



**THE I-CAN™ NON-PROFIT  
MOBILE SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC**

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**



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## THE PROBLEMS

If your daily news headline announced 22,000 deaths that occurred in a single year, all with the same cause, you would react with astonishment, even outrage, and feel compelled to find out more. Environmental toxins? Contaminated food? Natural disaster?

The answer is the classic “none of the above”—and the startling headline is not fiction, although the victims it enumerates were not human. In the year 2000, 21,717 cats and dogs were euthanized at Indianapolis’ two animal shelters (the city’s Animal Care and Control Shelter and the Humane Society of Indianapolis): more than 70 percent of the 30,902 animals

brought to those shelters in that year. Since 1994, Indianapolis has seen a 21 percent rise in the numbers of stray and unwanted pets brought to its animal shelters. Although adoption rates rose during that period, euthanasia rates also increased by 12.5 percent. At the same time, many U.S. cities of equivalent population have lowered their euthanasia rates as well as the numbers of animals received at their shelters.

In Indianapolis, the fundamental “why” of this situation is quite simple: animal overpopulation. That overarching problem itself has many causes. Each year, considerable sums of money are expended (or available) to address it, but the success of the strategies pursued using these resources has been mixed.

**\$1 spent  
on proactive  
animal services  
saves \$7 on  
animal control**

**Ignorance of  
animal behavior  
is a leading  
cause of pet  
abandonment**

Indianapolis' animal agencies, private and public, spend more than \$4,000,000 annually to detain strays and runaways, briefly house them, then euthanize those who remain unclaimed or unadopted. Whether a cat or dog is caught on the street by an animal control officer or brought to the shelters by a well-intentioned citizen seeking a new home for a rejected pet, the outcome is unlikely to be positive. *More than 70 percent of the animals brought to the shelters, either as detainees or by members of the community, do not leave those shelters alive.*

Animal overpopulation is a multi-faceted problem. Enthusiasm for the addition of a pet to a household, unaccompanied by an understanding of that pet's needs and the cost in time and dollars of meeting them, may lead to expulsion of the animal from the home, either by "dumping" the animal on the street or by some equivalent act of abandonment. Failure to correlate the puppy or kitten with the adult into which that bundle of joy inevitably will grow also can have equivalently unhappy consequences. If the pet begins to

behave in a fashion that displeases the owner, because the owner either has failed to socialize the animal properly or does not understand basic animal behavior and mistakes natural actions for unacceptable conduct or "spitefulness," the outcome likewise often is bleak. Changes in residence and family/household composition also can leave pets without a home, as if they were excess furniture. Pet owners who live in multi-family housing often find that landlords forbid pets, restrict the number (or size) of animals in a renter household, and may even surcharge the rental payments of tenants with pets.

To compound matters, many owners either defer (or flatly neglect) pet sterilization. Because cats and dogs



reach reproductive maturity far earlier than most people realize, the consequences are animals who, if lost or dumped, reproduce and add their litters to the oversupply of the undomesticated. Even pets who neither stray nor are abandoned contribute to the population problem if and when they have (or cause other animals to have) unplanned litters. In many cases, a pet reproduces before its owner can have it sterilized, despite the owner's best intentions of preventing that eventuality.

### **CATS**

**A**long with changes in household configuration, the most likely reasons for the untimely departure of felines from adoptive homes center around behavioral issues, as well as



felines' natural tendencies to seek a stimulating environment (often lacking from an indoor life, without a conscientious effort from pet owners). Dumped or as runaways, because of their solitary natures, cats can face special and difficult circumstances if they enter the population of strays, adapt to a life apart from human interaction, and then are captured by animal control officers. Once cats cross the invisible boundary from being receptive to human touch to being intolerant of handling, they are considered difficult to incorporate into adoptive settings and are at grave risk of inevitable euthanasia. Although attentive efforts can overcome this aversion to human company, most animal shelters cannot devote the time and do not have the human resources necessary to conduct effective resocialization of the numerous felines in

**Most people underestimate the age at which animals are capable of bearing young**

their care. In Indianapolis, stray felines at and above the age of kittenhood routinely are euthanized because they are considered impossible to socialize and therefore to adopt, and because shelters must turn over their impounded populations to make room for newly captured animals.

