

Within Our GRASP

Greece Residents Assisting Stray Pets, Inc.

December 2006

Pet Overpopulation: Everyone's Problem

Each and every day in the United States, more than 70,000 puppies and kittens are born as a result of the uncontrolled breeding of pets. When you add in the number of puppies and kittens born to stray and abandoned animals, the number becomes even more upsetting.

Uncontrolled pet breeding results in between six and eight million cats and dogs entering shelters each year, and since there are simply not enough good homes for them, an estimated three to four million are euthanized in shelters each year.

Every cat or dog who dies as a result of pet overpopulation—whether humanely in a shelter or by injury, disease, or neglect—is an animal who probably would have made a wonderful, loyal companion if it was just given the chance.

During the six months between March and September this year, GRASP

received hundreds of calls for help with homeless kittens found outside in the Town of Greece. In all, GRASP volunteers rescued and cared for over 200 kittens, and had to turn down dozens of other requests for help.

Overwhelming as the problem of pet overpopulation is, it is a problem that can be solved if our community can work together in a joint, collaborative effort—with each of us just doing our part.

Pet overpopulation isn't just a problem for the animals, although they are they ones who suffer the most. The overpopulation crisis also isn't one that only good-hearted pet rescue volunteers (for nonprofit groups such as GRASP) must bear the burden for. Rather, we must recognize that the pet overpopulation crisis is a community issue that affects us all.

If we (as a community) are to get a handle on pet overpopulation, we

must work together toward the solution.

First and foremost, pet owners can do their part by having their companion animals spayed or neutered. This is the single most important step you can take. Please have your pets "fixed" so that they don't contribute to the pet overpopulation problem.

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GRASP, Inc. is a nonprofit, pet rescue and adoption group run by volunteers and funded by public donations.

GRASP's primary goal is to give animals recovered by Greece Animal Control a second chance for a safe, happy, and healthy life.

Pet Overpopulation Statistics

Number of cats and dogs entering shelters each year:

6–8 million (HSUS estimate)

Number of cats and dogs euthanized by shelters each year:

3–4 million (HSUS estimate)

Number of cats and dogs adopted from shelters each year:

3–4 million (HSUS estimate)

Number of animal shelters in the United States:

4,000–6,000 (HSUS estimate)

Percentage of dogs in shelters who are purebred:

25% (HSUS estimate)

Average number of litters a fertile cat can produce in one year: 3

Average number of kittens in a feline litter: 4–6

Average number of litters a fertile dog can produce in one year: 2

Average number of puppies in a canine litter: 6–10



Shop On-line this Holiday Season!

Supporters of GRASP are encouraged to shop on-line at Shop.com as an innovative way to help us raise funds.

Shop.com is basically an on-line shopping mall which features hundreds of catalog merchants' products all available for purchasing via a single shopping cart.

All you have to do is buy on-line at Shop.com using the **CareCode: grasp**. Whenever you do, up to 10% of every purchase is set aside as a donation to GRASP. Once you've made your first purchase and registered the CareCode, a portion of all your future qualifying purchases will be set aside for GRASP.

The more you shop—the more you will donate to GRASP. So, start spreading the news and send this information along to anyone you know who loves to shop on-line!

You can read all the details about this new fundraising program by going to: <http://www.shop.com/CareCode/grasp>.

Adoption Events

Greece Petco

2373 West Ridge Rd.

(In front of Greece Ridge Center Mall)

Thursdays: 6–8 p.m.

Saturdays: 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Come meet our adoptable pets!

(Volunteers are always needed to help run our adoption events! If you're interested, please call GRASP at 585-234-1953)



Did you know?

Pet owners should take extra care to ensure that their pets don't get into any of the following hazards:

- Alcoholic beverages
- Avocado
- Chocolate (all forms)
- Coffee (all forms)
- Fatty foods
- Macadamia nuts
- Moldy or spoiled foods
- Onions, onion powder
- Raisins and grapes
- Salt
- Yeast dough
- Garlic
- Products sweetened with xylitol

(Even small amounts of some of the foods on this list can lead to serious health problems for your pets.)

Overpopulation

Continued from first page

(If you cannot afford to have your pets altered, please consult the list of local spay/neuter contacts on the next page.)

