



Stitch in Time

The Newsletter of Spay and Neuter Solutions, Inc.

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WISHBONE'S CORNER



WELCOME to the fifth issue of "Stitch in Time," the newsletter for Spay and Neuter Solutions! We hope to keep you and our many other friends updated on our activities and our progress in addressing the challenge of pet overpopulation in southern Arizona.

For Those of You Who Don't Know Who We Are...

Spay and Neuter Solutions was founded as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization on July 1, 2003, to address the issue of unchecked reproduction among companion animals. Pet overpopulation is an issue of great concern to virtually every animal welfare organization, many of which are overwhelmed by the number of homeless or abused pets in our communities. The goal of Spay and Neuter Solutions is to help make Arizona a pioneer state that can soon claim "no more homeless animals." We work closely with other animal welfare organizations, each of which has its own mission and goals. The sole focus of Spay and Neuter Solutions is in its name: we concentrate all of our efforts on spay and neuter issues.

We **PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE** to defray the cost of spaying and neutering for individuals in need, and we **EDUCATE** pet owners about the importance of these procedures in preventing the birth of unwanted animals and in improving the quality of life for their pets. We are all volunteers; we receive no personal financial compensation. All donations are used either to promote the organization's activities or for program services. Please visit our website at www.spayandneutersolutions.org to learn more about our mission.



Leila

SUCCESS STORIES

Meet Leila. This sweet and very photogenic kitten was living on the streets, homeless and without any veterinary care, destined for a life in which she would most likely have numerous litters of her own as she fought for survival as a stray.

But fate stepped in when a compassionate good samaritan brought her indoors and then called Spay and Neuter Solutions for advice and help in getting Leila the care she needed.

She was one of 13 stray kittens and cats who eventually were

humanely trapped in this area and then spayed or neutered.

Leila and four other kittens were tame enough to be adopted to loving families. The other eight feral cats were released back into their home territory to live out their lives, but without continuing the breeding cycle that was overpopulating this Tucson neighborhood with stray cats.

This success story would not have been possible without the generous financial contributions that donors have made to our assistance programs. In addition, these animals would not have been helped at all if that good samaritan had not stepped in and took responsibility to get involved in her neighborhood, instead of waiting for someone else to take care of the situation. Pet overpopulation is a community problem that needs all of us to be part of the solution.

Please have your companion animals spayed or neutered and encourage others to do the same!



Linus

OUR RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

With your help, we have spayed and neutered more than 750 dogs and cats in our community during the first half of 2006.

We celebrated Spay Day USA this year by altering 89 dogs and cats at three locations in Tucson -- on Feb. 27 at both locations of Animal Birth Control of Tucson and on March 14 at the Eastside Spay and Neuter Pet Clinic. Dr. Maria Curtis at Eastside is our newest partner in spay/neuter assistance services.

Our next big spay/neuter event was The Spirit of Nike Days on May 21-22. In addition to ABC and Eastside, we worked with Miller Pet Hospital and Ajo Veterinarian Clinic to spay and neuter 95 animals.

One memorable story involved a family who brought in 11 cats, even though they had no transportation. We sincerely thank Sharon Chamberlain, who volunteered to pick the animals up and take them back home after surgery. She also sponsored the cost of antibiotics for the cats.



A dog named Beautiful was found on an Indian reservation -- shy, starving and nursing puppies. Thanks to The Spirit of Nike, her new family was able to afford the low-cost spay for her.

Our fundraising activities have kept our volunteers busy as well. During the holiday season last December, we sold animal-themed craft items at two church bazaars. In February, the Marana Pines Golf Course hosted a FUNdraiser for us. In March, we received \$1,500 from the Pet Idol contest. Also in March, volunteer Wanda Winningham and

her friends hosted a yard sale and donated the proceeds to us -- a whopping \$1,000! In May, Cynthia Taylor and Katie Powers hosted a Friendly Feast vegetarian baking demonstration at the Sunflower community in Marana.

We also would like to thank volunteer Corey Ames for putting in so much time for the animals and to Mary Phalen for her dedication to the trap-neuter-return of feral cats.