Nationwide, felines are a greater component of the animal overpopulation problem than are dogs, at least partially because the national preference for cats as pets increases the potential stray population—and because the average cat receives less veterinary care, including sterilization services, than the average dog, thus resulting in more unplanned feline births. In some communities, animal support groups capture wild felines, test

them for and vaccinate them against communicable disease,

sterilize them, and return them back into their wild colonies. Volunteer caretakers then manage their feeding and veterinary needs. These feral (wild) cats thus no longer breed, so they do not contribute to overpopulation—nor are they subject to euthanasia, because the “trap, neuter and return” programs are structured with built-in protection from this risk, thanks to cooperation from animal-control enforcement in these communities.



**The average cat  
receives less  
veterinary care  
than the  
average dog**

**Larger dogs are less likely to be adopted from animal shelters than are small dogs**

## **DOGS**

**D**ogs face their own set of challenges in avoiding rejection from adoptive households. Many people hold inaccurate perceptions of normative canine behavior and equally off-target beliefs about training methodologies. Few seek out professional training resources, often because they perceive them as too expensive or too time consuming. Many fail to realize that the behavior modification techniques that can mold a puppy into a well-adjusted member of the family become difficult to employ as the dog reaches adulthood. Additionally, many people who love puppies are prejudiced against adult dogs. As a result, many dog owners enter the pet/owner relationship with poorly educated expectations, employ misguided training methods on a dog who has reached an age at which training is difficult, and fail to resolve the situation in the dog's favor.

The overwhelming majority of badly behaved dogs are living testaments to their owners' misunderstanding of some fundamental aspect of canine behavior, training, and socialization. Many are dogs whose neglected need for social interaction causes them to seek attention by any means at their disposal: barking, chewing household items, and so forth. When their "bad behavior" is met by attempts to isolate them to discourage them, their anxiety increases, often to the point at which it can cause lasting mental imbalance, and their behavior fails to improve because their needs remain unmet. At this point, a positive outcome for the pet/owner relationship is unlikely.





Once they enter the shelter-diverted population, dogs fall victim to the need to euthanize interned animals in deference to newly impounded ones. Additionally, larger canines face a greater risk of euthanasia than smaller dogs. Prospective adopters may live in circumstances that cannot accommodate a larger animal, or simply may be intimidated by the prospect of interacting with a larger dog.

Although many pet owners do make good-faith efforts to find new homes for animals they no longer feel they can keep, or to place unplanned litters of kittens and puppies in adoptive homes, many fail in these efforts—and many never even try. Unfortunately for these cats and dogs, it is not their owners who are dumped unceremoniously out of a car, left behind when the family moves to a new home, or brought to a shelter because they no longer “fit in” with their adoptive households.

**Shelters are  
forced to  
euthanize  
healthy animals  
to make room  
for the newly  
impounded**



## THE SOLUTIONS

### STERILIZATION

**U**nsterilized animals produce animal overpopulation. Uninterrupted, this cycle simply escalates. Public access to sterilization services offers a proven solution to the problem. Although both Indianapolis-area animal shelters now routinely arrange for pre-adoption sterilization of the animals they offer for adoption, these animals represent only a small percentage of the numbers of pets incorporated into local families each year. Because many pet owners defer or neglect to have their pets sterilized, greater access to spay/neuter services is a key to reducing Indianapolis' animal overpopulation problem, particularly among low-income pet



owners, whose pets often are not sterilized for economic or other reasons.

In cities across the nation, aggressive implementation of high-volume, low-cost animal sterilization resources has reduced the numbers of unwanted, euthanized animals by significant percentages. From stationary facilities to mobile clinics, these programs uphold high standards of humane veterinary practice through surgical techniques refined to a degree of standardization difficult to achieve in a full-service veterinary facility. In fact, these microspecialized veterinary resources differ from the conventional definition of specialization in that their expertise lies in refining a common service rather than providing an uncommon one.

