

OPINION

The Daily Sentinel • DailySentinel.com • Sunday, March 2, 2014

Take steps to reduce number of animals killed in area shelters

BY NANCY HINDS
Contributing Writer

How can one person save 100 homeless cats? It's easy. Just spay one.

Actually that is not quite accurate. One breeding pair of cats and their offspring, in ideal conditions with each of the kittens surviving can produce a whopping 420,000 cats in seven years. That is one cat for every single person living in the Miami metro area.

One breeding pair of dogs and their offspring, in ideal conditions can produce 62,000 dogs in six years. Which would mean everyone in Nacogdoches would have at least two dogs. Lets hope we all like the same kind of dog, as they all will be related.

So you see by spaying or neutering your pet you actually save many more lives than 100.

Here are some options:

We are fortunate to have some great veterinary clinics in town. They provide a wide array of services from routine to emergencies. They also provide spay/neuter services.

For qualifying applicants we also have a low cost spay/neuter clinic, a program for free spay/neuter of pit bulls

in the 75964 zip code, and a program that helps supplement spay/neuter costs for animals adopted from the Nacogdoches Animal Shelter.

O'Malley Alley Cats (www.omalleyalleycat.com) has a PetSmart Charities grant to spay/neuter free roaming (not owned) cats on SFA campus and the surrounding area. Owned cats may qualify for a subsidized spay/neuter. Call 556-2754 for information.

O'Malley PET (Preventing Euthanasia Together) is a division of O'Malley Alley Cats that offers spay/neuter services to both dogs and cats of families with qualifying income or are on government assistance. To see if you qualify, check out their website at www.omalleypet.org or call 556-2754.

If you live in the 75964 zip code and have a pit bull you would like to have spayed or neutered for free, contact St. Francis rescue at 615-7425 or stfrancisrescuenac.com. That is all you need — a pit bull who needs a spay or neuter, an address in 75964, and a phone.

St. Francis will pay 100 percent of the cost of the surgery and any necessary vaccinations.

Need more help for spay or neuter and rabies vaccina-

tions? Contact the Nacogdoches Animal Shelter at 560-5011 and ask about their programs through PetSmart Charities Grant and Spay/Neuter Nac which works in tandem with the Nacogdoches Humane Society.

See if you qualify for free or reduced rates for "fixing" your dog or cat and vaccinated against rabies. Remember, if you financially qualify, these discounts also apply to dogs and cats you adopt from the shelter.

The companion pet overpopulation situation in this area has been at a crisis point for many years. Do your part by spaying and neutering. Consider sponsoring a surgery through one of these organizations in honor of a loved one. What a great gift from the heart to give an animal lover.

Do a little, do a lot, it's up to you. If you do only one thing, please help spread the word about this important issue.

Help us reduce the number of animals killed for lack of space in shelters across East Texas.

Nancy Hinds is a volunteer with the Nacogdoches Animal Shelter and O'Malley PET (Preventing Euthanasia Together).