437 were euthanized. Although the numbers have improved in recent years, we still have a long way to go. SNAP is there to help. Working with over thirty area veterinary clinics, we provide discounted spay/neuter services for low-income pet owners. Eligible owners generally pay half the surgery fee; SNAP raises money to pay for the other half. Providing targeted spay/neuter services for low-income pet owners is the single most effective way to reduce euthanasia in animal shelters.

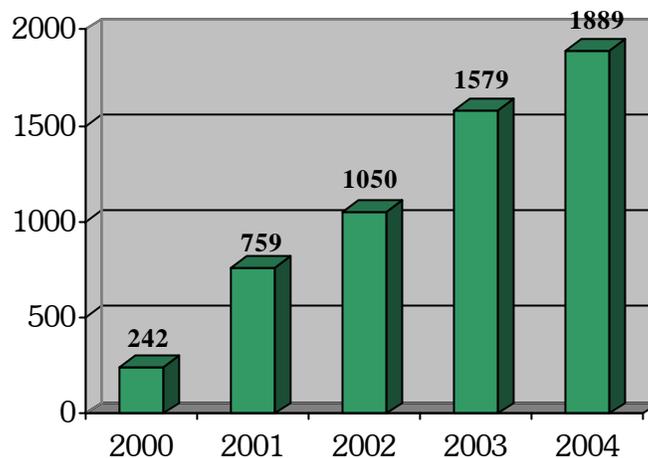
MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

INCREASE IN SPAY/NEUTER SURGERIES



The demand for spay/neuter certificates increased dramatically in 2004. SNAP responded in kind, issuing 2,454 certificates. As of December 31, 2004, 1,889 of those certificates had been redeemed. From 2000-2004, SNAP sponsored a total of 5,519 surgeries. Certificates issued in 2004 will continue to be redeemed throughout 2005. Redemption rates for previous years have been above 95%. The same is expected for 2004.

Number of Spay/Neuter Surgeries Sponsored



SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISING EVENTS

- **Ice Cream Chill Out.** The second annual Ice Cream Chill Out was held on July 17, an unseasonably cool and beautiful day. SNAP's largest fundraiser of the year featured vendors, dog activities, a band, face painting, a display of cars from the Model T Club, an auction, and Black Angus Bingo. This event raised \$10,350, exceeding our goal of \$10,000.
- **Wine-tasting.** On November 21, more than 200 SNAP supporters gathered at the first annual wine-tasting fundraiser at the Vandivort Ballroom in Springfield. The Christmas-themed event included a swing band, the Angel Tree, and a silent auction. \$3,674 was raised, and a good time was had by all.
- **Charter membership.** We also kicked off our charter membership drive in November. Before the end of the year, 52 individuals, families, or businesses had already signed up to be members and \$2,355 had been raised.

GRANTS

SNAP received three major grants in 2004:

- **Fixin' Nixa.** In February SNAP received \$3,500 for the *Fixin' Nixa* project from the Nixa Community Foundation. The goal is to provide discounted low-cost spay/neuter services to Nixa's impoverished pet owners and increase awareness of Nixa's pet overpopulation problem.
- **Project Spay & Stay.** In August SNAP received \$9,936 from a national animal welfare foundation. The purpose of *Project Spay & Stay* is to assist residents in public housing with low-cost spay/neuter services. The Housing Authority of Springfield requires all residents to alter their pets. Many residents cannot afford this expense and end up surrendering their pets to animal shelters. *Project Spay & Stay* helps residents keep their pets and lowers the number of animals being surrendered to shelters.
- **General support.** In December SNAP received \$10,000 from a national animal welfare foundation.

These grants enabled SNAP to expand its outreach efforts so that even more pet owners received needed financial assistance.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

