January 05, 2011

News Release

For Immediate Release

Spay/Neuter Holiday Pet Adoptions at Early Age

Families who adopted a puppy or kitten this Christmas are encouraged to get their new pet spayed or neutered at a young age. SAAFhouse Spay-Neuter Clinic, which opened in August 2010, supports early-age spay/neuter and performs surgeries on puppies and kittens who are at least two months old and weigh a minimum of two pounds.

The procedure has been endorsed by the American Veterinary Medical Association for more than twenty years. However, some pet owners are reluctant to spay or neuter their young pets because of persistent myths. For example:

Myth: Dogs and cats should be at least six months old before spaying or neutering.
Fact: Early-age spay/neuter can be safely performed on puppies and kittens, and recovery time after surgery is noticeably shorter. In addition, the risk of "oops" litters can be eliminated with early-age spay/neuter. Female cats can become pregnant at the age of five months.

Myth: A female pet should have at least one litter before spaying.
Fact: No medical evidence supports this statement. In fact, the longer a female goes unspayed, the more likely she is to contract breast or uterine cancer.

- ABOUT SAAF: SAAFhouse is a project of Springfield Animal Advocacy Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency devoted to ending pet overpopulation in the Ozarks. Clinic services are intended for pet owners who could not otherwise afford to have their animals spayed or neutered. SAAFhouse employs a staff of five and heavily depends on the assistance of volunteers.
- CLINIC HOURS: Regular hours are 7:30 am–5 pm Tuesday–Friday (Wednesday–Saturday third week of the month). Clients may call to make appointments between 1 and 4 pm on regular days of operation.
- CONTACT INFORMATION: For quotes or more information, please contact Janet Martin (Board President) at saaf2018@yahoo.com or Mary Crawford (Clinic Director) at 417-831-7223.
- PHOTO OR VIDEO OPPORTUNITIES? Yes. Please contact clinic at 417-831-7223 to set up a time to tour the facility and photograph/video an early-age spay/neuter surgery.