

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SPAY & NEUTER PROGRAM

BACKGROUND:

At the January 24, 2025, Board of Supervisors Workshop, Supervisor Swarthout (District 3) recommended initiating a Community Spay and Neuter Program funded with \$75,000 to provide free spay and neuter services for animals residing in the unincorporated areas of Nevada County. This recommendation was in response to a significant increase in unwanted puppies and kittens, primarily in unincorporated areas, which has greatly impacted the County Animal Shelter's capacity.

The cost of spay and neuter procedures can range from \$250–\$850 depending on the animal's size, age, weight, and sex. Economic challenges may lead residents to forgo these procedures, resulting in unwanted litters. In one year alone, the shelter received over 500 kittens and puppies. Over the past year, staff have worked to establish the core framework for the program, with a goal of serving at least 250 residents in unincorporated areas.

Key efforts include:

- **Establishing an application process:**
 - Developed a flyer with QR code and launched nevadacountyca.gov/spayandneuter, where residents can apply online.
 - Applications populate an internal SharePoint page for management.
 - To date, over 500 applications have been received, primarily from unincorporated areas. Residents within city limits are referred to low-cost options and local nonprofit Wayward Journey.
- **Identifying spay & neuter partners:**
 - SNIP Mobile Spay and Neuter – Provides mobile services statewide, with a local coordinator focusing on dogs and puppies.
 - Animal Save – A local low-cost spay and neuter program, primarily serving cats and kittens.
- **Marketing program:**
 - Promoted through County social media, press releases, and a KNCO radio interview with Supervisor Swarthout and CEO Alison Lehman.
- **Clinic implementation:**
 - Completed Clinics
 - Oct 21–22 (North San Juan): SNIP performed 86 spays/neuters (dogs, puppies, cats, kittens) at an average cost of \$220.
 - Nov 19: Animal Save performed 18 cat spays/neuters at an average cost of \$150.
 - Dec 16: Animal Save performed 19 cat spays/neuters (final invoice pending).

There are three additional clinics scheduled in the coming months, with more to follow:

- January 27: Animal Save (Cats/Kittens)
- January 28: SNIP (Dogs/Puppies)
- February 24: Animal Save (Cats/Kittens)

Additional clinics will be scheduled to fully expend the \$75,000 allocation by June 30, 2026. Given the strong response and demonstrated need, we anticipate exceeding our goal of **250 spay/neuter procedures**. Continuation of the program is recommended, as marketing efforts

have been minimal, yet demand remains very high. Recommendations for continued funding for this program is expected to be included in the FY 2026/27 Animal Shelter Division budget.