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Nacogdoches low-cost spay/neuter clinic needs city's help to stay open

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NACOGDOCHES, TX (KTRE) – Becky Adams prepares for surgeries that will cut down the animal population one procedure at a time.

"As I understand it, the actual numbers in East Texas are basically seven animals, puppies or kittens born for each baby that's born in Nacogdoches County and so our overpopulation is really bad here," said Becky Adams.

Adams is a veterinarian technician for the Nacogdoches Animal Services and Adoption Center's low-cost spay neuter clinic.

Volunteers come in every Thursday to prep cats and dogs to see the vet for surgery.

Twenty animals were spayed or neutered in the clinic in just one day last week. They're hoping doing the surgeries will help significantly lower the number of animals in Nacogdoches County over the next three to five years.

The clinic opened to qualifying, low-income clients in January.

The Humane Society funded the initial start-up, but now they need the city's help to stay open.

"Without the city's support, of course, the clinic wouldn't exist at all," said Adams. "There's no way the humane society itself could fund the whole thing."

City Manager Jim Jeffers said Nacogdoches provides the building space, employee help, and some operation costs for the unique clinic.

The plan is to put those agreements in writing at Tuesday night's city council meeting, to avoid confusion if leadership positions change.

"It will help to avoid any future miscommunication as to who is responsible for what part of the operation," explained Jeffers.

It's an operation that's said to be the only one of its kind in the area.

Right now, the program is breaking even, so there's no cost to taxpayers.

With the city's help, more animals will be saved from euthanasia in the long run.

They make it clear, they do not want to take clients away from local vets.

You have to qualify for the clinic and the reduced cost is based on the size of your pet.

