



ALASKA PET NEWS



STOP the Overpopulation of Pets, Inc.

A nonprofit charitable corporation dedicated to saving lives through spaying and neutering.

VOL. 5, NO. 3

FALL 2003

STOP HELPS SAVE LIVES!

STOP has provided financial assistance by sending out over 820 spay-neuter vouchers since October 2002 (*UPDATE: 1025 vouchers as of September 21!*). Many thanks to the wonderful, responsible pet guardians who have participated in our spay/neuter program, the generous donors, and our tireless volunteers.

Together we have prevented thousands of dogs and cats from ending up in Alaska animal control centers or backyard bone piles simply because there are not enough homes for them.

Since our June 2003 newsletter, STOP expanded the spay/neuter program statewide and partnered with veterinarians in several Alaska communities. These partnerships, along with a new \$8,000 grant from the DJ&T Foundation and \$2,500 from the Luster Family Foundation, as well as the generous donations from our members, have made our continuing efforts possible.

As we look ahead to the next year, our goals have increased considerably to save even more lives. You can help by spaying or neutering your pets today or by donating to this worthwhile cause.



VETERINARIANS HELP!

Veterinarians across Alaska are becoming partners with STOP. By the 4th of July, we had a dozen caring veterinarians join our efforts by agreeing to accept STOP spay and neuter vouchers.

These veterinarian clinics and hospitals bill STOP for the amount on the vouchers, typically 50% of the SPCA mobile clinic spay/neuter cost.

These veterinarian partnerships help STOP provide assistance to spay and neuter more pets by taking some of the burden off the SPCA mobile clinic, which has been overbooked for months.

Also, these kind veterinarians enable STOP to expand the spay/neuter program statewide to Alaska communities without a mobile clinic.

Alaska veterinarians who participate in STOP by accepting our spay/neuter vouchers and billing us for the amount on the vouchers are listed on page 2 of this newsletter.

Please call them with your voucher in hand, and make arrangements for spaying or neutering your pets. Also, remember that pet care does not end with spaying and neutering. It is important for your pet to have regular check-ups and immunizations to keep them healthy.



OUR MISSION

STOP The Overpopulation of Pets is an Alaska-based charitable nonprofit corporation dedicated to:

- Paying for spaying and neutering of pets to reduce the number of pets killed at animal control centers.
- Educating the public on pet overpopulation and pet care topics.

**Join STOP today:
www.alaskastop.org**

ALASKA PET NEWS

the newsletter of
STOP the Overpopulation of Pets

Members of the Board

Lori Oswald, Ph.D., President
Claire Buza, Vice-President
Gregory Drummond, Secretary
Susan Harrington, Treasurer

STOP the Overpopulation of Pets, Inc. (STOP) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable corporation founded in 1999 to end the killing of healthy dogs and cats in Alaska's animal control shelters.

STOP's mission is to end pet overpopulation in Alaska by offering a no- or low-cost spay/neuter program, and to educate the guardians of pets on the overpopulation problem and other pet care issues.

STOP members are all people who care about pets. They come from all walks of life. Your membership in STOP will help us to continue our current programs as well as enable us to launch new programs. Together, we can STOP the overpopulation of pets in Alaska.

STOP

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Alaska Pet News is designed by STOP's Founder, President, and Executive Director Lori Jo Oswald, Ph.D., and is published by the Board of Directors periodically throughout the year. It is distributed free of charge to members and the general public and posted on STOP's Web site.



Participating Veterinarians

Many thanks to all of these Alaska veterinarians who are partnering with STOP! Get your STOP voucher first, then call any of them to arrange for your pets to be spayed or neutered.

