



Spay Michigan launches first statewide hotline

Pet owners linked with affordable pet sterilization

Posted: September 25, 2008 3 a.m. EDT

A new hotline established this week in Michigan will help ease the financial burden of getting Fluffy and Fido spayed or neutered, say the founders of Spay Michigan.

Cat and dog owners in Michigan can start to take advantage of the first statewide pet spay and neuter hotline by calling 888-5SPAY-HELP toll free. Once a call is connected, an operator provides pet owners with information about veterinarians who offer low-cost spay and neuter services in or near their city.

As of Wednesday afternoon, the official launch of the hotline, operator Diane Sitko said she had already fielded more than 20 calls from people asking about affordable pet sterilization in their area. After she finds out what city the pet owner is calling from, she refers to a bank of about 20 veterinarians, rescue groups and animal shelters that agreed to participate.

The affordable spay and neuter services listed with Spay Michigan are for people who cannot afford the full going rate for the procedure, which can cost up to \$200 per pet.

Spay Michigan is a program of All About Animals Rescue, a Warren, Mich., nonprofit organization that adopts out cats and dogs, and sponsors spay/neuter and vaccination clinics. Amber Sitko, the group's founder and president and Diane Sitko's daughter, said the hotline is a much-needed resource as the state's poor economic conditions make it difficult for many pet owners to afford sterilization and as more pets are surrendered at shelters.

"We believe that most pet owners want to be responsible," she said in a statement. "However, for many, it is a financial burden to do so. We are hoping that the Spay Michigan hotline provides a way of reaching out to those pet owners who could use a hand."

The goal is to help reduce the number of homeless and unwanted kittens, cats, puppies and dogs, thousands of which are euthanized in Michigan shelters each year.

Michigan is one of 13 states to offer such a program, according to Esther Mechier, founder of SPAY/USA, a national organization that promotes pet sterilization awareness and education.



The goal of Spay Michigan is to help reduce the number of euthanizations in the state due to overpopulation, as well as helping pet owners who may be going through tough economic times.

Reader Comments:

Super!

Pat, omaha, NE

Posted: 9/26/2008 5:22:32 AM

great idea

E, Attleboro, MA

Posted: 9/26/2008 12:01:46 AM

good article

cyan, boulder, CO

Posted: 9/25/2008 11:34:30 PM

Great idea!

Sheryl, Casa Grande, AZ

Posted: 9/25/2008 9:01:45 PM

What a great idea! I wish every state had a program like this.

JoJo, Cedar Falls, IA

Posted: 9/25/2008 8:15:35 PM

Great idea!!!!

Beth, Berlin, NH

Posted: 9/25/2008 7:31:22 PM

Cool!

Danielle, Bartlesville, OK

Posted: 9/25/2008 6:42:40 PM

What a great story!!

Sue, Springfield, IL

Posted: 9/25/2008 5:53:29 PM

AWESOME! I am so for all of this. great info

Paige, Burlington, WI

Posted: 9/25/2008 5:45:01 PM

This sounds like all the states should start up.

Jenny, Portland, OR

Posted: 9/25/2008 4:16:16 PM

Great information

C, Dallas, NC

Posted: 9/25/2008 3:03:41 PM

Great!

Jecksan, Sabana Grande, PR

Posted: 9/25/2008 9:32:32 AM

Excellent program!

Bob, Syracuse, NY

Posted: 9/25/2008 9:00:21 AM

Great!

Pat, omaha, NE

Posted: 9/25/2008 8:28:43 AM

I think this a great program. We have a similar program here in Maine. I know how important it is to your cat's health to do this.

Julie, Lewiston, ME

Posted: 9/25/2008 8:19:39 AM

I wish EVERY state would have this program. The pet overpopulation problem seems endless.

S, 3 Oaks, MI

Posted: 9/25/2008 7:47:01 AM

Interesting, but the author never did say what the actual "low cost" was. Humane Society in Arizona will spay female cats for \$65.00 and neuter males for \$30.00. We also have some low cost ABC (animal birth control) clinics that charge the same rates. I have used both for my feral cats and found the quality of service excellent.

A typical vet bill in Tucson, Arizona will be around the same rate as Michigan's. Massachusetts on the other hand is probably the worst at over \$300.00 just for a male dog as my son recently experienced.

Can't say I regret leaving Mass 10 years ago.

John, Tucson, AZ

Posted: 9/25/2008 7:34:32 AM

Ya know, it costs enough money to take care of a pet w/food, annual vet visit, etc., so why can't Vets lower the cost of sterilization???? They KNOW FULL WELL the problem of over pet population and imo, it's their duty to help out w/this situation and LOWER the cost so more people will spay & neuter!!! it's a win win situation. Vets will still make TONS of money in spite of a lower cost.

Karen, Bellingham, MA

Posted: 9/25/2008 7:12:55 AM

Good for Michigan! Hopefully other states will follow suit

Kathy, Morehead City, NC

Posted: 9/25/2008 6:44:39 AM

Good idea

cat, corydon, IN

Posted: 9/25/2008 6:01:54 AM

Good Idea. We already have too many animals and not enough forever homes.

Kim, Natrona Heights, PA

Posted: 9/25/2008 5:25:54 AM

This is a Great idea. All states should have this.

Cathy, Hubbard, OH

Posted: 9/25/2008 4:47:39 AM

good idea

E, Attleboro, MA

Posted: 9/25/2008 12:23:27 AM

Great idea, should be in every state

me, me, ME

Posted: 9/25/2008 12:22:03 AM