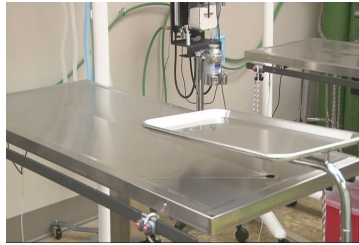


SPCA opens clinic to help with feral animals problem

Posted: Feb 13, 2014 10:57 PM CST Thursday, February 13, 2014 11:57 PM EST Updated: Feb 13, 2014 10:57 PM CST Thursday, February 13, 2014 11:57 PM EST



TYLER, TX (KLTV) -

The SPCA of East Texas is helping to solve the problem of feral animals and put a stop to breeding them. Thursday they had an open house to show the community the facility's surgery suite. Two techs and a veterinarian will work with adopted dogs and cats, as well as those who already have owners, performing 80 surgeries a week.

"We've been working on this for over two years through grant writing with PetSmart Charities," said SPCA of East Texas president Deborah Dobbs. "We've been able to secure an \$85,000 grant to purchase all of the equipment. Spay and neuter is important, so we thought we would do both; rescue and adopt and stop the overpopulation of unwanted litters."

Luci Mimms and Pam Hicks both keep supplies in their vehicles to help them save animals they see roaming the streets.

"Since I never know when I'm going to have to pick up a dog, I try to be prepared, so I have my little dog rescue kit here," Mimms said.

"I carry treats that have a good smell for dogs, so that I can maybe lure them over," Hicks said.

Mimms said her passion for rescuing animals started when a stray dog showed up at her house.

"Through that process I realized how serious the problem is in our community," Mimms said. "The problem is so broad because it goes from the fact that we have unwanted litters running around on the streets, in the city and in the country."

She has fostered several dogs herself and says she's hopeful for positive results from the clinic's low cost spay and neuter program.

"There's several dogs in our community right now that are running loose," Mimms said.

Pam Hicks is the volunteer coordinator for SPCA of East Texas and says she got involved to continue to help put a stop to breeding among homeless animals.

"If our animals were spayed and neutered, this problem would pretty much go away," Hicks said.

Last year, the SPCA says they were able to spay and neuter 800 animals locally.

The spay and neuter clinic located on 3405 NNE Loop 323 in Tyler will be open Tuesdays and Fridays. The staff says they will perform 40 surgeries a day and they take about 30 minutes.

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