

# Stop the Cycle

Last year the Valencia county shelter impounded 7,151 animals. Of those 5,200 were euthanized. Of course, those are only the pets released to the shelter by their owners, picked up as strays, or abandoned by their families and impounded at our shelter. Thousands more were passed off to family members, friends, neighbors, or turned out to fend for themselves and die on the ditches and mesas of our county.

Where do all of the puppies and kittens born to these displaced animals go? Back into the cycle. Thrown away or given away to families who did not intend to take in a new family member. Often, their act of kindness unwittingly brings about another litter to be shuffled into a community that is already bursting at the seams with unplanned puppies and kittens. And, so more and more are brought into our shelter where seventy-five percent end up in the landfill.

The problem is clear. Valencia County has more dogs, cats, puppies and kittens than we can place in homes before they have to be euthanized for lack of space and owner commitment. Though there are other factors that go into a long term solution, the fastest means to reduce the number of animals dumped into the system is to prevent them from being conceived. As much as we all love puppy breath and kitten tumbles, knowing their lives will end without ever having a loving home, it is our charge to stop the horrendous cycle of birth and needless death.

Spaying or neutering ends the reproductive life of the animal. Other benefits to removing the urge to reproduce: pets become focused on their family, they are less inclined to dig, jump and climb to find a partner, and some reproductive cancers are prevented. Early sterilization also helps reduce unpleasant activities like marking, spraying and mounting behaviors.

The problem is clear and the solution is simple. Unless you are a responsible breeder who has made a commitment to improving your breed, have homes waiting for your offspring and provide veterinary care and vaccinations for the pups and kittens - sterilize your pets.

The animals pictured below are only available for three days, but there are plenty of other choices! Visit the Valencia County Shelter, 1209 NM 314, one mile south of Main Street in Los Lunas. Open 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Tues - Sat. 866-2479



**Sugar is sweet and the pups are, too!**

There are lots of reasons that owners do not spay or neuter their companion animals. Some believe that sterilizing makes their animal fat or takes away their desire to protect. Others think that having a litter makes the female more settled and friendly. Some people know better and intend to sterilize but just don't get around to it before the first litter is born.

*Her owners didn't explain why Sugar had been allowed to have two previous litters when they dropped her off. Unfortunately for her, the third was not a charm. There were seven puppies - a few already born and nursing, but one was stuck in the birth canal. Not able to deliver on her own the owners tried to pull the puppy, killing it and causing damage to the mom. Unable to afford emergency care they gave her up...*

Quixote Humane took her in and paid for her emergency cesarean section to deliver the last of them. Only four survived. This sweet girl and her babies will be available for adoption - after they have been sterilized. **Stop the Cycle.**

Pick of the Pound and Sun Ranch Pet Hospital are excited to offer a low-cost spay/neuter

## **"Do it for Love" Sweetheart Special.**

40 vouchers will be available for **50% off** regular Spay/Neuter Prices at Sun Ranch Pet Hospital.

All residents of Valencia County, NM, are eligible on a first come, first served basis thru the end of March.

To qualify pets must be between 4 months and 4 years old and must be current on vaccines. If needed, vaccinations will be available at a 50% discount during the pre-exam or at time of surgery.

### **Purchase of a Sweetheart Voucher includes:**

- \*pre-exam with a dental screening,\*50% discount on vaccinations during pre-exam or at time of surgery
- \*Spay or neuter surgery at a 50% discount \* nail trim
- \*puppy kit which includes Heartgard, pet ID tag, and coupons \*Other free or discounted offers may be included depending upon donations.

For details and requirements contact:

Sun Ranch Pet Hospital (866-0100)

The staff will schedule an appointment for the purchase their Sweetheart Voucher(s) and to receive the free pre-exam for their pet. Payment for vouchers will be cash or credit card. Surgery appointment will be scheduled during the pre-exam.

Pre-exams scheduling available now.

Pre-exam appointments will begin on Feb. 14, 2006  
Surgery appointments will begin on Feb. 28, 2006 and continue thru the end of March.

Article and Photos by Judy Babcock, Quixote Humane, Inc.