- The Alaska SPCA has a Spay/Neuter Clinic in Anchorage and takes their Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic to visit the Mat-Su Borough and other areas. Call 562-2999
- Animal House (Fairbanks): Call 479-2800
- Chena Ridge Veterinary Clinic (Fairbanks): Call 479-0001
- Douglas Island Veterinary Service, LLC (Juneau): Call 463-5377
- Great & Small Animal Care Center (Kodiak): Call 486-1010
- Kenai Veterinary Hospital (Kenai): Call 283-4148*
- Mt. McKinley Animal Hospital (Fairbanks): Call 452-6104
- Palmer Veterinary Clinic (Palmer): Call 745-3219*
- Ravenwood Veterinary Clinic (Eagle River): Call 694-9665
- Richards Veterinary Clinic (Soldotna) Call: 262-9395
- Seward Animal Clinic (Seward): Call 224-5500
- Seward Animal Hospital (Seward): Call 402-3681
- Valdez Veterinary Clinic (Valdez): Call: 835-5280

Will you join STOP today and help us stop the killing of innocent pets in Alaska animal control shelters, simply because there are not enough homes for all of them.

What to do?

If you need financial assistance to have your pets spayed or



neutered, just download an application from our Web site (www.alaskastop.org) and mail it in along with a self-addressed stamped envelope. Wait until you receive your voucher before making your appointment for your pets.

The **Palmer Veterinary Clinic** and the **Kenai Veterinary Hospital** both offer STOP clients lower fees to spay or neuter their pets. Please let them know you have a STOP voucher when you call.

If your veterinarian is not on the list of partners, ask them if they will participate. We have partnering information on our web site for vets. All they need to do is fill out the form and agree to bill STOP for any vouchers used. It's easy!



STOP covers 50% of the Alaska SPCA's spay/neuter prices. The SPCA charges \$30 to neuter a male cat, \$55 to spay a female cat or to neuter a male dog, and \$65 to spay a female dog.

STOP issues vouchers to pay 50% of those fees, or \$15 to neuter a male cat, \$27.50 to spay a female cat or neuter a male dog, and \$32.50 to spay a female dog.

If you make take your pet to the SPCA then you will pay the same amount as the voucher, half.

If you take your pet to a veterinarian who partners with STOP, then your share may be more than half, depending on what the veterinarian charges to spay or neuter your pet.

A Message from Our Director...

When we began our spay/neuter program in October 2002, we focused particularly on the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, which has a tremendous pet overpopulation problem. Due to so many requests from other communities in Alaska and thanks to a growing partnership with veterinarians across Alaska, we have expanded our program area statewide. We hope you will support our work to improve the lives of Alaska pets and their guardians and to reduce the numbers of healthy, adoptable pets killed at local animal controls.

We are the fortunate recipients of another grant from the DJ&T Foundation to cover spaying and neutering costs of pets in Alaska; this year for \$8,000, which will aid us in our statewide effort. Our program is succeeding beyond what we anticipated.

However, we still need funds! We have sent out over \$20,000 in spay-neuter vouchers, which exceeds what has been donated to us. Can you donate to our worthwhile, life-saving cause?

Although our 2-year goal was to send out at least 500 spay/neuter vouchers; in fact, in less than one year we have met that goal. Our "Project Two" spay-neuter goal is to spay and neuter an additional 1,000 pets in the next year in Alaska. We're almost there! We have sent out over 800 vouchers as of August 16, 2003.

Since being founded in late 1999, we have been an all-volunteer organization. All of our time and money is devoted to reducing the pet overpopulation problem, and we have focused our spending on paying spaying and neutering costs for pet owners and educating pet owners about pet overpopulation.

