



# Collier County Government



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February 4, 2010

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### 5 DAYS OF SPAY SETS NEW GOAL FOR 500 SPAY/NEUTERS

**Feb. 22-26, 2010 • by Collier County DAS, Humane Society of Naples & Collier Spay Neuter Clinic**

Everyone is looking for a way to save money, and pet owners especially are still trying to provide for their animals but many families are struggling financially. From Feb. 22 through Feb. 26, 5 Days of Spay will allow any cat or dog to be spayed or neutered for a fraction of the customary cost as a result of a partnership between Collier County Domestic Animal Services (DAS), Humane Society of Naples and the Collier Spay Neuter Clinic.

The offer is not exclusive to Collier County residents. Any and all pets are welcome. Pet owners need only to call 1-877-781 SPAY (7729) and register their cats and dogs for appointments. Pre-registration and pre-payment is required. A canine neuter usually costs at least \$180, but with this week-long event spays and neuters range from just \$40 to \$75.

National Spay Day by the Humane Society of the United States is Tuesday, Feb. 23, and in honor of that event the three agencies are hosting a week-long drive to combat the growth in the homeless pet population. The common goal is to effect 500 surgeries. Collier Spay Neuter Clinic can accommodate 150 of these, and the Humane Society of Naples will perform 50 more. DAS will work with local veterinarians to secure spots for 300 additional pet sterilizations.

“In Southwest Florida, more than 15,000 pets are put down every year due to pet overpopulation,” said Pallas Diaz, Executive Director of Collier Spay Neuter Clinic. “Residents in our community can help us prevent pet overpopulation simply by spaying and neutering their pets.”

“Spay/neuter protects pet health, improves pet behavior, and lessens the burden on animal shelters and taxpayers,” states Diaz. “We are inviting citizens to sponsor the spay or neuter of at least one animal in honor of Spay Day 2010.”

DAS Director Amanda Townsend painted a clear picture of the pet overpopulation problem. “The fact is that if pets are not spayed and neutered they will continue to reproduce, and we have plenty of animals that need homes already so we truly hope the public will take all of us up on this discounted spay-neuter offer.”

The Executive Director of The Humane Society Naples Michael Simonik agreed and said, “Every day we get call after call after tearful call from people wanting to surrender their pets,” he said. But the Humane Society has a limit on the number of animals it may accept, even with its newly expanded shelter facility. “It just isn’t enough.”

“Pet overpopulation is a community-wide problem, and the whole community must come together to solve it. The Five Days of Spay is a step in the right direction,” said Townsend.

Pets must be registered by Feb. 19 to qualify for participation. Pet owners should call 1-877-781-SPAY (7729) if interested.

For more information, media are asked to contact Camden Smith at (239) 252-5326.

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