



Solutions

Helping Animals and the People Who Love Them

Issue 19

March 2007

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Susan Bell
Cindy Bird
Laurel Bryant
Mike Divine, DVM
Jackie Glass
Anne Heim
Janet Martin
Becky Seigel
Susan Smith*

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

*Barb Brockschmidt
Janet Martin*

*SNAP is a Missouri
501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.*

What's inside

- Cat show coming to Springfield
- Spay/neuter myths
- Annual meeting announcement



SNAP receives grant from Ruth A. McDaniel Animal Welfare Fund

SNAP has received a \$5,000 grant from the Ruth A. McDaniel Animal Welfare Fund. The Foundation provides support to animal welfare organizations within a 200-mile radius of Kansas



City. We are very grateful for these much-needed funds. The increase in the cost of cat spays, which began last September, has been a financial challenge. This grant could not have come at a better time. Our sincere thanks goes out to the Foundation.

Public education campaign is underway!

Just a quick reminder to our supporters that our education campaign is now underway. Perhaps you've seen our bus "tail" ad on City Utilities Bus number 12 or read the article in the February 28 News-Leader.

All of the educational materials we're using are available for download on our website at www.snap123.org/programs. In addition, we reserved page 3 of this edition of the newsletter for our list of spay/neuter myths, the central focus of our education campaign. Please feel free to make copies of this page and give them to pet owners, leave them in break rooms, post them on bulletin boards, or any other way you can think of to get the word out. It's shocking how many people still cling to the old beliefs about spay/neuter, and we are determined to change that. Won't you help us?



New member welcome

Individual

Beatrice Foster
 Betty J Goodall
 Tania Kowalski

Student/Senior

Shaina King
 Joan McClennen
 Juanita Mix
 Paul McGilliard

Family

Mike Walsh & Dr.
 Carlie Layton
 Ashley Lamb
 Lana Sullentrop
 Jill Snider

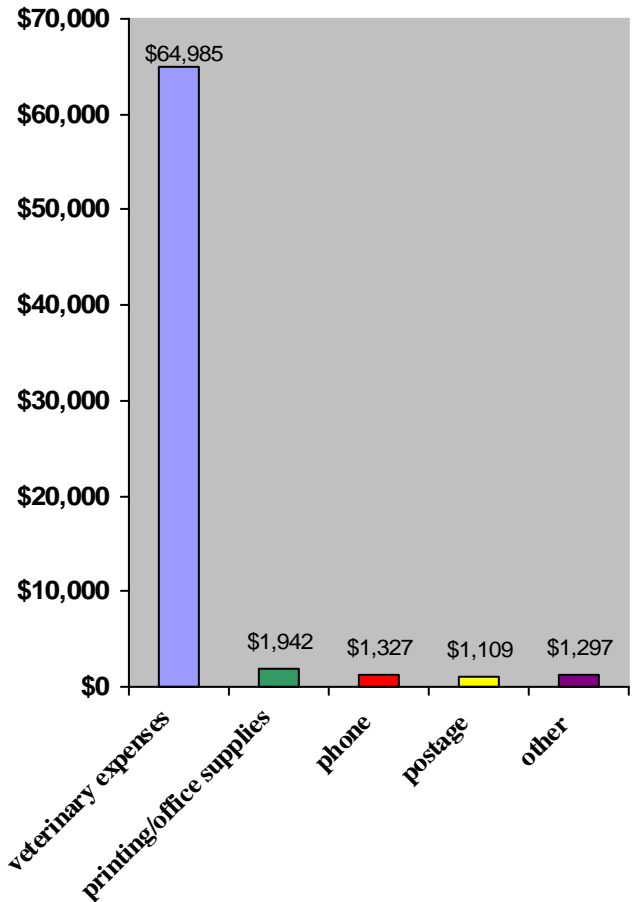
Business

Clearview Window
 Cleaning

Lifetime

Lisa Koontz

By the numbers: 2006 SNAP expenses



In Memoriam

Mary Jane Akridge
 Sally Miner

Lakes Country Cat Fanciers Show to be held March 31st — April 1st

Just thinking about the Lakes Country Cat Show makes us (and this guy) happy! If you've never been to a cat show before, now's your chance. As we all know, cats are much different animals than dogs. Well, their shows are different, too. (Cats wouldn't have it any other way, would they?) In addition to a plethora of Maine Coons, Persians, and Rag-



dolls, the show will feature a special award for the top-scoring Himalayan kitten, as well as a championship and premiership in memory of Earl Rothman, a loyal SNAP supporter and cat enthusiast who passed away last year.