Coming up, we are looking forward to the 2006 No More Homeless Animals Day in August. This will be our third year hosting this special event, which features a candlelight vigil and pet blessing at the Udall Park amphitheater. If you would like to volunteer with this event, please contact us at (520) 247-6469.

We also have plans for special spay/neuter programs for National Feral Cat Day in October. If you would like to sponsor a spay/neuter of a feral cat in need, please visit our website for donation information at www.spayandneutersolutions.org.

SAVE THE DATE



Candlelight Vigil and Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, August 19
Udall Park Amphitheater

2006 No More Homeless Animals Day
www.savemoreanimals.org/petblessing

To honor and remember animals who have touched our lives and to light a candle for those still waiting for loving homes

Sponsored by Spay and Neuter Solutions, The Pet Cemetery of Tucson, and The Center for Animal Rescue and Adoption



Top 3 Reasons to Spay and Neuter

1) Pet Overpopulation

It helps to reduce companion animal overpopulation. Most countries have a surplus of companion animals and are forced to euthanize or disregard their great suffering. The surplus is in the millions in the United States. Cats are 45 times as prolific, and dogs 15 times as prolific, as humans. They do not need our help to expand their numbers; they need our help to reduce their numbers until there are good homes for them all.

2) A Longer Life

Sterilization of your cat or dog will increase his/her chance of a longer and healthier life. Altering your canine friend will increase his life an average of 1 to 3 years, felines, 3 to 5 years.



Altered animals have a very low to no risk of mammary gland tumors/cancer, prostate cancer, perianal tumors, pyometria, and uterine, ovarian and testicular cancers.

3) Health & Safety

Sterilizing your cat/dog makes him/her a better pet, reducing his/her urge to roam and decreasing the risk of contracting diseases or getting hurt as they roam. Surveys indicate that as many as 85% of dogs hit by cars are unaltered. Intact male cats living outside have been shown to live on average less than two years. Feline Immunodeficiency Syndrome is spread by bites, and intact cats fight a great deal more than altered cats.

From www.SpayUSA.org

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

When Laura Randles turned 9 years old this year, she asked for only one birthday present -- for guests to her birthday party to bring donations for Spay and Neuter Solutions.

"I have enough things," she said in an article in the *Arizona Daily Star*, "and I love animals and I wanted to help." Her party raised \$156 for the animals served by the organization.

"People gave more money to the cause than they would have if they had gone out and bought a present," Laura's mom, Joan, remembers. "The people who came to the party were so generous. It was really wonderful."

In honor of her volunteer spirit, Laura was named the *Arizona Daily Star*-Eyewitness News 4 Student of the Week for May 8. Laura attends Agua Caliente Elementary School.

Laura spends a lot of time with the animals at her house, including walking her dog, exercising and feeding treats to her gerbil, and



Laura and mom Joan Randles, along with their canine companions, have been active in helping animals in the Tucson community. In addition to fostering homeless animals, they have raised funds for spay/neuter.

helping to clean the cat's litterbox and the horse stalls. She and her family also have provided foster care for homeless animals, including Rocky.

The 4-year-old yellow lab/golden retriever mix was rescued by The Center for Animal Rescue and

Adoption, and his neuter surgery was underwritten by Spay and Neuter Solutions.

Rocky lived with Laura and her family for months, as they worked to increase his weight and improved his coat condition. They also sponsored a "day at the spa" for Rocky to get a full bath and grooming after his rescue.

Later, Rocky was adopted and now has a permanent home with another family in the area.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Transportation Pool:

Sometimes the only thing holding people back from spaying or neutering their pets is the fact that they do not have transportation to and from the vet. In an effort to remove as many obstacles as possible, we are compiling a list of volunteers who are willing to be contacted when we have a need for transport of animals to the vet's office and back home again after their surgeries.

Fundraising & Special Events:

Raising money to pay for spay/neuter surgeries is an important priority for us. You can help by being an extra pair of hands helping out a special event, such as the No More Homeless Animals Day in August, or by helping us sell animal-themed craft items that have been donated to us. If you have an idea of a place you would be able to sell crafts, please let us know!