Second, community residents—people just like you—must work *together* to rescue and care for homeless pets in our area. GRASP, and similar pet welfare organizations, desperately need more people to understand that pet overpopulation is everyone's problem and affects us all.

If everyone volunteered a small amount of time to a pet rescue group, spayed or neutered one feral cat in their own neighborhood, or helped a friend or neighbor pay to alter their own pets, our community would be well on the way to solving the crisis of pet overpopulation once and for all!

Within Our **GRASP**

Greece Residents Assisting Stray Pets, Inc. (GRASP)—a nonprofit, pet rescue and adoption group—is run entirely by community volunteers and funded solely by public donations.

GRASP's goal is to give animals—primarily those picked up by Greece Animal Control—a second chance for a safe, happy, and healthy life.

Within our GRASP is published quarterly, in March, June, September, and December each year.

GRASP Newsletter Volunteers:

Writer/Editor: Cyndy Dewey
Contributing Writer: Jennifer Burke

GRASP Board of Directors:

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Directors

Cat Team: Jennifer Coykendall
Public Relations: Cyndy Dewey
Fundraising: Debra Helfer
Dog Team: Marshall Henry
Technology: Joan Taber
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If you would like to receive our newsletter, please contact us:

GRASP, Inc.
PO Box 26741
Rochester, NY 14626
(585) 234-1953
www.graspinc.org



Local Spay/Neuter Contacts

Local Veterinarians

Contact local veterinarians to inquire about spaying or neutering your pets. Some veterinarians may be willing to work out special financing options for you. Remember that, even if you pay full price for the procedures, spaying or neutering is a one-time cost with a lifetime of benefits. Altering your pet not only helps curb pet overpopulation, but also reduces your pet's risk of succumbing to many later health problems.

Rochester Animal Service's LISN Program

The City of Rochester's Animal Services now offers the Low-Income Spay Neuter (LISN) Program, which provides low-cost spay and neuter surgeries to cat and dog owners meeting the income and residency guidelines.

Fees for City of Rochester residents are \$25 for male cats, \$40 for female cats, and \$75 for dog surgeries. Fees for non-City residents are \$30 for male cats, \$50 for female cats, and \$100 for dogs.

LISN services include administration of anesthetics and pain control medication, surgical sterilization, preventative rabies vaccination, and suture removal 7-10 days after surgery.

Applications are available on-line and at the shelter at 184 Verona Street. For more information, contact Animal Services at 585-428-SPAY (7729).

Lollypop Farm's SNIP Program

Low-income residents of Monroe County who cannot afford to have their pet spayed or neutered may also call Lollypop Farm at 585-223-1330, ext. 350 to find out about the Spay Neuter Incentive Program (SNIP).

SNIP provides financial assistance to help pet owners with a portion of the cost to spay or neuter a pet. County residents who qualify for the program, receive a voucher that can be used at a participating veterinary hospital. The voucher recipient/pet owner is responsible for paying the amount not covered by the voucher.

To request an application for the SNIP program, please contact Lollypop Farm at 585-223-1330, ext. 350.

Habitat for Cats' Low Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic

To aid in the reduction of feral cat overpopulation, Habitat for Cats conducts a weekly low-cost clinic in Henrietta, New York for feral/homeless/unowned cats.

For a \$35.00 donation per cat, the following clinical services will be provided to each feral cat:

- Spay/neuter by an experienced veterinarian
- Anesthesia
- Pain control
- Dissolvable sutures
- Rabies & distemper vaccinations
- Flea, ear mite, and parasite treatment
- Ear tipping (a universal symbol marking a feral cat as spayed/neutered).

For information on trapping and making an appointment, contact Habitat for Cats at 585-234-2894 or www.habitatforcats.com.

(Please note that his program is for feral/homeless/unowned cats only.)

Where are they now?

Ever wondered what has become of some of the special dogs and cats who have come through our rescue system? Here is one adoption story that is awaiting a *new* happy ending.

Merlin and Chloe came into GRASP (along with their mother and two littermates) when they were just a few days old back in March 2002. They were cared for in a GRASP foster home, taken in for all their veterinary work, and then adopted into a new home together.



Then

ate calico girl who interacts very well with people of all ages. Merlin and Chloe have never been apart, so ideally they will find a perfect home where they may remain together.