The show will be held at the Springfield Expo Center, located at 635 St. Louis Street in Springfield. Show hours are 11 am–6 pm on Saturday, March 31 and 9 am–3 pm on Sunday, April 1. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and \$3 for children 18 & under. A portion of the proceeds will go to SNAP, so mark your calendars now and make plans to be there!

MYTHS ABOUT SPAY/NEUTER

MYTH: *Dogs and cats should be at least six months old before spaying or neutering.*

FACT: Early-age spay/neuter can be safely performed on puppies and kittens as small as two pounds, and recovery time after surgery is noticeably shorter. In addition, you can eliminate the risk of “oops” litters with early-age spay/neuter. Did you know that female cats can go into heat at the age of five months?

MYTH: *Spaying or neutering will change my pet's personality.*

FACT: Your pet will remain a caring and protective companion. The only changes will be positive. Your pet will be calmer and less likely to fight, wander the neighborhood, bite, or mark its territory.

MYTH: *Spaying or neutering costs too much.*

FACT: Spay/neuter is a one-time cost and a small one when compared to the benefits. It's a bargain compared to the cost of having a litter! Most importantly, it's a small price to pay for the health of your pet and the prevention of the births of more unwanted pets.

MYTH: *A female pet should have at least one litter before spaying.*

FACT: No medical evidence supports this statement. In fact, the longer a female goes unspayed, the more likely she is to contract breast or uterine cancer.

MYTH: *Spaying or neutering will make my pet fat and lazy.*

FACT: Lack of exercise and overfeeding are the main reasons pets become fat.

MYTH: *We can always find good homes for a litter.*

FACT: It's difficult to find good homes for unwanted animals, especially after they outgrow the “cute” stage. Even if you do, there's no guarantee those owners will have them fixed. The pet overpopulation problem grows one litter at a time.

MYTH: *It's unnecessary to neuter males because they're not the ones having the litters.*

FACT: It takes two to tango. While a female dog or cat may only have one or two litters a year, males can impregnate females many times each day! Responsible pet ownership means fixing both males and females.

MYTH: *I want my dog to be protective.*

FACT: Spaying/neutering does not affect a dog's natural instinct to protect home and family. A dog's personality is formed more by genetics and environment than by hormones.



Spay Neuter Assistance Program
P.O. Box 14354 • Springfield, MO 65814
417-823-7627 • www.snap123.org

Spay or neuter.
No excuses.

SNAP partners with over 40 veterinarians in the Ozarks to provide spay/neuter services for pet owners who could not otherwise afford to get their pets fixed.

Letter from SNAP client

To the SNAP staff--

I would like to tell you all thank you so very much for your services. I can't even tell you what a help this is for me and a lot of people who would love to help control the cat population but can't because of the cost... this REALLY helps! Thanks again.

Heather



I'm puzzled about some of the things that are going on in

MEWsings



the animal world. I've heard that Americans spend **Bil-**lions of dollars (see that **B**?) on stuff for their pets! This is not just for the essentials like food and bedding, folks.

Have you seen pictures of some fancy felines spray painted to look like dogs, birds, people? And it costs \$1600 a month to do it! Most of the cats I chum with would be embarrassed to look like that and would probably leave some significant scratches on anyone who tried to hold them still.

And give this paws for thought: canines are not just dogs anymore. Their owners are dressing them in outfits straight out of Hollywood and actually taking them out in public to show them off. Most of my canine pals wouldn't be happy being carried around in a Gucci bag!

My buddies and I have talked about how great it would be if some of that money was spent helping spay and neuter our less fortunate friends whose people can't afford it, or supporting no-kill shelters and groups who are trying to end pet over-population. They're making progress but it costs a bunch.

Don't get me wrong. We LOVE our humans. They give many of us nice warm homes with plenty of food and water, cozy beds (sometimes theirs!) and return our devotion. We just wish they would realize that we don't need all that fancy stuff.

Special Thanks

- We would like to extend a sincere thanks to **all of those who donated to SNAP in 2006**. Large or small, your donations are the lifeblood of our organization. They keep us afloat and motivate us to keep fighting the good fight against pet overpopulation. We could not survive without you. Thanks again for your support.
- With the cooperation of several area businesses, a Christmas Sponsor-a-Spay drive yielded 25 surgeries! Thanks to the following businesses for displaying our Sponsor-a-Spay trees and making this effort a success: **All About Dogs & Cats, Candy House, Camp Bow Wow** and **All Pet Supplies** (Republic Road).
- **Tom and Dorothy Maserang** opened their home during the Christmas season so that visitors could see their beautiful decorations and more than 25,000 lights. Donations were accepted, and a portion of the proceeds went to SNAP. Many thanks to Tom and Dorothy.

