

# Alaska Pet News

*Stop the Overpopulation of Pets, Inc.*



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

**VOL. 7, NO. 1**

**SPRING 2005**

## KENAI VETERINARY HOSPITAL EARNS STOP AWARD

The Board of Directors of STOP the Overpopulation of Pets in Palmer issued a special award certificate to Kenai Veterinary Hospital on March 21 to honor them for their active participation in our spay/neuter program. We especially want to thank Dr. McCartan and Susan Savely for all their hard work in saving the lives of animals. The Kenai Veterinary Hospital goes above and beyond with helping STOP and Alaska pet owners to spay and neuter Alaska's cats and dogs.

## STOP INCREASES SPAY/NEUTER PAYMENTS

STOP has increased the value of its spay/neuter vouchers: \$20 for a male cat, \$30 for a female cat, \$30 for a male dog, and \$40 for a female dog. Application must be made prior to the surgery, and applications are available online at [www.alaskastop.org](http://www.alaskastop.org) (there is also a copy in this newsletter) There are no income restrictions for this service, and a list of participating veterinary clinics is also available online.



## FOR SALE

Our STOP board members have generously donated the following items for our garage sale, and there is much more to come! Please bring us your donations for our garage sale on June 8 & 9 at 10202 Loma Rica Drive in Palmer. Email us at [petnews@alaska.net](mailto:petnews@alaska.net) for



directions if you want to bring items to donate early.

- Stroller
- Dog Crate – Life Stages brand. Very nice and collapsible made of black metal wire, 24Lx18Wx21H", cost \$60, new December 2004, sell for \$45. Great Condition!
- Freezer
- T.V., Computer, and much more!

## CALENDAR – UPCOMING STOP EVENTS

- *Annual Garage Sale, Friday & Sat. June 8-9, 9 to 3*, 10202 Loma Rica Drive in Palmer (email us at [petnews@alaska.net](mailto:petnews@alaska.net) for directions to bring things early if you wish)
- *Annual Meeting, Friday, March 25* at 9:15 a.m. at Valley Bistro in Wasilla (near the library).

## SPCA MOBILE CLOSES IN VALLEY

The Alaska SPCA suddenly closed the SPCA Mobile Clinic January 21 and plans to keep it closed indefinitely. STOP has been appealing to area veterinarians to begin participating in the STOP voucher program to find alternative low-cost spay/neuter sources for Mat-Su Borough pet owners. Encourage your own veterinarian to join. Our number is 746-SPAY (7729). Currently, Palmer Vet Clinic in Palmer and Ravenwood in Eagle River accept our vouchers (as well as 10 other veterinarians throughout the state).

## SPCA NO LONGER ACCEPTS STOP VOUCHERS

Three weeks after closing the Mobile Clinic, the SPCA also opted to discontinue accepting STOP vouchers. Over the past 2½ years, STOP has paid \$20,450 to the SPCA, helping neuter and spay 1,112 of Alaska's dogs and cats, and we are very disappointed by this decision. If you have had the SPCA refuse to accept STOP spay/neuter vouchers between 2-14-05 and 3-31-05, keep your receipts

and contact the STOP office at 907-746-SPAY or email us at [petnews@alaskastop.org](mailto:petnews@alaskastop.org). You can also use Friends of Pets vouchers, which the SPCA is still accepting to our knowledge. However, FOP is no longer allowing its vouchers to be used with any other group's, which reflects the financial struggle that humane societies are in right now to continue assisting pet owners. Our spay/neuter assistance program is still going strong, though, and we hope to work closely with all of Alaskan's veterinarians or to start our own low-cost spay/neuter program. Now is the time to get involved by donating time and/or money to help us save precious lives by helping STOP pet overpopulation in Alaska!