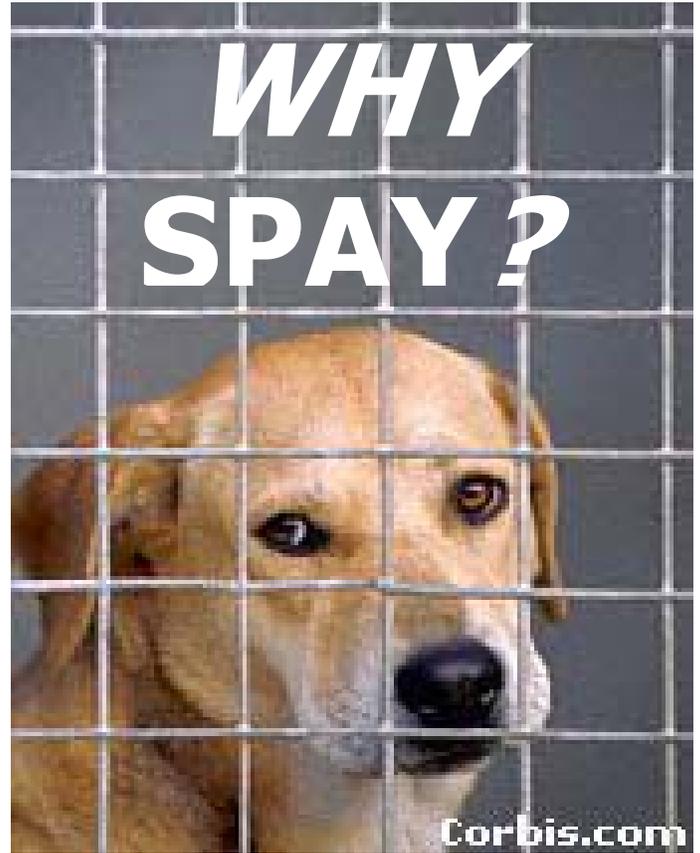
To meet our goals, in addition to paying for spaying and neutering, we pay for a phone and fax line, Web hosting, postage, printing, a copier, and office equipment and supplies. Some of our office furniture have been donated. We desperately need a small office donated somewhere, or donations to help cover office space rental. Do you have extra stamps around? Send them to STOP!

The goals we are working on now include the following:

- Additional spay/neuter project goals include doubling the number of pets we spay/neuter each year in the next 3 years, for a total of at least 7,000 pets.
- Our educational goal includes making presentations to schools and community councils regarding pet overpopulation and our spay/neuter program.
- Another goal is to continue to appeal to Alaska's veterinarians to accept our vouchers; so far, we have partnered with veterinarians in Eagle River, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kenai, Kodiak, Palmer, Seward, Soldotna, and Valdez, along with the Alaska SPCA spay/neuter clinic and mobile spay clinic. Other than the SPCA, we do not currently have any Anchorage veterinarians accepting our vouchers. So if you know a vet, please put in a good word for STOP! We have information for vets at our web site: www.alkastop.org.

We look forward to the rewards of the next year, knowing we are saving thousands of lives through spaying and neutering companion pets. We welcome your help.

Sincerely,
Lori Jo Oswald, Ph.D., Executive Director



Why spay? Because every year thousands of innocent dogs and cats die at animal control centers in Alaska, simply because there aren't enough homes for them.

Make it your priority—to save lives. Tell your friends to spay and neuter their pets and to adopt from an animal control shelter if they are looking for a pet. **Adopt** at any of these animal control centers in the Alaska communities where you live.

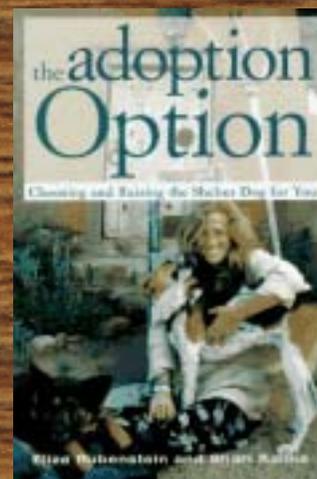
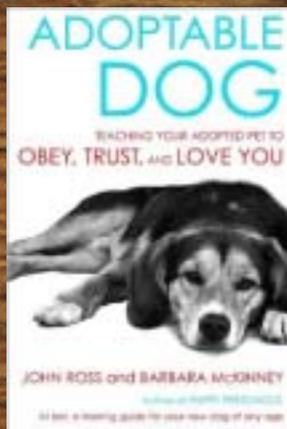
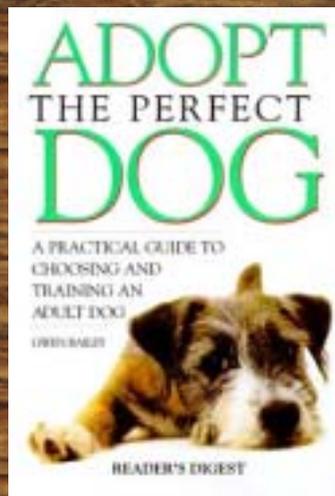
Anchorage, Fairbanks, Homer, Juneau –

Gastineau Humane Society, Kenai, Kodiak, Kotzebue – Kotzebue Police Department, Mat-Su Borough, Nome, Seward, Sitka, Valdez. See complete list and links off our Web site: www.alkastop.org.

