



## Orange County Animal Services

1601 Eubanks Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27516  
919-942-PETS (7387)

### MEMO

To: Frank Clifton, County Manager

From: Bob Marotto, Director of Animal Services

Date: January 19, 2010

**Re: *Community Spay Neuter Fund Update***

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The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) created The Community Spay Neuter Fund in FY0708 on the basis of a \$20 increase in the pet registration fee (or pet tax) for intact (or reproductive) dogs and cats in Orange County. As can be seen from the attached memorandum requesting its creation, the purpose of the fund is to promote spay and neuter of animal companions and thereby reduce the number of animals euthanized as a result of pet overpopulation.

Since the creation of this fund, Animal Services staff has worked with the Animal Services Advisory Board (ASAB) to begin to establish a proactive and cost-effective program for spay and neuter in Orange County. During calendar year 2009 there were several significant developments in this area:

- More than 200 dogs and cats were spayed and neutered through Orange County's \$20 Fix, a program based upon a partnership with AnimalKind. The attached chart shows the program achievements for this "breakthrough" year;
- Effective collaboration with the Department of Social Services (DSS) to promote spay and neuter services for their clientele continued during these extraordinarily challenging economic times. Ninety-two (92) of the residents who had their dogs and cats sterilized through the \$20 Fix Program were DSS clients;
- The BOCC authorized the transfer of \$20,000 from the Community Spay Neuter Fund in order to outfit the in-house sterilization suite at the County's new Animal Services Center. In-house spay/ neuter started in mid-December 2009, and as of mid-January 2010, all adoptable surgeries

**Community Spay Neuter Fund**

**January 19, 2010**

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will be done in-house (and more cost-effectively, as part of the department's FY0910 budget);

- The County's Financial Services Department created a Special Revenue Fund (attached) for Community Spay Neuter Program in order to establish the basis for the effective long-term budgeting needed to manage pet overpopulation in the decade.

Activities for the whole of FY0910 are not limited to completing and presenting a strategic plan for managing pet overpopulation to the BOCC. Other activities include:

- Requesting that the BOCC again resolve (as it has for the last two years) that Feb. 23, 2010 is Spay (& Neuter) Day in Orange County;
- Organizing the sterilization of cats belonging to some DSS clients around the theme of "Beat the Heat" in conjunction with Spay (& Neuter) Day;
- Promoting spay and neuter and making qualified residents aware of Orange County's \$20 Fix;
- Developing an agreement with Pet Overpopulation Patrol, North Carolina, a mobile spay/neuter suite, to provide low-cost spay and neuter to Orange County residents and for special events, e.g., Spay (& Neuter) Day.

Going forward, staff expects to report out annually on the Community Spay Neuter Fund for each fiscal year. Nevertheless, it seemed appropriate and beneficial to do so at this time as the BOCC prepares to receive and review ***Managing Pet Overpopulation: A Strategic Plan for Orange County, North Carolina.***

Cc: Gwendolyn Harvey, Assistant County Manager  
Jean Austen, JD, Chair, Animal Services Advisory Board

Attachments: 3



## Orange County Animal Services

501 W. Franklin St, Suite 106, Chapel Hill, NC 27514 (919) 968-2287

To: Donna Coffey, Budget Director, Orange County

From: Bob Marotto, Director, Orange County Animal Services

Date: April 10, 2007

**Subject: *Creating a Community Spay/Neuter Fund from Licensing Fee Increase***

In light of our very productive discussion of fee increases with the Animal Services Advisory Board (ASAB), staff is proposing that a portion of the increased license fee for intact animals be dedicated to promoting spaying and neutering in Orange County. More specifically, our proposal is that some or all of the \$20 increase for the license fee for intact animals—which the ASAB recommended be increased from \$10 to \$30—be placed in a dedicated and accruing fund that is separate from the Animal Service Department operating budget.

It is estimated that between \$40,000 and \$50,000 will accrue from the proposed license fee increase for intact animals. This estimate is based upon the fact that in the last calendar year 2039 licenses were issued for intact animals in Orange County (inclusive of its towns) and for calendar year 2005 that number was 2447. Our estimate assumes that the level of compliance with the County's licensing requirement remains unchanged in future years (although it should be said that strategies are being developed to increase that level of compliance).

With regard to financial support for this proposal, one option is to dedicate all funds from an increased license fee for intact animals to a fund available solely for the spaying and neutering of cats, dogs and other animal companions in Orange County. This option is supported by the ASAB, which at its March meeting unanimously voted in favor of the dedicated use of all such funds. Of course, another option is to dedicate a specific portion or percentage of funds, say, fifty (50) or seventy-five (75) percent of the sum total of funds due to the increase in the license fee for intact animals. While there is a definite need to dedicate all such funds in a progressive community spay/neuter effort, the latter option allows for the creation of a substantial fund in the event that it is determined that some increased income related to the license fee for intact animals must be used to offset operating costs.

With regard to fund utilization, one option is to financially support the spaying and neutering of cats, dogs and other animal companions in Orange County, and to do so with regard to the demonstrated financial need of pet owners. This option is supported by the ASAB, which at its March meeting unanimously voted in favor of such fund usage, stressing the desirability of focusing their use on community members of limited means. Thus funds would be used to support low-cost spay and neuter programs, whether these were pursued solely by the Animal Services Department or in partnership with other organizations.

Another option is to define the scope of use of these funds more broadly and flexibly under a fund heading such as Pet Overpopulation Management Fund. In this scenario, funds could and would be used to support low-cost spay and neuter programs, but the use of funds would not be limited to the costs of surgical procedures for spaying and neutering companion animals. Instead, funds could be used for the

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promotion of spaying and neutering in the form of outreach materials and/or a marketing campaign as well as some temporary staff support for such outreach and education.

