

February 02, 2012

News Release

For Immediate Release

Spay or Neuter Cats Before Springtime

The Springfield Animal Advocacy Foundation would like to remind cat owners to spay or neuter their cats before spring arrives.

SAAFhouse encourages pet owners to get their cats sterilized as young as possible. Contrary to popular myth, cats can safely be spayed or neutered as young as two months provided they weigh at least two pounds. Another myth is that a female should have one heat cycle before she is spayed. Not true.

Janet Martin, SAAF President, says, "Many cat owners are not aware that their cat can get pregnant at such a young age. This results in a lot of 'oops' litters. Spaying or neutering is the single most important thing you can do to ensure that your pet has a long, healthy life. And it's the right thing to do."

The demand for spay and neuter services is high. Thanks to a special grant from PetSmart Charities, SAAFhouse Spay-Neuter Clinic will spay female cats during the month of February at a reduced rate. The event, Beat the Heat, was originally planned for 100 spays. However, the demand was so great that the number of surgery slots was increased to 140.

Although all 140 slots have already been filled, the clinic would like potential clients to know that they can still make appointments for their female cats at the normally low surgery price of \$45.

The timing of the Beat the Heat event was set to coincide with the beginning of cat breeding season. Female cats can become pregnant at five months of age and have up to three litters per year. In a typical year, area shelters will be overwhelmed with kittens by early May. Pet owners can do their part to stem the tide of unwanted kittens in the community by spaying and neutering their animals.

SAAFhouse Spay-Neuter Clinic is a project of Springfield Animal Advocacy Foundation, whose mission is to improve animal welfare, promote accountability in pet ownership, and reduce pet overpopulation.

For more information, visit www.spayneuterspringfield.org.

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