

# Plans for spay-neuter clinic move forward

Plans to establish a spay-neuter clinic at the Nacogdoches Animal Shelter are moving ahead, according to Dr. Wendy Blount, veterinarian and Humane Society member.

The clinic will provide low-cost spay-neuter services to those who could not otherwise afford them, and to those who adopt from the animal shelter and increase the number of animals that are spayed or neutered, without hurting full-cost services performed by local veterinarians.

Organizers also believe the clinic services will eventually increase the "save rate" at the Nacogdoches Animal Shelter by positively impacting the pet overpopulation problem.

Medical supplies and equipment valued at more than \$32,000, have been purchased or donated, training sessions for clinic volunteers have begun, and a new Web site with information about the clinic is up and running.

"The Humane Society of Nacogdoches and the city animal shelter are working cooperatively to make the clinic a joint effort," said Anne Sullivan, Humane Society representative.

"An agreement is being discussed to determine the responsibilities and duties of both organizations, to ensure its smooth operation."

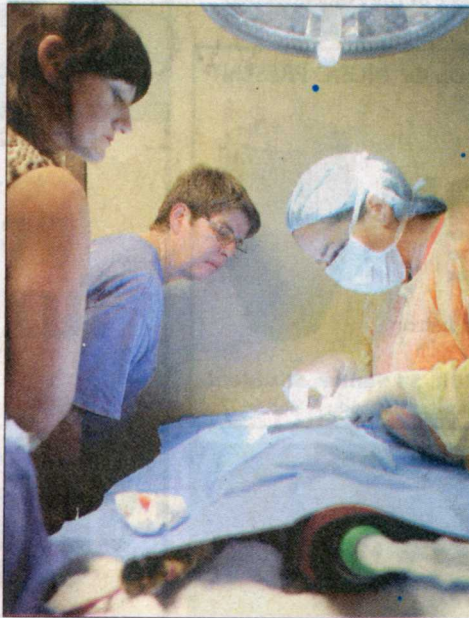
Michele Sprague, director of volunteers, will work to staff the facility with trained volunteers who will assist local veterinarians who have agreed to provide low-cost spay-neuter services.

Volunteers will help with admissions, anesthetic induction, surgical assistance and monitoring, post-operative recovery and patient discharge.

They must first attend training, master a skill and be certified by a supervisor, before proceeding unsupervised.

Volunteer training sessions have begun, including venipuncture, (taking blood), first aid for dogs and cats, neutering the cat, admissions paperwork and pre-surgical evaluations.

Additional training sessions are planned.



Staff photo by Andrew Rogers

Nancy Hinds, center, and Catherine Rouse, left, Nacogdoches Animal Shelter Volunteers, look on as veterinarian Dr. Wendy Blount, right, performs an ovario hysterectomy, also known as spaying, on a rescued cat, as part of the training preparation for the spay-neuter clinic on site at the Nacogdoches Animal Shelter.

Shelter employees will also work in the clinic and receive continuing education credits for training and participation.

"We are working diligently to finalize plans and to get the clinic up and running, as soon as possible," Blount said.

"The benefits of the clinic will take a while to be realized, but the clinic is a definite step in the right direction toward addressing the animal control needs of Nacogdoches County."

Those who wish to make a donation to the clinic or to assist as a volunteer can visit the clinic's new Web site: [www.spayneuternac.org](http://www.spayneuternac.org).