If you would like more information about these or other volunteer opportunities, please contact us by calling (520) 247-6469 or emailing help@spayandneutersolutions.org.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

▶ Spay and Neuter:

You personally can make a difference by spaying or neutering your pets and encouraging others to do the same.

▶ Shopping for the

Cause: You can contribute to our cause. Do you like shopping? Please shop on the following websites, and part of your spending will benefit our organization. Please ask your family and friends to sign up, too, and support us! We are registered on eScrip.com, iGive.com, and Downbound.com, which features vegetarian and socially-responsible products. To receive step-by-step instructions for using these services, please visit our website at www.spayandneutersolutions.org

▶ **In-Kind Donations:** We are always looking for people to donate supplies such as paper, postage,



printing services, gift certificates, etc. Please call us at (520) 247-6469 for more information.

▶ Monetary Donations:

If you would like to make a financial contribution, please make checks

payable to Spay and Neuter Solutions. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 762, Cortaro, AZ 85652. You may make your tax-deductible donation at www.spayandneutersolutions.org via our secured PayPal link or at www.networkforgood.com.

Remember, all donations are used to promote the organization or for program services. We are all volunteers; we receive no personal financial compensation.

▶ **Fundraising for Us:** Consider organizing your next party as an opportunity to raise funds for our charity.

OUR INSPIRATION

Harry Houdini lived up to his name. An indoor-only cat, he slipped out the back door. But then he became disoriented and could not find his way back home.

He had been living a very comfortable life at a loving home in a northwest Tucson neighborhood. Now he was faced with the dangers of the desert outdoors, an environment to which he was not accustomed.

Even though Harry was microchipped, no news came about his whereabouts. His human companion, Corey Ames, remembers: "As the weeks went by, I just gave up. There was just no way. I didn't think he could possibly survive coyotes, bobcats, hawks, rattlesnakes, no water, no food."

As heartbreaking as the situation was, she and her husband thought they had to face the fact that Harry was gone forever.

After Harry's disappearance, Corey continued her volunteer work for Spay and Neuter Solutions, devoting many hours a month to helping companion animals and the



Harry Houdini escaped from his northwest Tucson home, only to be found three months later living with another family in the same neighborhood while they searched for his home.

people who love them. One day, a woman called the organization to ask for advice on finding a home for a half-grown kitten she found.

Although the organization does not provide adoption services, Katie and Corey wanted to do their best to find help for the caller and the cat. So they agreed to bring a cat carrier over to the woman's home and transport the cat to a shelter.

But the cat in question was not a half-grown kitten as the caller had indicated, but 14-year-old Harry!

"I went to get the cat less than four blocks away, and as we walked up the driveway, I could see it was Harry," Corey remembers. He had been gone for three months, but he was found just four blocks away from home.

Harry enjoyed his 15 minutes of fame, as he and Corey were featured in an *Arizona Daily Star* article titled "Short journey is incredible," with writer Kimberly Matas telling their amazing story of being reunited.

While he was fortunate to be able to live out his golden years safely at home, Harry was an elderly cat and developed health problems due to old age. He recently passed away.

All of us at Spay and Neuter Solutions wish to express our sincerest condolences to Corey and her husband Houston for their loss. We remember Harry fondly, and he gives us inspiration to continue our work for all the cats and dogs in our community who need our help.

TIP OF THE DAY

Would you like to receive this newsletter online instead of in print? By doing so, you can save us money on printing and postage, allowing us to use more of our resources for spay/neuter surgeries. If you are interested, please subscribe with your email address by contacting us at help@spayandneutersolutions.org. Thank you!

There is a new driving force in the battle against pet overpopulation!



Please visit our website for more information about the new pet-friendly license plate.

The Adoption Option



If you're thinking of finding a feline companion, this is the purrfect time! **June is Adopt-a-Cat Month.** Please consider adopting a cat from a shelter or rescue group. Begin your search for your next best friend at:

www.Petfinder.com

www.Pets911.com

www.1-800-Save-a-Pet.com