



Spring 2012

A Program of the Animal Shelter Alliance of Portland

Dear Friends,

The Spay & Save Program has grown dramatically in the first two years! It was February of 2010 when we first opened our doors to help low income pet owners have access to low cost, high-quality spay and neuter services for their cats. Since then, your support has helped us spay and neuter more than 16,500 cats. Cat owners from as far east as Rhododendron, as far north as La Center, and as far west as Forest Grove have travelled to one of our four surgery sites to have their cats spayed or neutered for low or no cost. Despite this success, the Animal Shelter Alliance of Portland (ASAP) noticed that a neighborhood in Northeast Portland was still in need of our help.

ASAP tracked areas where unusually high numbers of animals were being brought into shelters. We were able to identify the Woodlawn neighborhood as one that was in need of our services and decided it was a perfect location to host one of our "Spay Patrol" events there.

Thirty intrepid volunteers donned their waterproof layers and braved stormy conditions in celebration of the Martin Luther King Day of Service on January 16, 2012. Our volunteers spent three hours getting the word out about Spay & Save, hanging almost 2,000 door hangers within a two-square-mile area and delivering bi-lingual flyers to local businesses. This was the program's largest canvassing event to date. The event brought together a diverse group of people from the community, most of whom had never met until that day, all working towards the same goal: ending cat overpopulation in our area.

The youth department of Greater Bethesda Christian Center sent a group of four high-school students with two adult volunteers. Khandice Lawrence, volunteer coordinator for Greater Bethesda, summed up the reason for choosing the Spay Patrol over other projects for the Martin Luther King Day of Service this way: "Our fundamental beliefs and values

(Over, please)



The Greater Bethesda Christian Center volunteers enjoying themselves during MLK Day Spay Patrol

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.



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center on the core of being givers of our community, not just takers. When teens participate in community service projects, they are more likely to respect their community through the connections and relationships they make while volunteering. We wanted to volunteer for an organization that is connected to the community not only through name, but through action and good deeds.”

ASAP wishes to acknowledge the wonderful volunteers who made this event possible and Hands On Greater Portland for their help recruiting volunteers. Please visit their website (<http://www.handsonportland.org/>) for more information on volunteer opportunities in the Portland area.

We greatly value community partnerships like these and feel fortunate to be living in such a pet-friendly and civic-minded community.

On behalf of our community’s cats,

Alike Moje



The Modie family with Ruth, the youngest member of the Spay Patrol. “I do believe she is the next great spay/neuter advocate,” says her mother Kathy. “She wants pet overpopulation to be a thing of the past in her lifetime.”

2011: A Year in Review

The start of 2012 closes a chapter in the book of Spay & Save. 2011 marked a period of incredible growth for the program. All Animal Shelter Alliance of Portland members opened their doors to help the program succeed and we were able to have 9,724 cats spayed or neutered—an incredible 68.4% increase over our 2010 year end numbers.

The word is out about Spay & Save, and we are looking forward to continued growth. Friends are telling friends, and the program is constantly expanding. In fact, when asked how they heard about us, about 25% of clients say they heard about Spay & Save through a friend or relative. Frequently, friends schedule appointments together, enabling them to carpool.

Our four special events were highlights of the year. Surgery partners scheduled up to an additional 500 cats in one week, offering those surgeries at a reduced price or for free. Our Marketing Committee came up with creative ways of naming these events, so 2011 saw us embark on a “Spay Odyssey,” go on a “Spaycation,” bring our “Kitten & Kaboodle” and celebrate “Jolly St Snip.”

Up on the house top, snip, snip, snip...

That’s right! The week of December 5th-9th marked the dates for “Jolly St. Snip”, ASAP’s holiday-themed Spay event . By offering free surgeries for qualified cat owners at each site, as well as a free microchip thanks to a generous grant by PetSmart Charities®, the ASAP coalition was able to provide 446 spay and neuters in just five days.

That put our monthly total up to 1,147 cats: the highest month to date. This included individual monthly records for Multnomah County Animal Services and the Oregon Humane Society.



