

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 7, 2007



**Friends For the Dearborn Animal Shelter
Announce Spay/Neuter Vouchers for Spay
Day USA**

The **Friends For the Dearborn Animal Shelter** are joining thousands of other shelters around the United States in celebrating the **13th Annual Spay Day USA** on February 27, 2007.

Pet overpopulation is a problem that requires immediate and continued attention not just in Dearborn, but in all communities throughout the United States. According to the Human Society of the United States (HSUS), between 8 and 10 million dogs and cats enter a shelter each year, and between 4 and 5 million of these animals are euthanized, without the chance of becoming a loving companion within a household.

"Spaying and neutering a cat is good for the animal, the family, and the entire community," says **Elaine Greene, Executive Director of the Dearborn Animal Shelter**. She goes on to explain: "Spaying and neutering can reduce health problems in your cat, such as ovarian or testicular cancer, and, in general, a spayed or neutered cat is a more friendly member of the family."

Consider that two unaltered cats and all their unaltered descendants can number as many as 420,000 in just seven years, and two unaltered dogs and their unaltered descendants can number 67,000 in six years – these numbers reveal the urgency with which spaying or neutering must be addressed in the United States.

With this in mind, **Friends For the Dearborn Animal Shelter** are again working to reduce the overpopulation of cats in the community by sponsoring a **Spay/Neuter Clinic** and offering vouchers of \$35 for the neutering of a male and \$45 for the spaying of a female at select local veterinary clinics. In addition to the spaying or neutering, the veterinary visit will also include a CVR-CP and rabies vaccination, and the insertion of a microchip identifier along with registration.

Veterinary clinics participating in the **Spay/Neuter Clinic** include **Arbor Pointe Veterinary Clinic, Bloom Animal Hospital, Caputo Animal Hospital, Dearborn Family Pet Care, Dearborn Veterinary Hospital, Downriver Animal Hospital, Ford Road Animal Clinic, Lincoln Park Veterinary Hospital, Morrison Animal Hospital, St. Julian Cat Care, West Warren Veterinary Hospital, VCA of Allen Park, VetSelect of Dearborn and VetSelect Dearborn Heights.**

Vouchers went on sale January 15, and supply is limited – to purchase one, please contact the **Friends For the Dearborn Animal Shelter** at **(313) 943-2697**. The **Dearborn Animal Shelter** is located at 2661 Greenfield Road, Dearborn (one mile south of Michigan Avenue; 1/2 mile south of Rotunda; just south of the viaduct under I-94 on the west side of Greenfield at the intersection of Butler Road). After purchasing a voucher, contact any of the participating veterinary clinics to schedule an appointment.

Top 3 Reasons to Spay and Neuter:

1. 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. 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 an average of 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. 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.

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The mission of the **Friends For the Dearborn Animal Shelter** is to provide loving care and sanctuary to animals, encourage adoptions and reunions, and promote respect, responsibility and compassion for all animals.

Animals are the heart of our mission.

Photo available by calling contact.

Photo Caption:

Elaine Greene (left), Dearborn Animal Shelter Executive Director, and Dr. Marj Field (right) of VCA Allen Park, both supporters of National Spay Day. They are holding 3-year-old Bear and 2-year-old Parmesan, shelter cats waiting to be adopted. If Parmesan were not spayed, she and her offspring could potentially account for the births of over 420,000 kittens in just seven years.

We cordially invite your coverage of this event. Thank you.

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