Every cat or dog who dies as a result of pet overpopulation...is an animal who, more often than not, would have made a wonderful companion, if given the chance. Tremendous as the problem of pet overpopulation is, it can be solved if each of us takes just one small step, starting with not allowing our animals to breed. –Humane Society of the U.S.

Recommended Reading

October is Adopt a Dog month, and just to inspire you in saving a life by rescuing a dog at an animal control, we present some books that might be useful.



You May Be the Perfect Dog Owner if You . . .

- Believe caring for a dog for 15 years does not seem like a lifetime.
- Look forward to big, wet kisses when you come home each day.
- Like sharing your house with someone who sheds, tracks dirt occasionally, and possibly drools.
- Don't mind sharing your house with someone who will never clean up after itself.
- Want to take care of someone every day.
- Love a playmate that likes to chase balls and drag off shoes.
- Don't mind a playmate that likes to slobber on balls and toys.
- Would like to spend your extra money on pet food, toys, veterinary care, chew bones, and more chew bones.
- Want someone to adore you even on a bad hair day.
- Believe that spaying and neutering pets will help solve the pet overpopulation problem.
- Can't imagine leaving your devoted pet behind when you move.
- Want to keep an ID tag on your pets, so they can always get back to you no matter what.
- Enjoy unconditional love and constant companionship.



by the American Humane Association.



Adopt-A-Dog Month

October is the official Adopt-A-Dog month, please consider saving a dog from an animal control or rescue group! We have included some Web sites on this page for pet information, as well as a list of things you need to have, know, and do when you become a pet guardian.

Help save a life. Adopt a dog from a shelter or rescue organization. Make sure you are able and willing to take on the commitment, and the rewards to both you and your new pet will be endless!

Web Resources on Pet Adoption

- www.pets911.com
- www.1-800-save-a-pet.com
- www.anc.org
- www.americanpartnershipforpets.org
- www.ahasheltercentral.org
- www.hsus.org
- www.asPCA.org
- www.saveourstrays.com
- www.alaskastop.org



Think About

- Activity Level
- Bonding
- Chew Toys
- Collar
- Commitment
- Control
- Exercise
- Food
- Food and Water Dishes
- Grooming
- Health
- Leash
- Love
- Money
- Reproduction
- Respect
- Scooping Poop
- Shelter
- Space
- Spay/Neuter
- Time

- Training
- Veterinarian
- Water

The Cat as a Scapegoat

by Carolyn Holbert.

Why is it that cats are so often blamed for human problems? In the middle ages, the fear of witches resulted in thousands of cats being killed as they were thought to be witches' familiars. Many social historians have come to the conclusion that this cat kill-off helped the spread of the dreaded Black Plague in Europe as the rat and mice population grew unchecked after the deaths of the cats. Today, a quick review of allergy information on the Web shows that the first thing most sites and most physicians tell patients is to get rid of their cats. Cats are not the problem in many, if not most, of these cases, but they are a handy and easy scapegoat. It is easier for many people to get rid of a family pet than to rid a house of dust mites or molds or perfumes, far more common allergens. Even for those who really are allergic to cats, there are ways to cope. In this issue is an article on coping with cats and allergies by the Cat Care Society. For more information on this topic and others relating to cats, you can visit their Web site at <http://www.catcaresociety.org>.

See our web site: www.alaskastop.org
 Lots of tips, articles, spay/neuter applications, donation forms, past newsletters, etc!

ANCHORAGE ESTABLISHES DOG PARKS



5K DOG RUN

STOP would like to sponsor a 5K Dog Run at the Crevasse-Moraine Park near Palmer in order to raise funds to pay for spaying and neutering pets in Alaska.

We need volunteers who have participated in or helped with similar events to help us organize a 5K Dog Run.

Please call STOP today and help us make a 5K Dog Run a reality. (907) 745-SPAY

Anchorage dogs recently got the green light to be off leash in six parks around the municipality. Assembly Chairman Dick Traini sponsored an ordinance that was approved in a 10-1 vote by the Assembly in July.

