
LOW COST SPAY/NEUTER OPTIONS

One of the most important decisions you can make for the health and welfare of your pets and for the local animal population is to have all of your animals spayed or neutered BEFORE they produce a litter. Sometimes financial hardships make it difficult to do the right thing, but fortunately there are resources available to help relieve the financial burden. Below is a list of resources available in the Portland-Metro area. Thank you for being a responsible pet guardian.

Services from Other Organizations

Before utilizing the options below, it is a good idea to contact several veterinarians in your area. The cost of spaying and neutering can vary significantly between different clinics. Some clinics are able to spay or neuter at a very low cost, to benefit the community by working to help end pet overpopulation.

COUPONS

OREGON SPAY/NEUTER FUND

(503) 286-2411 www.oregonspayneuter.org

The Oregon Spay Neuter Fund coupon (included in our packet) is accepted at several area clinics which are listed on the coupon. There are no income restrictions required to use the coupon, and there are no additional charges for spaying animals that are pregnant or in heat. Several clinics that accept the coupon are able to spay and neuter feral cats. Contact the clinics for details or to schedule an appointment.

SNAP – OREGON HUMANE SOCIETY

(503) 285-7722 www.oregonhumane.org

The Oregon Humane Society can provide coupons that apply towards the cost of spaying or neutering companion cats for individuals receiving government assistance, such as SSI/SSD or unemployment. You must meet certain guidelines to qualify, and coupons must be obtained in person at the shelter in Northeast Portland. Call for details. Some vets will accept both the SNAP coupon and the OSNF coupon (above).

LOANS

CARE CREDIT

(800) 677-0718 www.carecredit.com

Care Credit is a low-interest credit card for medical or veterinary use only, and is accepted at a variety of local clinics. Clients must be approved, and the may only be used at participating veterinary clinics. Call or visit the website for more information.

OREGON HUMANE SOCIETY

(503) 285-7722 www.oregonhumane.org

The Oregon Humane Society can provide interest-free loans for up to \$50 towards the cost of spaying or neutering. All loans must be repaid in full within 3 months. Call or visit the website for details.

FERAL CATS

FERAL CAT COALITION OF OREGON

(503) 797-2606 www.feralcats.com

The Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon operates low-cost spay/neuter clinics in Portland and the surrounding area. Services are provided for feral, stray or barn cats who are being fed consistently by a caregiver. Domestic cats who are part of a human family do not qualify. Call or visit the website for more information.

Animal Aid, Inc.'s Services

Our funds are very limited, so we ask that you attempt to take advantage of the resources listed above before applying for our services. However, if you have pursued all options listed above, and are still in need of assistance, we may be able to help. Depending upon the circumstances, you may qualify for assistance through POPPA's grant program or through our interest-free loan program (see next page).

For details, or to apply for any of the following programs, contact Animal Aid, Inc. at (503) 292-6628.

POPPA

We receive grants from Pet Over-Population Prevention Advocates, an organization that provides funding for spaying and neutering cats throughout the state of Oregon. With these grants, we can help subsidize a portion of the cost of spaying or neutering socialized cats for low income individuals. POPPA spays and neuters are not free, but the amount you must pay is based on your need and our available funding. Our available funding varies with the volume of calls we receive, so even if you have been approved for a certain amount of assistance in the past, you may not be eligible to receive the same amount of assistance in the future.

JACK HURD MEDICAL LOAN PROGRAM

In certain rare circumstances, depending upon your financial needs and our available funding, we can provide assistance with the cost of spaying or neutering for cats or dogs, in the form of interest-free loans at cooperating veterinary clinics. Our loans **must** be repaid in full, but are a good alternative for individuals who do not qualify for POPPA funding, but are still in need of financial assistance.

Spay/Neuter Information

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

- **Cats and dogs can be spayed or neutered as early as 8 weeks of age.**¹ There is no consensus in the veterinary community as to the best age to spay or neuter; clinics differ on the recommended minimum age. It is a good idea to consult with different veterinary clinics to make an informed decision about what is most appropriate for your pet.
- **Kittens typically have their first heat cycle when they are only 4-6 month of age.**²
- **Cats and dogs can be spayed while pregnant, even late in the term.**¹ Not all veterinarians are willing to spay pregnant animals, so if your pet is pregnant, contact multiple veterinarians, including those listed on the Oregon Spay/Neuter Fund coupon (included in this packet), to locate a veterinarian that is willing help.
- **Recent moms can be spayed as early as 10 days after their litters are weaned, usually 8-10 wks after birth.**
- **Recent mothers can become impregnated even while they are still nursing a litter.**³
- **Spay first.** If you have multiple animals that need to be altered, but you cannot afford to alter them all at once, spay the females before neutering the males. A spayed female is incapable of reproducing, whereas males retain the potential to reproduce for weeks after being neutered.⁴
- **Even littermates and family members will mate with each other if they are of age.**
- **Until your animals have been spayed or neutered, it is absolutely crucial that you keep them all indoors and apart from animals of the opposite sex at all times in order to prevent pregnancy.**
- **Spay or neuter all animals in your household.** Even if you keep your pets indoors and away from other unaltered animals, it is always important to have each and every animal altered. No one is perfect, and mistakes happen—an animal can slip out, a friend can bring a new pet over, and it only takes a few moments for an animal to become pregnant. Additionally, spaying and neutering provides the following benefits:
 - Cheaper licensing fees in most counties
 - Reduced behavioral problems, such as inappropriate urination, aggression, and roaming¹
 - Reduced rates of prostate problems, tumors around the anus, reproductive disease, and mammary cancer.¹ This also means fewer veterinary bills, should any of these problems arise.
 - Ensuring that you are not contributing to pet overpopulation, which results in an estimated 15 million cats and dogs euthanized in shelters in the United States each year.¹

Additional Resources

If you are also looking for resources for low-cost routine veterinary care, there are mobile veterinary clinics that travel to different grocery stores and retailers throughout the Portland-metro area. These clinics can provide routine care including vaccinations, deworming, flea treatment, ear mite treatment and micro-chipping, at a very minimal cost, and with no exam fee. The clinics do not provide treatment or examinations for ill or injured pets.

GOOD NEIGHBOR VET (888) 234-1350

LUV MY PET (503) 557-1740

Additionally, some veterinary clinics also offer low-cost vaccination days, so contact your regular veterinarian to see if they offer any low-cost services.

¹ Oregon Veterinary Medical Association. (2008). *Benefits of Spaying or Neutering Your Pet*. <http://www.oregonvma.org/petowners/spayneuter.asp>

² Sacramento Area Animal Coalition. *FAQ: Cat Reproduction*. http://www.sacanimal.org/cat_reproduction_FAQ.pdf

³ Spay-USA. *Frequently Asked Questions*. http://www.spayusa.org/main_directory/01-faq/index.asp

⁴ Best Friends. (2000). *Myths & Questions About Having Babies*. <http://www.bestfriends.org/nomorehomelesspets/pdf/mythsbabies.pdf>