**HOW YOU CAN HELP STOP SAVE LIVES**

1. Have you joined? This is the most important thing you can do right away! Send your membership today!
2. Donate items for our garage sale!
3. Volunteer for our fundraising committee or start another committee. We need lots of volunteer help!
4. Ask your company about matching funds. Some, such as BP, even match volunteer hours with cash donations!
5. Donate online or by sending a check to STOP, P.O. Box 4083, Palmer, AK 99645
6. Make donation canisters (or call us for some), and ask at your favorite stores if they will let us put one on the counter! Check at your office as well.
7. Ask your office if they can sponsor a fundraising day for STOP – perhaps a parking lot sale of used items, equipment, etc.
8. Send articles and photos for our newsletter to [petnews@alaskastop.org](mailto:petnews@alaskastop.org).
9. Ask your veterinarian to accept our vouchers. There is no cost to the veterinarian.
10. Two of our members send frequent donations, sometimes even monthly! Can you do so as well? Consider adding STOP to your calendar to send a donation every month! We so appreciate this kindness!
11. Help us find an office and/or thrift store space!



**2004 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**Donations Summary: Cash, In-Kind, and Volunteer Hours**

- Our volunteers donated 2,413 hours to STOP programs in 2004, including 2,063 hours from the board of directors (62% increase from 2003).
- Our members donated \$2,504.65 while foundations contributed \$8,900, and public agencies contributed \$10,000 to help us meet our goals.
- STOP received \$3,600 in in-kind donations (equipment and services).

**Expenses Data**

- 2004 expenses were \$16,184.43.
- 2004 expenses by allocation: Program – 71%, Management and General – 12%, Fundraising – 17%.



**Spay-Neuter Voucher Summary**

- Vouchers Issued in 2004: 568 (nos. 1286-1857) Value: \$11,345.00
- Location Data: Vouchers to Mat-Su Valley Pet Owners 319 (56%); Kenai Peninsula Borough Pet Owners: 174 (31%); Anchorage Pet Owners: 69 (12%), other areas in the State of Alaska: 6 (1%).



**STOP PET OVERPOPULATION NOW!**  
 Alaska gets a lot of international media attention for its dogs—the Iditarod and other dog sled races. But what they don't know is the "secret" of pet overpopulation—thousands of Alaska's dogs and cats are killed at animal control centers every year because of overbreeding and because there aren't enough homes. Don't let these deaths continue—*spay and neuter your pets and encourage others to today. Don't wait!*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thank you so much for making 2005 another successful year for STOP! We had such an overwhelming request in 2003 for spay/neuter vouchers that we stopped issuing new vouchers in November 2003 through February 2004, and we stopped all publicity in 2004 about our program while we waited for responses to our appeals for help to foundations, businesses, and individuals like you. Even without any publicity about our program, we received requests for help from 568 Alaskan pet owners! We finally received a \$10,000 grant in late fall 2004, which put our program back on track, and we are now issuing vouchers steadily, but we can always use help—both financial and time (volunteers). So please keep us in mind!

We are most thankful for our volunteers and board members, and in 2004 we had a particularly wonderful volunteer join us and devote many hours every week to filling out spay/neuter applications, handling mail and calls, and entering data, as well as helping with all garage sales and other missions: Cindy Drake. Cindy has been elected Executive Director of the organization by our Board, and we are so happy she is helping us. Running STOP is a very time-consuming job, so if you can help us in any way, please call Cindy at 746-SPAY or email us at [petnews@alaskastop.org](mailto:petnews@alaskastop.org).

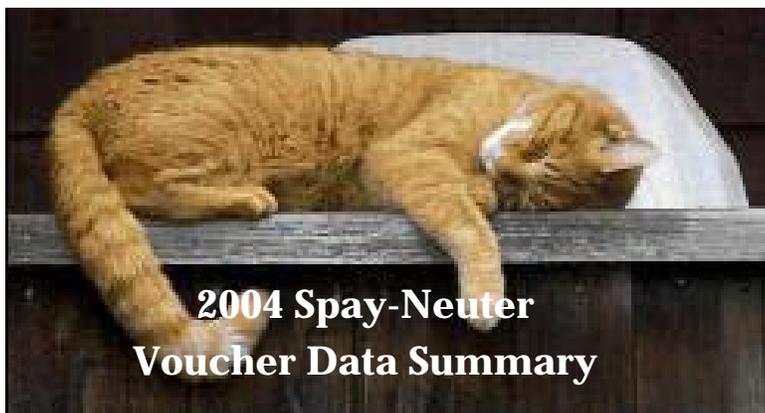
Saving lives is our mission, and we are working hard to do so. We are now in the planning stages of getting a low-cost spay/neuter clinic in the Mat-Su Borough, where it is so desperately needed, so if you can help out, please do.