The ordinance established these six dog parks for a trial period that lasts until the last day of September 2004. Anchorage dogs can run free with their human companions in the following areas:

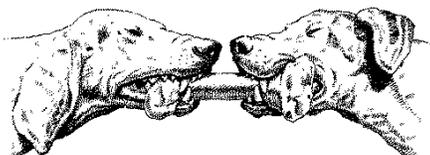
- University Lake Park
- Far North Bicentennial Park (North Gasoline Trail)
- Russian Jack Park
- Connors Bog
- South Anchorage Sports Park (Future American Legion Trails)
- Old Alaska Native Hospital Site

The dog parks, which were authorized in Anchorage's revised Title 17 animal control laws enacted January 1, 2003, come with a set of rules and regulations.

- Dogs must be leashed upon entering and leaving the off-leash dog areas.
- Classified dogs and female dogs in heat are prohibited.
- The owner or custodian of the dog must remain in the dog area with the dog.
- Dogs must be under control as defined in Title 17.
- Dog feces must be cleaned up by the dog owner or custodian.
- Holes dug by dogs must be filled by the dog owner or custodian.
- Owners or custodians are responsible for all actions of their dogs.

In addition, the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Animal Control Advisory Board can establish other rules for each off-leash park. The Municipality of Anchorage Web site will have maps of the dog parks plus more information for interested persons at this link:

<http://www.muni.org/healthmsd/dogparks.cfm>.



THANK YOU TO...

STOP thanks these generous people and organizations for their time, money, and in-kind goods this summer!

In-Kind Goods and Services:

- Debby Foster
- Lori Jo Oswald
- Ray West (Thank you for the NEW computer!)
- Susan Harrington

Cash Donations:

- Betty Vehrs
- DJ&T Foundation
- GCI
- Gloria Stone
- Jackie Gilbert, Dirty Dog Pet Wash
- Jacklyn Struthers
- Ken DeCamp Land Surveying
- Keri Lynne McDowell
- Luster Family Foundation
- Theresa Rogers

Volunteer Time Donated:

- Adri & Carolyn Holbert
- Claire, Nadia, & Chloe Buza
- Debby Foster
- Evie Wright
- Gregory Drummond
- Jullie Starr
- Kristel & Rose Alban
- Lori Oswald
- Rachel Barnes
- Rachele Medica
- Samantha Russell
- Sarah Makay
- Susan Harrington

PLEASE HELP STOP SAVE LIVES!

STOP needs cash to pay for not only spay and neuter assistance, but the postage, paper, phone lines, copier costs, printing fees, and other office expenses related to carrying out our mission. We also want to rent an office space this year and pay a salary to our Director. We can't continue our mission without your financial assistance.

Tax-deductible donations are greatly appreciated and always needed. Become a STOP member today and know that your financial assistance is going to a worthy life-saving cause. Join the many others who have helped.

Membership Application to Join STOP the Overpopulation of Pets, Inc.



Mail check to:
STOP
PO Box 4083
Palmer, AK 99645

_____ \$25 Individual _____ \$35 Family _____ \$100
Corporate _____ Other \$ _____



Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

You have my permission to use my name in STOP literature and publications.

I wish to remain anonymous, please do not use my name in STOP literature and publications.

All donations tax deductible. STOP is a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit corporation. Larger donations accepted.

ALLERGIES TO CATS: Try These Tips

Information from the Cat Care Society

Introduction. Thousands of cats become homeless each year when their families give them up due to allergies.

If you or a member of your family has allergy problems, the cause may be your cat; however, there are many things you come in contact with that could also be the source of the problem. These may include household dust and molds, feathers, cigarette smoke, pesticide spray, and household cleaners. Therefore, don't give up your cat so quickly!

Once you determine the cat is the cause and you are willing to put forth some effort to possibly relieve the problem, you both might be able to live under the same roof without severe allergy problems.

Solving the problem depends on the severity and sensitivity of the allergic individual. In the case of pet allergy, the hair isn't the cause, it is the cat's

dander (dandruff) and saliva (which is transferred to the fur during grooming). However, most people are seldom allergic to just one substance.