For more information on Merlin and Chloe (or other adoptable GRASP pets) visit our website, www.graspinc.org or call 585-234-1953.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Merlin and Chloe's adoptive family is no longer able to care for them, so both cats are once again looking a for loving, permanent home together.

Merlin is a gentle, charming red and white tabby boy who loves human attention. Chloe is a sweet, affection-



& Now

Angels Among Us

In honor of . . .

- . . . In honor of Bert and Mitsi.
~ Patricia Sale
- . . . In honor of Carmel, my GRASP girl,
and Tom, my work stray boy!
~ Nancy Uffindell
- . . . In honor of Samantha (adopted 09/
2000) and continues to thrive.
~ Diane, Debbie, & Judy
Merzbach
- . . . In honor of Buffy, Mimi, Perry, and
Buddy (Our 3 dogs and 1 cat).
~ Mr. & Mrs. Leon Bufano
- . . . In honor of Teresa Fletcher, our
wonderful pet nanny for Kodi, Ronnie,
Lita, and Belle.
~ Mr. & Mrs. J. Lundgren
- . . . In honor of Sabrina and Beatrice, two
lovely kitties.
~ Mrs. Elizabeth Affolter
- . . . In honor of Brandi (GRASP Dog).
~ Mr. & Mrs. John Nolder
- . . . In honor of Dr. Betsy Arnold, my vet.
~ Phyllis Meredith

In memory of . . .

- . . . In memory of Blitzler. Dog owned by
Dawn Kester of Happy Tails.
~ Venessa Ann Schrader
- . . . In memory of Max, beloved compan-
ion of Pet Sitter Jill Nuciola.
~ Ted & Karen Catron
- . . . In memory of Max Nuciolo, beloved
dog of our catsitter Jill.
~ Alice McDowell, Mazurka, &
Caruso
- . . . In memory of Sid.
~ David Jones
- . . . In memory of Moose (ferret). I miss
seeing you curled up in the shredded
paper box, you always looked so comfy
cozy.
~ Guardian Pet Care (Teresa
Fletcher)
- . . . In memory of Max - Our best friend
and one handsome kitty - We miss you!
~ Thomas Garvia
- . . . In memory of our dear Tobey.
~ Mr. & Mrs. Howard Fisher
- . . . In memory of Benny.
~ Marilyn Camera

- . . . In memory of Belle, the beloved
cocker spaniel of the Sweeting Family,
you are missed very much.
~ Guardian Pet Care (Teresa
Fletcher)
- . . . In memory of George, I'll miss our car
rides and walks along the trail, we always
had so much fun.
~ Guardian Pet Care (Teresa
Fletcher)
- . . . In memory of Panther, who died
much too young and is sadly missed.
~ The Dewey Family
- . . . In memory of Monty and Jake, much
loved cats!
~ Susan Truby
- . . . In memory of Panther, Cyndy
Dewey's beloved cat.
~ Jennifer Coykendall
- . . . In memory of Eleanor Choen.
~ Mr. & Mrs. H. Fisher
- . . . In memory of Doris Bennett who
taught our family to love animals as she
did.
~ Bonnie Bennett



Please help us help them!

The influx of dogs, cats, and kittens during the 2006 spring and summer seasons has seriously taxed GRASP's resources. Please consider offering a donation to help us rebuild our resources so we may continue to help homeless pets.

Name _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Enclosed is my contribution for \$ _____

If you would like to make your contribution in honor or memory of a special person or pet, please indicate below:

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Why You Should Spay or Neuter Your Pet

What do “spay” and “neuter” really mean? Female dogs and cats are spayed by removing their reproductive organs, and male dogs and cats are neutered by removing their testicles. In both cases the operation is performed while the pet is under anesthesia. Depending on your pet’s age, size, and health, he or she will stay at your veterinarian’s office for a few hours or a few days. Depending upon the procedure, your pet may need stitches removed after a few days. Your veterinarian can fully explain spay and neuter procedures to you and discuss with you the best age at which to sterilize your pet.

Spaying or Neutering Is Good for Your Pet

- Spaying and neutering helps dogs and cats live longer, healthier lives.
- Spaying and neutering can eliminate or reduce the incidence of a number of health problems that can be very difficult or expensive to treat.
- Spaying eliminates the possibility of uterine or ovarian cancer and greatly reduces the incidence of breast cancer, particularly when your pet is spayed before her first estrous cycle.
- Neutering eliminates testicular cancer and decreases the incidence of prostate disease.

