



Summer 2011

A Program of the Animal Shelter Alliance of Portland

Dear Friend,

Spay & Save's goal and focus is to reduce the numbers of cats entering area shelters each year by offering affordable spay and neuter services for cats in low income households. As we head into our second year, there is a lot to reflect upon and be proud of. Since the launch of the Spay & Save program on February 16th, 2010, your support has helped us spay and neuter more than 10,000 cats. Many of these cats could not have been spayed and neutered without the affordable, high-quality services Spay & Save provides low income pet owners and Good Samaritans who care for feral and stray cats. Our goal for 2011 is to deliver 10,000 more targeted surgeries for the cats of families in need, while making an even bigger impact on pet overpopulation in our community.

This year will also see us on the ground more, participating in community outreach events and going door to door in zip codes that have the highest levels of shelter intake. We are also building our volunteer base to help in a variety of positions such as providing transportation, counseling clients, answering phones, staffing outreach events, distributing flyers and more.

Your support means a great deal to our program and our ability to reduce pet overpopulation, but it means just as much to the animals and people who depend on Spay & Save for help.

On behalf of our community's cats,

Anika Moje, Spay & Save Program Manager
Animal Shelter Alliance of Portland



Spay & Save patient Leo is ready for his big day

Spay & Save is a service of the Animal Shelter Alliance of Portland (ASAP), a coalition of local animal shelters, county animal services agencies, and professional veterinary associations. Spay & Save is dedicated to ending cat overpopulation across the Portland/Vancouver area by providing high-quality affordable sterilization services for the cats of those in need.

Spay & Save is housed in the offices of our fiscal agent, the Oregon Humane Society. Donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.



Spay & Save Stats

As of June 30, 2011

9,923 Cats spayed and neutered

6 Surgery partners-

- *Cat Adoption Team*
- *Oregon Humane Society*
- *Multnomah County Animal Services*
- *Humane Society for Southwest Washington*
- *Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon*
- *North Portland Veterinary Hospital*

3,705 Volunteer hours donated to the program

495 Most cats spayed in a single week

1,393 Most client calls received in a single month

964 Followers on Facebook

It all started with one cat...

On February 16, 2010, the Spay & Save program welcomed its very first patient, a one-year old female cat named Soma. Little did we know that both Soma and her owner Rosemary S. would be “typical” of the program’s clients: Rosemary, a senior from SE Portland, is a recipient of food stamps, which is how roughly 80%



Soma, the very first Spay & Save patient

of our clients qualify for the program. She heard about the program from a friend who had seen one of our flyers at a local grocery store; word of mouth is the most common way people hear about Spay & Save. Having no

form of transportation of her own, she was driven to and from the appointment by her church’s pastor. Many of our clients lack transportation to get their cats to and from a spay/neuter appointment, which is why the program has a group of dedicated volunteers who will pick up cats from clients’ homes and transport them to their appointment. In 2010, two of our volunteers shuttled an impressive 750 cats to their appointments! Soma was the first of 5,773 cats spayed in 2010 through the Spay & Save program. We are hoping to reach our goal of spaying and neutering 10,000 cats in our community in 2011.

A Stellar Volunteer

Like many programs of its kind, Spay & Save depends in large part on the efforts of our volunteers, who answer the telephone hotline, schedule appointments, and help with outreach, marketing and transport. Volunteer Judy Anderson, who’s been with the program from the start, recently won an Oregon Humane Society Award for her efforts on behalf of Spay & Save. Not only does she come in twice a week to answer phones and schedule clients, but she has also single-handedly put together the volunteer training manual, and is a relentless promoter of the program.



Judy Anderson, dedicated Spay & Save volunteer

In Judy’s own words: “I am passionate about this program since it helps both cats and people, and our clients are so appreciative. The great thing about Spay & Save is that we help people do the right thing for their pets by making spaying and neutering so affordable. Plus, we connect them to free or low cost vet care, pet food banks, and other resources that help their pets live healthier and happier lives. Each of our clients has a story to tell about their cat, and some of them really stick with you, like the one about a woman who rescued a Maine Coon that was abandoned when her neighbors were evicted. Caring for this cat helped pull her out of

a deep depression, and thanks to Spay & Save she was able to get the cat spayed and make her a permanent member of her family.”