What's in a name?



Here at SNAP we see lots of different and interesting pet names during the course of a year. Here are the most popular names from 2006. Notice that Princess and Sissy are on both lists.

We have to admit that we our tastes lean towards the offbeat and unusual. That said, here are our favorites for the year, in no particular order. Folks, we can't make this stuff up.

Most popular...	
<u>DOGS</u>	<u>CATS</u>
Buddy	Callie
Daisy	Princess
Angel	Blackie
Precious	Mama Cat
Rocky	Patches
Sissy	Trixie
Sugar	Sissy
Princess	Sassy
Buster	Snowball
Molly	Max
Baby	Smoky

Our favorites...	
<u>DOGS</u>	<u>CATS</u>
Bo Jangles	Barry White
Low-rider	Dew Drop
Remington	Lucky Levi
Poochini	Fudgette
Boogey Woogey	Sgt Bushwhacked
Starbucks	Jinxy Bell
Minnie Might	Lady Pepper
Gypsy Rose	Minnie Pearl
Tag Along	Chipmunk
Mr Gordie	JJ Littlefuzz
Nibbles	Velcro
Dandy Blue Outlaw	Miss Chievous

Sponsor-a-Spay List

As usual, there are plenty of kitties and hounds on our Sponsor-a-Spay waiting list. Won't

you please sponsor one of these pets (visit our web site for a complete listing). Your \$25 donation will sponsor a cat, while \$40 will sponsor a dog. Simply fill out the form on the last page of this newsletter, and be assured that your generosity will help *save lives!*

Cats awaiting sponsors:

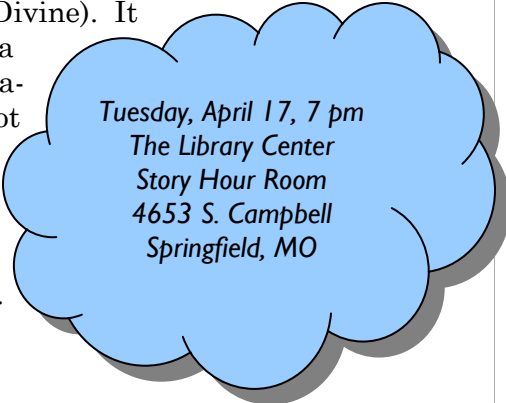
- ☛ Mrs Pip, female
- ☛ Munchkin, female
- ☛ Feather, female
- ☛ Festus, male
- ☛ Honey, female
- ☛ Mousy, female
- ☛ Pepper, female
- ☛ Jasmine, female
- ☛ Pearl, female
- ☛ Twinkles, female

Dogs awaiting sponsors:

- ☛ Tipper, male
- ☛ Pixie, female
- ☛ Bear, male
- ☛ Calley, female
- ☛ Daisy, female
- ☛ Blue, female
- ☛ Frickles, male
- ☛ Sunshine, female
- ☛ Cocoa, female
- ☛ Snickers, male

You're invited to SNAP's annual meeting

SNAP's annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 17, 7:00 pm, in the Story Hour Room at the Library Center in Springfield. 2006 was an eventful year, and we'll report on all the activities. Copies of the annual report will be available, and we'll have delicious appetizers provided by **Café Roswithé** (with a little help from board member Mike Divine). It promises to be a fun and informative evening, not to mention a chance to meet other animal lovers like yourselves. Please join us!



YES!

I would like to become a member of SNAP to help reduce the number of unwanted animals born in Southwest Missouri. I understand that by becoming a member, I will receive a quarterly newsletter and an invitation to SNAP's annual meeting. (Membership is renewable annually and is tax deductible. Payment may be made by check or money order.)

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

\$15 Student/Senior (60 & over)

\$125 Business

\$25 Individual

\$500 Lifetime

\$40 Family

OR...

_____ I want to help! Please send information about becoming a SNAP volunteer.

_____ I want to support SNAP's work with the enclosed tax-deductible donation.

_____ Please make a donation in memory of _____

_____ Please send me information on estate planning .

_____ 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

MAIL TO: SNAP • P.O. Box 14354 • Springfield, MO 65814 • (417)823-7627

Solutions!

PO Box 14354

Springfield, MO 65814

**NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
SPRINGFIELD, MO
PERMIT #81**



Spay Neuter Assistance Program

The Humane Solution to Pet Overpopulation