One or a combination of the following may significantly help with allergy problems: allergy remedy, allergizing your home and pet, hyposensitization or prescription drugs. See <http://www.catcaresociety.org> for more information.

"Allergizing" Your Home and Cat. If you can minimize the non-cat allergens in the air you breathe and control the cat-oriented allergens, your body may be able to tolerate the presence of a cat.

- Emphasis should be placed on getting rid of allergens in the bedroom, the place where adults spend approximately one-third of their time and children one-half of their time. Not allowing pets in bedrooms would be very helpful.

- Use air-conditioning and a humidifier in the appropriate seasons. Clean/change filters on a regular basis. Ideal humidity levels are about 30 to 40 percent.
- Use of air purifiers: If possible, invest in a large commercial-size air purifier because room-size units are usually not adequate. An air purifier cleans the air of animal dander, dust, molds, fur, and other air-borne irritants.
- Clean up the dander that has accumulated all over the house by vacuuming thoroughly. Damp wipe all counters and furniture. Thoroughly wash all bedspreads, sheets, throw rugs and slip covers.
- The more washable surfaces in the home, the better, e.g., wood or linoleum floors, furniture with simple lines and Venetian blinds that wipe clean are better than carpets, upholstered and ornate furniture, and draperies that collect dust. Nylon and synthetic fabrics and rug piles attract and hold dust much more than wood and natural fabrics.

- Special non-allergenic pillows are available. You can also use Dacron or other synthetics, not kapok, feather or foam rubber, which grows mold, especially in damp areas.
- People with allergies are usually sensitive to odors and odors can even trigger an attack. It is advisable to avoid scented make-up, scented tissues, perfumes, tobacco smoke, etc. Also, there are some laundry detergents and fabric softeners that are irritants.
- Cat litter: plain clay litter is usually less irritating than scented litter. Use litter that has low-dust or is dust free. Pour litter slowly into the pan to keep dust at a minimum.
- If possible, have someone in the household without allergies do the

vacuuming and litter box cleaning. If this is not an option, wear a pollen mask.

- Free roaming is discouraged. If your cat is allowed to roam free, it may be bringing home many irritants such as pollen, plant juices, poison ivy, etc.
- Brush your cat daily to control shedding. A coat conditioner should be added to its food to help prevent dry skin and reduce shedding.
- Bathe your cat about every 6 weeks. Towel off the excess water when the pet is in the tub or sink. Then saturate the coat with a solution that is one part fabric softener, such as Downy, and at least four parts water. Work it into the coat and do not rinse off. This solution coats the hair and skin and keeps the dander down.

- You can also put a light coating of Downy fabric softener on the cat daily.

Conclusion. Very often, people build up a "resistance" to their own pets and find that their allergy problem decreased as time passed. This is just one more reason not to give up your pet.



Thoughts for Pet Owners collected by Debby Foster

- I have learned that people hate to train their dogs. They just want them to behave.
- Training should be a fun way of bonding with your dog.
- "A dog is the only thing on this earth that loves you more than he loves himself." –*Josh Billings*
- CAUTION: The choke chain is only a training collar. Do not allow your puppy to wear a chock chain unattended.
- First Day Out: Do not expect your shelter dog to be fully housebroken or to be free of separation anxiety just because he is an adult dog.
- Remember: Puppies like to chew, keep their area free from electrical cords, telephone wires and other possible hazards.
- The key to potty training your dog is to fit your dog's needs into your daily routine.
- The leash and training collar act as indicators for your dog, telling him what you want him to do next, much like traffic lights for a driver. The main issue in dog training is establishing who drives.
- Do not expect your child to be the primary caretaker of a new puppy. You need to set an example for both your child and your dog.
- CAUTION: pets love the sweet taste of antifreeze, which is extremely toxic and often fatal. If your car leaks antifreeze, keep your pet out of the garage.
- CAUTION: Chocolate contains a strong stimulant, theobromine. A large dog may have to eat half a box to be poisoned, but one piece can poison a cat.
- CAUTION: Nicotine is one of the most powerful natural poisons. If you smoke, keep you tobacco product out of your pet's reach.

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