Thank you for thinking of the welfare of animals and for helping us in preventing the killing of healthy, adoptable dogs and cats at Alaska's animal controls just because there are too many of them and too few good homes.

Maybe this is the year you can accept another pet into your life by rescuing one from an animal control center, or you can encourage a friend to spay a pet, or you can contribute to a humane society so that no more lives will be lost just because of overpopulation!



Together, let's STOP the overpopulation of pets!—Lori Jo Oswald, Ph.D.



## 2004 Spay-Neuter Voucher Data Summary

Description	Number, Value, and Percentage
<b>Voucher Data 2004</b>	
Vouchers Issued and Used in 2004 & Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>568 (#1286-#1857) Issued (Value: \$11,345)</li> <li>397 Used (Value: \$8,515)*</li> <li>Percent of Issued Vouchers Used: 70% (increase from 55% in 2003)</li> </ul>
<b>Species Data - 2004</b>	
Canine Vouchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>311 (of 568) Issued (55%)</li> <li>226 (of 397) Used (57%)</li> </ul>
Feline Vouchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>257 (of 568) Issued (45%)</li> <li>171 (of 397) Used (43%)</li> </ul>
<b>Sex Data – 2004</b>	
Male (Neutering) Vouchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>215 (of 568) Issued (38%)</li> <li>145 (of 397) Used (37%)</li> </ul>
Female (Spaying) Vouchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>353 (of 568) Issued (62%)</li> <li>252 (of 397) Used (63%)</li> </ul>
<b>Location Data – 2004</b>	
Vouchers to Mat-Su Valley Pet Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>319 (of 568) Issued (56%)</li> <li>222 (of 397) Used (56%)</li> </ul>
Vouchers to Kenai Peninsula Borough Pet Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>174 (of 568) Issued (31%)</li> <li>139 (of 397) Used (35%)</li> </ul>
Vouchers to Anchorage Pet Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>69 (of 568) Issued (12%)</li> <li>35 (of 397) Used (9%)</li> </ul>
Vouchers to Other Areas in Alaska (Fairbanks and Valdez)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 (of 568) Issued (1%)</li> <li>1 (of 397) Used (0.25%)</li> </ul>
<b>Notes:</b>	
* Cost includes some vouchers that were issued and used in 2004 but paid for in January 2005.	
1. In 2004, we did not begin issuing vouchers until February because of funding needs.	
2. We did not receive our major funding until late fall 2004; therefore, we had a reduction in the number of issued vouchers when compared to 2003. Even so, we received applications for all these vouchers without any advertising or public service announcement campaigns.	

## Ten Housebreaking Suggestions

1. Puppies are creatures of habit. Your job is to create the habit of using outside or, if a very small dog, puppy pads as the toilet.
2. Be patient. Each dog trains at a different speed. The pup's full capacity is not reached until three to four months.
3. Food goes through in about 10 hours, water in one to two hours. Establish your dog's needs using this schedule. (STOP Board Member Bonnie Baize adds, "Make a logbook. When your dog eats or drinks, note the time and write it down.")
4. Puppies tend to defecate after they eat. They urinate after they wake up, get excited, and meet guests.
5. You can't get the puppy out enough. Be successful outside by providing the pup with lots of opportunities.
6. Use a food treat as soon as the dog relieves itself. Take the treat outside with you. If you give the treat after you reenter the house, the pup thinks it is getting rewarding for coming inside, not for potty training.
7. Provide a small confinement area such as a dog crate, laundry area, hallway, etc., particularly for times when you are busy or not at home.
8. Do not let the pup have unsupervised access to other parts of the house until housebroken.
9. Never punish the pup if it has an accident. Think of it as your fault rather than the pup's.
10. Keep a record of when the pup relieves itself. They tend to follow a pattern after a few days.

Source: <http://www.abcdogtraining.com> Submitted by Board Member Bonnie Baize.



## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

**Condensed Balance Sheets**  
STOP the Overpopulation of Pets, Inc.  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004

	YEAR 2004
<b>Assets</b>	
Cash	\$17,705
Property and equipment, net	0
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$17,705</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Accounts payable	\$0
Other	0
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$0</b>

### Condensed Statements of Income, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets 2004

<b>Income:</b>	
Contributions and Grants	\$21,845
<b>Program Expenses</b>	
Spay and Neuter Fees	\$7,590*
Salaries and Payroll Taxes	\$1,907
Other Program Services	\$2,537
<b>General and Management Expenses</b>	\$2,515
<b>Fundraising Expenses</b>	\$2,335
Net assets, beginning of year	\$9,022
Net assets, end of year	\$17,705

#### Notes to Condensed Financial Statements:

##### 1. Basis of Presentation

These condensed financial statements have been prepared from the unaudited financial statements of STOP the Overpopulation of Pet, Inc. (STOP). The full financial statements are available upon request.

STOP follows the cash basis for the recognition of income and expenses.

\* Total actual cost of vouchers issued and used in 2004: \$8,515; the \$7,590 includes some vouchers used in 2004 but issued in 2003 and does not include vouchers used in December 2004 but billed in January 2005.

## DOG HOUSTRAINING TIPS

### When Ten Houstraining Suggestions Don't Work

By Bonnie Baize, STOP Board Member

I adopted a husky mix in September 2004. She is a smart, fast learner. There is one exception, however. She has to be monitored with extreme diligence to prevent her from urinating in the house.



Rose has a large, black, metal wire crate, and this kennel is her special comfortable place to eat and sleep. After eating her meal inside the crate, she goes outside to use her toilet and throughout the day, Rose also has many opportunities to relieve herself. Even though the same routine continues today and she knows what to expect, she continues to have an issue with urinating inside the house.

It is now five months later and she still has not developed a pattern of behavior. She did not pattern after a few days as Rule # 10 suggested she would. Rose will go outside and play and sometimes she will relieve herself and sometimes she will not. When she returns inside I have to watch her. Does she settle with a toy, play with another dog, or move around constantly and not seem content? I cannot relax until I observe her behavior and figure out what she is thinking about doing next.

We did begin to notice a pattern after all, however. When my daughter plays with Rose, Rose gets excited. That is when the family has to be a team. We take her outside and remain with her until she

urinates. If we miss our cue that she is excited, then she might urinate inside. While playing inside, she disappears momentarily and urinates privately and then returns for more playtime.

This should not be surprising. Let's imagine this from the dog's point of view. I get the human girl to play with, I'm warm, safe, secure and having fun. Then I excuse myself to "powder my nose." Since I'm a super stealthy canine and full of mischief like my human girl, nobody notices that I left the room. Well, that is until a human steps into a warm puddle of lovely liquid and I get found out.

When I adopted canine #3, I made a commitment to my husband. If Rose had houstraining issues and urinated repeatedly in the house, I would find another home for her. I was sure that I could remain emotionally distant and keep my promise. The best of intentions have gone awry. I had to go to the unspoken plan number two.

Plan #2 was **don't give the dog away and don't give up**. Also, plan #2 was and still is to be extra attentive. If I am too busy to have Rose near me, than I tell her "kennel." She willingly goes to her kennel. She goes outside to relieve herself when I can be attentive. I watch her. If she piddles, she has freedom inside the house. If she doesn't piddle, she has to return to the kennel. She'll be given ample opportunities to go outside. She was taught that "piddle" would get her a treat.

Another aspect of the houstraining is the water bowl. How much has she been drinking? If the water bowl is low or dry, I know that she may suddenly have to urinate. This is a time to be more attentive. It's time to watch for the cues she gives me whether she is restless and moving around but not playing with her toys or the other dogs, walking up to me repeatedly, or pacing across the floor. I ask her "outside"? Rose gets excited and heads to the door.

Finally, I'm getting trained by Rose. It's not the dog that is thick-headed, it's me. It has not been Rose's fault that she had accidents. I expected Rose to bark at me and sit by the door like my other dog. Rose has her own unique style of communicating. Now that I have finally been trained by Rose, my credibility remains intact with my husband and Rose still has a warm home and a human girl that she calls her own. I feel awesomely proud of Rose and so happy that we did not give up on Rose just because she did not potty train quickly.