Working Hand in Hand

Spay & Save works collaboratively with other local agencies. To date, over 200 cats have been referred to the Spay & Save program through pet food banks and a local veterinary clinic that serves the very low income and the homeless. A veterinary clinic volunteer recently sent this note: “I have about a dozen cats to send you from PAW Team. We are getting fewer animals signed up because so many of the animals are getting served through the Spay & Save program. We have started to make a dent. The next PAW Team clinic is December 5 so I will have cats for you again then! Thank you for taking them!” We look forward to continuing and expanding these partnerships, which make our community such a great place for pets and their people.

In Their Own Words

Leaders from our partner agencies are committed to working together toward the day when the Spay & Save program has reached its goals of ending pet overpopulation, reducing shelter intake, and finding every pet in our community a lifelong loving home.

“At Cat Adoption Team we supply cat food and litter through our Food Bank to those who are struggling in this economy. To qualify they must be receiving some form of assistance and their pets must be spayed or neutered. It used to be difficult for some families to get their pets altered in a timely manner. Now that we can offer them the Spay & Save program, it has allowed those pet owners to get their cats altered right away. Plus, they have started telling friends and family who are in the same situation as they are. The folks who come to us for help are so thankful that there is a place that will help them in their time of need. And, through our programs, we are able to keep them and their pets together.”

-Aaron Asmus, Cat Adoption Team Executive Director

“OHS did our first three-generation cat spay this past week. A Spay & Save client brought in her cat, her cat’s daughter, and that cat’s litter of kittens. We were able to spay them all and put an end to that chain of production.”

-Dr. Kris Otteman, Oregon Humane Society Director of Shelter Medicine

Beyond Spay and Neuter

Occasionally, there are cats who need a little more help. Case in point—a tiny kitten named Emily. A client called the Spay & Save hotline to make an appointment for a cat who had just weaned her kittens. We learned in our conversation with her that only one of the litter had survived, and that the client did not have the resources to care for two cats. One of our surgery partners agreed to spay the female cat and accepted the very young, very sick kitten in their foster care program, where she could receive the necessary care until she was old enough to be spayed and made available for adoption. Within hours of being put up for adoption, Emily the kitten found a loving new home—and both she and her mother continue to enjoy their lives as beloved, sterilized family pets.



Two-month old kitten Emily found a second chance through Spay & Save

Transport Clinics

The first Friday of every month is Transport Clinic Day at the Bonnie L. Hays Small Animal Shelter in Hillsboro.

“We have a line of people here at 7:00 am with their precious kitties in crates—and sometimes the occasional cardboard box,” says Animal Services Manager Deborah Wood. “We know that many people in our county, especially rural residents find it too intimidating to make the trip to Portland to the Oregon Humane Society or south to Sherwood to the Cat Adoption Team.”

As a result, the shelter welcomes a monthly parade of cats and their owners at the early morning hour. The cats are checked in at the shelter, and owners are assured that their cats will come back to them, safe and sound, at the end of the day.

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An Animal Services Officer transports the cats to the veterinarians at the Cat Adoption Team, who perform the spay/neuter surgeries. At the end of the day, an Animal Services Officer comes back to get the cats and returns them to the shelter where their grateful owners come to collect them.

"We have so many people thanking us for the help—those afternoons are just joyful," says Wood. "These are owners who can't afford to go to regular veterinarians, and they are people who can't make their way into the urban areas where the surgeries are taking place. These transport clinics are absolutely ending the endless cycle of kittens that come to our shelter. We are so grateful to be a part of this."

Ways to Help

Post our flyer

Download our flyer at www.spaysave.org

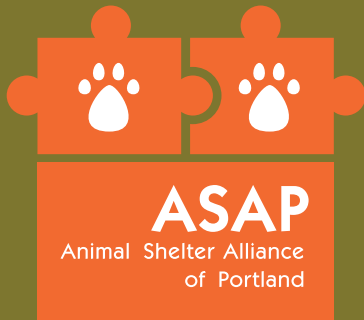
Volunteer

Contact us at info@asapmetro.org

Donate

Visit us at www.asapmetro.org

Stay up to date by visiting us on Facebook!



Spay & Save is one of the major initiatives of the Animal Shelter Alliance of Portland (ASAP). ASAP's mission is to end the euthanasia of social, healthy, and treatable cats and dogs in our local shelters by collaborating on spay/neuter programs, educational, and outreach efforts, and the promotion of humane alternatives for feral cats.

Within 4 short years, ASAP has:

- Reduced our community's euthanasia rate by over 44%; that's 14,120 more lives saved
- Increased the percentage of shelter animals saved from 61.53% to 76.55%
- Increased adoptions by almost 20%, to 20,000 cats and dogs adopted in 2010

For more information on the ground breaking work of this coalition, please visit our new website at www.asapmetro.org.

Thank You!