Spay & Save Locations Are:

Bonnie L. Hays Small Animal Shelter —transfer location
Cat Adoption Team
Clackamas County Dog Services — transfer location
Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon
Humane Society for Southwest Washington
Multnomah County Animal Services
Oregon Humane Society

Spay & Save Sewing Circle

Football isn't for everyone. What better way to spend Super Bowl Sunday, (if you are not a football fan) than to put your sewing machines together and make blankets? That was the case on Super Bowl Sunday, February 6th, when 21 women came together to sew cat carrier blankets for Spay & Save clients. The idea for making these blankets started with the vision of one dedicated volunteer, Sandi Vosburg.



Spay & Save volunteer Sandi Vosburg and Volunteer Resource Manager Kristin Bigler pose in front of an impressive stack of cat blankets.

Sandi loves sewing almost as much as she loves cats. She sewed 200 blankets herself in one month, and while she enjoyed watching clients leave with the blankets, she knew she would be unable to keep up with the demand. She collaborated with Oregon Humane Society's Volunteer Resource Manager, Kristin Bigler to organize a sewing circle to pool resources and maximize efficiency. After 21 volunteers worked together for three hours, Sandi was able to smile in front of a stack of 360 blankets and say that she made a difference in the lives of hundreds of cats. "Before, when I was by myself, I just did it for the animals," Sandi said, "but this is a lot more fun." These blankets will be given out during future large spay events. A client is sent home with something extra, to let them know that people here care.

20 Cats, 1 Person

In November, one woman who had been feeding friendly stray cats on her property for a few years finally connected with the Spay & Save Hotline. She loved and cared deeply for each of the cats: the only problem was that they were un-altered and they were reproducing at an astonishing rate. She felt completely overwhelmed until one day, a neighbor brought her information about the Spay & Save Program. Spay & Save was able to reduce the surgery fees for her if she could bring them all in on one day. On a Friday in late November, the Oregon Humane Society devoted an entire morning to altering all 20 of her cats. She enlisted the assistance of a friend, packed two cars full of cat carriers and drove all 20 of her furry, feline friends down from Battle Ground for their surgeries.

This woman was incredibly grateful for the support. She wanted to keep all her cats healthy, but with her financial situation, full price surgeries were not an option. Willow, Red, Girlie, Pretty Boy, Eva, Sampson, Larry, Mo, Curly, Fluffy, Tom, Felida, Sugar, Toughany, Tiger, Window, Ruger, Angel, Boots and Andrew are all happy, sterile campers now thanks to Spay & Save!

Two Stellar Volunteers

Spay & Save isn't all kittens and sunshine. Two volunteers go the extra mile (literally) to ensure that the Spay & Save program is accessible to people over nearly all parts of the Portland area. Gerry Taylor and Mary Ann Dorr are transport volunteers. They wake up at the crack of dawn and drive to the apartments of disabled clients and clients without any means of transportation. They help coax nervous cats out from behind sofas and from under houses and trailers.

These two women routinely cover a nearly 30-square-mile radius from Oregon City and Clackamas in the south to Ridgefield and Battle Ground, Washington in the north. In 2011, they transported over 800 cats back and forth from surgery. These are 800 cats that would certainly have remained unaltered due to their owners' lack of transportation. Gerry and Mary Ann gave 922 hours of time to the Spay & Save program in 2011, the equivalent of 115 workdays. These women truly embody the spirit of volunteerism and are an inspiration to all.

In 2011, ASAP has:

- Increased the percentage of shelter animals saved from 76.55% to 78.91%
- Decreased shelter intake by 2,600 cats compared to the year before. This is the biggest drop in a four-year downward trend.
- Become an adoption guarantee community. No healthy dogs or cats were euthanized in Portland-area shelters in 2011.

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

Thank you for helping us save lives!



Oregon Humane Society
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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.

Ways to Help

Post our flyer

Download our flyer at spaysave.org

Volunteer

Contact us at info@asapmetro.org

Donate

Visit us at asapmetro.org

Stay up to date by visiting us on Facebook!