Spaying or Neutering Is Good for You

- Spaying and neutering makes pets better, more affectionate companions.
- Neutering cats makes them less likely to spray and mark territory.
- Spaying a dog or cat eliminates her heat cycle. Estrus lasts an average of six to 12 days, often twice a year, in dogs and an average of six to seven days,

three or more times a year, in cats. Females in heat can cry incessantly, show nervous behavior, and attract unwanted male animals.



The Humane Society of the United State (HSUS) will celebrate the 13th annual Spay Day USA on Tuesday, February 27, 2007. Spay Day USA is a day to shine a national spotlight on spay/neuter as a simple, humane solution to the tragedy of pet overpopulation. During Spay Day USA, concerned community members—including veterinarians, animal welfare professionals and animal guardians—join forces to spay or neuter as many animals as possible, to educate the public about the importance of spay/neuter and to raise needed funds for spay/neuter.

Since the inception of Spay Day USA in 1995, event participants—people just like you—have spayed or neutered an estimated 1,366,000 companion animals and feral cats, saving potentially millions of animals lives and taxpayer dollars.

Some ways you may participate in Spay Day USA:

- 1) Distribute Spay Day USA brochures (available through HSUS) to local veterinarians, pet stores, individuals, etc.
- 2) Volunteer at one of Habitat for Cats’ weekly clinics or with another local pet rescue organization.
- 3) Sponsor the spay or neuter of at least one animal—your own, a friend’s or relative’s, a feral cat, or a shelter animal awaiting adoption.
- 4) Encourage everyone you know to learn about the pet overpopulation crisis and ways that they can help solve the problem.

- Unsterilized animals often exhibit more behavior and temperament problems than do those who have been spayed or neutered.

- Spaying and neutering can make pets less likely to bite.
- Neutering makes pets less likely to roam the neighborhood, run away, or get into fights.

Spaying and Neutering Are Good for the Community

- Communities spend millions of dollars to control unwanted animals.
- Irresponsible breeding contributes to the problem of dog bites and attacks.
- Animal shelters are overburdened with surplus animals.
- Stray pets and homeless animals get into trash containers, defecate in public areas or on private lawns, and frighten or anger people who have no understanding of their misery or needs.
- Some stray animals also scare away or kill birds and wildlife.

Fix That Bunny!

When being conscientious about the pet overpopulation, don’t forget to spay or neuter your pet rabbit.

Altering rabbits can reduce hormone-driven behavior such as lunging, mounting, spraying, and boxing. Spaying females can prevent ovarian, mammary, and uterine cancers, which can be prevalent in mature does. Also, rabbits reproduce faster than dogs or cats and are the third-most surrendered animal to shelters.

Spay or neuter surgery carries a one-time cost that is relatively small when one considers its benefits. It’s a small price to pay for the health of your pet and the prevention of more unwanted animals.

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Calling all Teachers!

If you're a grade-school teacher, you've probably accepted a wide variety of holiday gifts from students over the years.

Many of the gifts, although thoughtful and generous in nature, probably end up collecting dust somewhere in your home. (After all, how many "World's Best Teacher" coffee mugs, Christmas ornaments, and picture frames do you really need?)

This year, in lieu of traditional teacher gifts, perhaps you'd consider asking your students to select an item from GRASP's holiday wish list to be included in a classroom donation to GRASP?



GRASP is run entirely by community volunteers and funded through public donations. Gifts generously donated by your students will be collected during or after the holiday season by a GRASP volunteer.

Every donation will be used to feed, transport, groom, house, and enrich the lives of the many deserving dogs and cats that are awaiting, loving, permanent homes.

For more information, or to arrange for a volunteer visit your classroom to collect holiday donations, please call 585-234-1953.

On behalf of GRASP volunteers and the homeless pets we serve, thank you and Happy Holidays!

GRASP's Holiday Wish List

- Dog and cat toys
- Gift certificates (any denomination) to local pet stores
- Pet beds
- Cat scratching posts (Cosmic Catnip scratching boxes are great!)
- Pet carriers
- Nutro or Science Diet dry cat and kitten food
- Cat nail trimmers
- Clumping cat litter

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