## Feline AIDS and What It Means for You and Your Cat

By Carolyn Holbert, STOP Board Member

**J**ust the Facts. First, there is no connection between human AIDS and feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV). The two illnesses are similar in their results, but are not related. A person cannot get the AIDS virus from a cat with FIV, nor can a person with AIDS spread the disease to animals. The AIDS virus affects only humans, and FIV affects only cats. Unlike human AIDS, there are five distinct subtypes of FIV.

Second, FIV is not very easy to transmit. It is transmitted primarily through bite wounds, and is not transmitted by sharing food and water bowls or using a shared litter box. It is also not transmitted by cats grooming each other. The FIV virus survives outside the body for only a few minutes. This means that the cats most at risk for FIV are un-neutered outdoor male cats.

**Prevention.** Neutering male cats and/or keeping all cats indoors are the primary methods of avoiding exposure to FIV. Since neutering also means less fighting and fewer unwanted litters, this should be routine practice for cat owners. According to South Paws Veterinary Referral Center, an FIV vaccine has been recently developed and is reported to be

82% effective at preventing one of the FIV subtypes, subtype A, which is commonly found on the West Coast of the United States. The vaccination carries significant risk and should be given only to cats who have tested negative for FIV and who are "at high risk" for exposure to the disease.

**Symptoms.** Like its human counterpart, FIV can thrive in its host for years before any symptoms develop. Estimates range from two to six years for this dormant period. A test for FIV is available, but most cat owners will discover a cat has FIV when the cat develops symptoms such as severe gum infections, abscesses that don't heal, repeated respiratory infections, even treatment-resistant diarrhea. Eventually full-scale organ failure will develop, resulting in death.

**Treatment.** There is no treatment for FIV. Your veterinarian can treat the various symptomatic illnesses with antibiotics as long as the cat still has a good quality of life. If a cat tests positive for FIV, that in and of itself is no reason to have the cat euthanized. The cat can have many good years before the disease takes effect and can even survive for some time after developing symptoms. When the cat's internal organs

start to fail, the individual cat owner and the veterinarian should consult about what is best for the animal.



**To Sum It Up...** To prevent the spread of FIV, neuter male cats, spay female cats (who sometimes get bitten during breeding), and keep cats indoors. You can have cats tested for the disease, but a positive test does not mean that you have to euthanize your cat. If you are sure you have no infected cats, get any new cat tested before adding him or her to your household.

*Thanks to the websites of Pawprints and Purrs (<http://www.snksnak.com>) and of South Paws Veterinary Referral Center (<http://www.southpaws.com>) for background information used in preparing this article.*

*Please help STOP continue our program by joining us today!*

### **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION TO STOP**

If you can, please help us continue our spay-neuter program by donating to STOP.

Type of membership (annual fees):

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Regular \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 Family \_\_\_\_\_ Other donation amount

All donations are tax deductible. Membership is not required to receive a spay/neuter voucher.

Membership is for 1 year and includes a subscription to the *Alaska Pet News*. Mail donation to STOP Donations, PO Box 4083, Palmer, AK 99645, or include with your voucher apps to the above address.

*Thank you to our STOP board members and other volunteers for helping STOP save the lives of Alaska's animals by working so hard to prevent pet overpopulation and the killing of healthy, adoptable pets at Alaska's animal controls. And thank you to our donors, without whom we couldn't do any of the work we do! You are the best!*



*We are always looking for more board AND committee members and volunteers, so please call us at 907-746-SPAY if you can help!*



**2004 BOARD MEMBERS**

- Bonnie Baize
- Carolyn Holbert, Ph.D.
- Cindy Drake
- Claire Buza
- Gregory Drummond
- Lori Jo Oswald, Ph.D.
- Penny Harris

**VOLUNTEERS**

- Adri Holbert
- Bonnie Baize
- Carolyn Holbert
- Chris Whitehead
- Cindy Drake
- Clair Buza
- Debby Foster
- Evie Wright
- Gregory Drummond
- Lori Jo Oswald
- Penny Harris
- Thomas Holohan

