



Animal Welfare
League of Arlington

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For Immediate Release

Spay Day USA: Animal Welfare League is Spaying and Neutering for Love

Arlington, VA, February 6, 2007 - **February 27, 2007, The Animal Welfare League of Arlington (the League) will participate in Spay Day USA by spaying and neutering up to 40 local dogs and cats for only \$25 each.** Any low-income pet owner who registers in advance for this event will not only receive a spay or neuter surgery for his or her pet at an extremely reduced price, but will also have the benefit of reduced fees on distemper and rabies vaccinations along with a free microchip, courtesy of the League. The surgeries will take place at the Washington Humane Society's low-cost clinic and are subsidized by the League.

“We’re always glad to participate in an event that puts the spotlight on the importance of neutering our companion animals, but at the League everyday of the year is Spay Day,” said Kay Speerstra, Executive Director for the League. “We assist low-income people with neutering their pets all year long and in 2006 we made the commitment to ensure that every animal adopted from the League is spayed or neutered before going to his or her new home,” added Speerstra.

Spay Day USA, started by the Doris Day Foundation and now operated by the Humane Society of the United States, is a national effort to help solve the problem of pet overpopulation and reduce the number of homeless animals that come through shelters and rescues each year. The League has participated in the event for the last three years and spayed or neutered more than 100 animals as part of this particular effort, but it does not end there. The League subsidizes low-cost spay and neuter surgeries for citizens of Northern Virginia year-round thanks to the Hantke Memorial Spay-Neuter Fund, a fund started by the Hantke family in 1992. Since its inception, the fund has helped to spay or neuter approximately 100 pets each year.

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The Animal Welfare League of Arlington
2650 S. Arlington Mill Drive Arlington, VA 22206



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The benefits of spaying or neutering a pet are far too abundant to ignore. Not only does it help to reduce and may one day put an end to the tragedy of pet overpopulation, it reduces many health and behavioral risks for dogs and cats.

“Contrary to what some people believe, getting pregnant — even once — does not improve the behavior of female dogs and cats. In fact, the mating instinct may lead to undesirable behaviors and result in undue stress on both the owner and the animal,” states the American Veterinary Medical Association’s website.

Spaying cats and dogs also eliminates the possibility of uterine and ovarian cancer, while neutering eliminates the possibility of testicular cancer. Spaying and neutering also makes pets more affectionate; reduces the potential for territorial marking, especially in your home; makes pets less likely to run away; and helps to reduce aggressive behavior often seen in territorial pets, especially dogs. If the benefits to owned pets are not enough reason to spay or neuter, simply visit the local animal shelter to see just a small sample of the thousands of homeless cats, dogs, rabbits, and more. For more information about the benefits of spaying or neutering your pet, visit <http://www.awla.org/spay-neuter-program.shtml>.

Concerned citizens have the opportunity to help in this effort by sponsoring a spay or neuter surgery for a needy pet. To sponsor a pet for spay or neuter, visit the League at 2650 S Arlington Mill Drive in Arlington, Virginia or call (703) 931-9241 x 200. Citizens may also show their support by visiting the League to purchase a paper heart for \$1 to be displayed in the League's front office throughout the month.

For more information about the League's Spay Day USA event visit <http://www.awla.org/spay-day-usa.shtml> or call (703) 931-9241 x 200 and to register your pet for a low-cost spay or neuter call (703) 931-9241 x 246 or e-mail spayday@awla.org.

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