As I believe you are aware, our Animal Sheltering Division budget currently includes a substantial expenditure line item for spaying and neutering. As important as these funds are to our operation and mission, however, they are not presently utilized for a positive and proactive program (or programs) that can address pet overpopulation as a community problem. Thus resources from the proposed fund would augment our present spay/neuter activities which are integral to but at the same time limited to our adoption program.

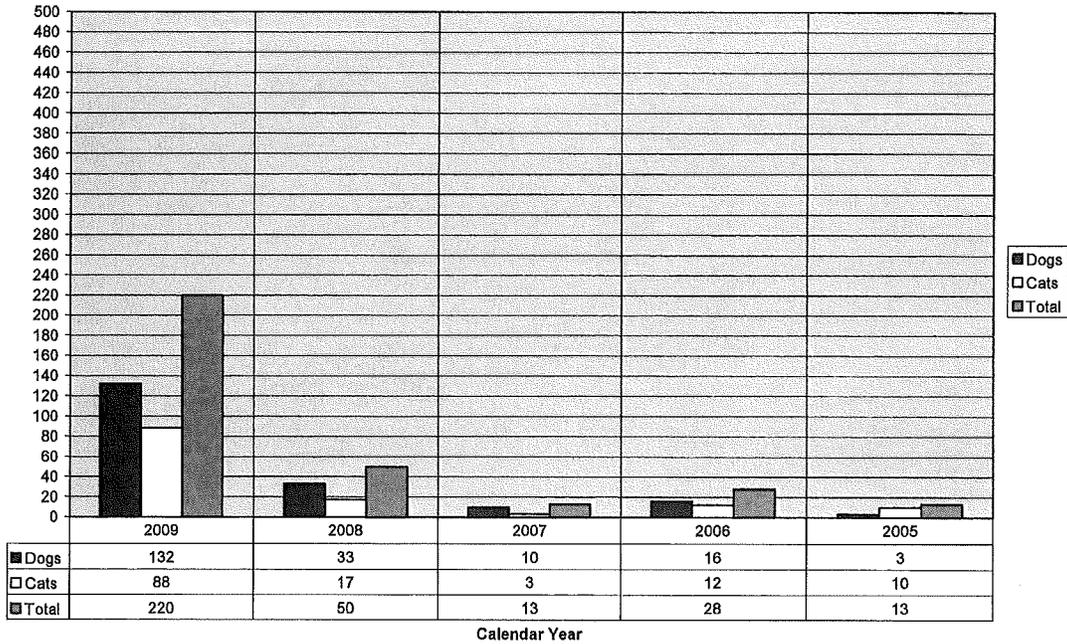
More specifically, the funds in our current budget are committed to ensuring that the animals that we directly adopt from the County's Animal Shelter are spayed and neutered prior to their adoption so that they do not contribute to the problem of pet overpopulation in our community, a very fundamental commitment to progressive sheltering and animal services. Currently, they are used to cover the cost of off-site surgeries that are performed by veterinary clinics with whom we contract for these services.

It should also be noted that it will be necessary to redefine the use of these funds when we move into the County's new Animal Services facility at the end of 2008. Specifically, pre-adoption sterilization will actually be done within that facility, as it will contain a suite for the spaying and neutering of animals that are adopted to members of the general public (and conceivably on some cost recovery basis for animals transferred to various placement partners). To operate effectively within the new facility, indeed, we will need to directly staff as well as provide effective oversight for our own surgical operations, and our need will be to cover these costs rather than the costs presently incurred for off-site sterilization surgeries.

In conclusion, the creation of the proposed fund would be a very proactive step toward addressing the problem of pet overpopulation in Orange County. In the longer run, this is desirable not only from a humane perspective but in helping to reduce the number of animals that need to be sheltered and the costs of sheltering unwanted animals in our communities. Pertinent in this respect is that a successful comprehensive strategy of this kind may help to ensure that the County's new animal services facility has a sufficient animal capacity for a longer period of time. In this as well as other regards, the creation of the proposed fund may be regarded as a very wise investment of available funds.

Cc: Gwen Harvey, Assistant County Manager  
Kristine Bergstrand, DVM, Chair, Animal Services Advisory Board

**Community Spay/Neuter  
Orange County, North Carolina**



Calendar Year

**Community Spay/Neuter Fund**

<b>Account#</b>	<b>Revenue:</b>	<b>thru FY 2008-09</b>	<b>FY 2009-10 Budget</b>	<b>Total Budget</b>
38215001-400040	Licensing		27,000	27,000
38215005-433808	I-Care		2,000	2,000
38215001-470001	Sale of Fixed Asset (Vehicle)		4,000	4,000
38215001-476003	Donations		0	0
38215009-489906	Transfer from General Fund	48,798		48,798
	<b>Total</b>	<b>48,798</b>	<b>33,000</b>	<b>81,798</b>
	<b>Expenditures:</b>			
38215020-630000	Contract Services (Animal Kind)	15,000	15,000	30,000
38215020-620000	Department Supplies	2,298	1,500	3,798
38215020-629010	I-Care (\$20 Fix)	5,500	4,500	10,000
38215020-600000	Advertising	5,000	4,000	9,000
38215020-629011	Spay/Neuter Day	5,000	4,000	9,000
38215020-910005	Transfer to County Capital Fund	16,000	4,000	20,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>48,798</b>	<b>33,000</b>	<b>81,798</b>