**PUTTING OUT DONATION CANISTER**

- Kaladi Brothers (Wasilla)
- Valley Feed and Seed

**DONATIONS**

- Bethany Pike
- Bill Patterson
- Bonnie Baize
- Cindy & Chris Whitehead
- Dawn & James Kemp

- Elisha Elliot
- Evelyn Groomer
- Gloria Stone
- Gregory & Lucille Roberts
- Heather Skipper
- Jackie E. Gilbert, Dirty Dog Pet Wash
- Keri Lynn McDowell
- Kim Elliot
- Linda Galloway
- Lori Jo Oswald
- Lori Johnston
- Lys A. Warburton
- Martha Kay Sumpter
- Miranda and Billy Daniel
- Paul and Karen Lester
- Penny Harris
- Rachel Stafanson & Mike Layne
- Rosemary Beddingfield
- Ruth DeCamp
- Scott and Julie Knudsen
- Seow Hoon Teoh
- Susan Savely

**FOUNDATIONS**

- BP Foundation
- Handsel Foundation
- Luster Family Foundation
- The PetCo Foundation
- Public Agency

**2004 PARTICIPATING VETERINARIANS**

- Alaska SPCA Spay/Neuter Clinic: 562-2999
- Animal House (Fairbanks): 479-2800
- Chena Ridge Veterinary Clinic (Fairbanks): 479-0001
- Douglas Island Veterinary Service, LLC (Juneau): 463-5377
- Great & Small Animal Care Center (Kodiak): 486-1010
- Kenai Veterinary Hospital (Kenai): 283-4148
- Mt. McKinley Animal Hospital (Fairbanks): 452-6104
- Palmer Veterinary Clinic (Palmer): 745-3219
- Ravenwood Veterinary Clinic (Eagle River): 694-9665
- Seward Animal Clinic (Seward): 224-5500
- Soldotna Animal Hospital, P: 260-7851
- Valdez Veterinary Clinic (Valdez): 835-5280

**BUSINESS SERVICES**

- Fosselman & Associates, Palmer (907) 745-0135
- Wordsworth Writing, Editing, & Document Formatting Services, Palmer (745-5674)
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***Thank you for helping STOP save lives! You are the best!***





## 2005 SPAY-NEUTER ASSISTANCE APPLICATION

STOP the Overpopulation of Pets, Inc., P.O. Box 4083, Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 746-SPAY (7729), Web site: [www.alaskastop.org](http://www.alaskastop.org)

*Fill out one form for each pet and mail to STOP at P.O. Box 4083, Palmer, AK 99645 along with a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE). If no SASE is enclosed, we cannot not send you a voucher.*

Pet Owner Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**COMPLETE** Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State AK Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Pet Owner Phone Number: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work (or Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Animal Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cat \_\_\_\_\_ Dog \_\_\_\_\_ Breed: \_\_\_\_\_

Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex (circle): M / F Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Pregnant (circle): Y/N

Rabies Current Y/N (Note: You will be responsible for paying for your pet's rabies shot at the time or before the spaying/ neutering surgery if not current.)

For our records, where did you hear about our program? \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you pick up our application? \_\_\_\_\_

STOP the Overpopulation of Pets is dedicated to saving lives by preventing births of unwanted dogs and cats in Alaska. We will pay \$20-\$40 (depending on sex and species of animal) for spay/neuter requests; you will make your own appointment at the participating veterinarian. After we receive this form and an SASE, we will send you a voucher that will cover \$20-\$40 of the spay/neuter costs for each pet. You will need to bring your voucher with you to the vet the morning of the appointment. The veterinarian must bill us directly for the amount on the voucher to be reimbursed. All vouchers must be used within 60 days from issue date. Wait until you receive your voucher to make your veterinary appointment. Thank you, and congratulations for making the right choice in getting your pet spayed or neutered. *Note: As of January 2005, Friends of Pets no longer allows any other vouchers, including STOP's, to be used with theirs. IF YOU DO NOT NEED FUNDING ASSISTANCE, CALL YOUR VETERINARIAN DIRECTLY TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT.*

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STOP the Overpopulation of Pets, Inc.  
P.O. Box 4083  
Palmer, AK 99645-4083  
907-746-SPAY  
[www.alaskastop.org](http://www.alaskastop.org)