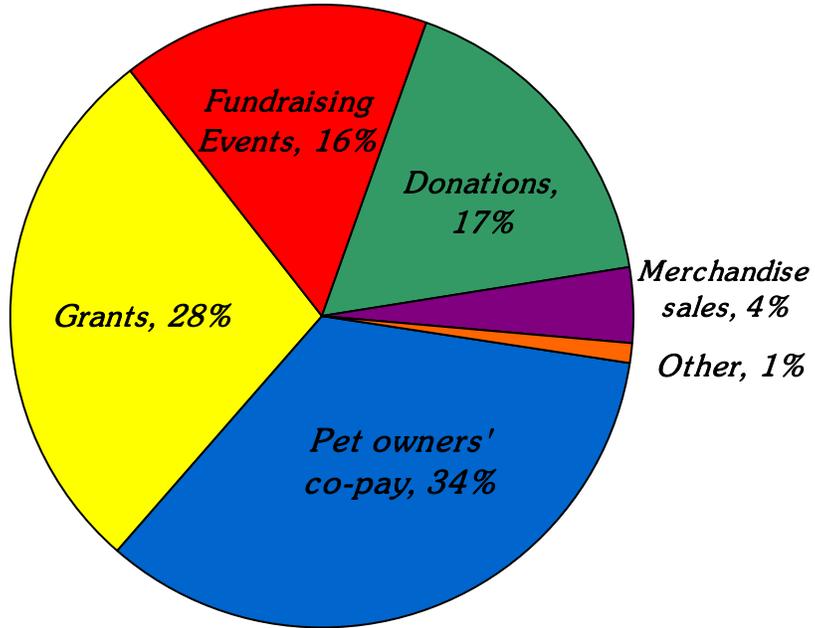
SNAP's functions are managed by six committees: General Fundraising, Fundraising Events, Tabling, Programs, Public Relations, and Operations. Programs and services include the following:

- **Certificate program.** A cornerstone of SNAP, the basic certificate program provides assistance to low-income pet owners who wish to spay or neuter their pets. Eligible pet owners redeem their certificates at one of over thirty participating veterinary clinics.
- **Sponsor-a-Spay.** This program allows SNAP supporters to donate money for surgeries of pets whose owners cannot afford to pay anything. The cost is \$25 to sponsor a cat or \$40 to sponsor a dog.
- **Grants.** *Fixin' Nixa* and *Project Spay & Stay* provide deeply discounted spay/neuter services to targeted populations in southwest Missouri.
- **Fundraising.** A variety of fundraising activities enables SNAP to raise the funds needed to assist impoverished pet owners. In addition to the Ice Cream Chill Out, Wine-Tasting, and membership drive, other fundraising activities include donation canisters, Cash for Critters (a printer cartridge recycling program), and the sale of donated and handmade merchandise.
- **Community outreach.** SNAP keeps the community informed about spay/neuter and other timely animal welfare issues through a website and quarterly newsletter. In addition, SNAP participated in nine public events in 2004 to disseminate educational information and increase public awareness of our program.

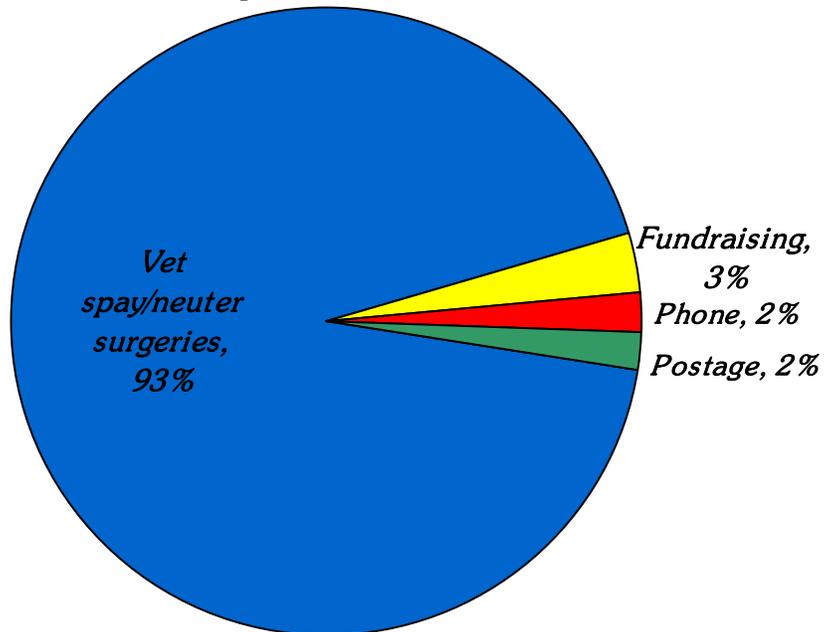


FINANCES

2004 Income: \$83,352



2004 Expenses: \$75,785



STAFF

SNAP is an all-volunteer organization consisting of an Executive Director (Kathi McDermott), a Fundraising Director (currently vacant), a Board of Directors, and a group of approximately 50 committed volunteers. Members of the Board include:

- Cindy Bird, President
- Janet Martin, Vice-President
- Susan Smith, Secretary
- Anne Heim, Treasurer
- Mike Divine, DVM
- Jackie Glass
- Susan Tolliver

GOALS FOR 2005

To maintain SNAP's high-quality services, our goals for the coming year include the following:

- Develop a set of educational materials to increase community outreach efforts.
- Maintain our certificate redemption rate at 95% or higher.
- Increase funding for the Sponsor-a-Spay program to help a minimum of 200 pets.