**Low-cost,  
high volume  
sterilization  
clinics offer  
a humane  
solution to pet  
overpopulation**

These clinics make the essential affordable for people who otherwise could not bear its cost. By extending these services to people of modest means, the clinics reduce the burden unwanted animals place on community resources. As more low-income pet owners gain access to spay/neuter and related services, the benefits reach their animals, city governments, taxpayers—and the private veterinarians to whom those owners are referred as prospective lifelong clients. Through mobile sterilization facilities, spay/neuter efforts reach farther into the community, making these services readily accessible to people in large metropolitan areas (where a stationary clinic’s location may be inconvenient) and rural areas (where populations face geographic isolation from urban sources of veterinary care). In some

areas, recipients of public assistance qualify for free pet sterilization services.

The state of New Hampshire’s population is approximately 1,200,000. In 1993, New Hampshire instituted a state-wide program to provide low-cost sterilization services to low-income pet owners and adopters of animals from shelter facilities. Since then, the state has cut its euthanasia rate by nearly 75 percent. The numbers of animals admitted to animal shelters have declined by more than 30 percent. In 2000, New Hampshire shelters euthanized 2,851 dogs and cats. Indianapolis, with a population of 860,000, euthanized 21,717.

San Francisco, whose SPCA opened a low-cost spay/neuter clinic 25 years ago, performed 2,009 euthanasia procedures in the year 2000. San Francisco's population tops 770,000. Indianapolis’ euthanasia rate is 11 times higher.



**Low-income pet owners often must choose between basic pet health care and household needs**



The Maryland SPCA operates the Neuter Scooter, a 36-foot mobile clinic placed in service in May 2000 to provide free sterilization services in metropolitan Baltimore. From its inception through the end of 2001, the facility performed more than 4,000 sterilization surgeries, of which 2,419 were performed in 2001.

The Humane Association of Wilson County, Tennessee, operates the Spay Station, providing low-cost sterilization services to low-income pet owners. This 30-foot mobile clinic has performed more than 8,000 sterilizations since April 2000. The Spay Station travels throughout Tennessee, conducting clinics co-sponsored by local organizations and animal shelters.

No More Homeless Pets, a Utah coalition of animal shelters, animal control agencies, rescue

organizations, foster groups, veterinarians, and concerned individuals, operates The Big Fix, a mobile spay/neuter unit that performs approximately 5,000 surgeries annually and also serves as a mobile adoption center. Euthanasia rates in Utah average 15,000 animals per year, down from 24,000 in 1985 and 21,000 in 1990.

The Animal Services Unit of the Miami Dade Police Department operates the M.A.C. (Mobile Animal Care Unit), providing free county-wide sterilization services and low-cost vaccinations. Pet owners who do not qualify for free services may obtain them at low cost.

With an increase in sterilized pets comes a decrease in unplanned, unwanted births and a lessened risk of pet abandonment. Despite the modest cost of sterilization surgery at a high-volume clinic or low-cost mobile center, it nonetheless represents an investment in a pet's role in

**The general  
population holds  
many misguided  
perceptions  
about animal  
health and  
behavior**

**Education is  
a key to  
reducing pet  
overpopulation**

the owner's life and household—and even that modest stake in the outcome of the relationship improves the odds of pet retention. Additionally, spaying and neutering prevent the stresses of the reproductive cycle, thus decreasing the incidence of certain natural behaviors that can lead to rejection from human society.

Many sterilization clinics also offer basic preventive health care services, including vaccinations and wellness examinations, as well as microchip implants to aid in reuniting a lost pet with its guardians. Thus, these clinics further enhance the quality of pet/owner relationships and decrease the odds of abandonment. At the same time, the clinics do not replace an ongoing relationship with a full-service private veterinary practice because they do not offer the range of services that defines such a practice and its value to the pet owner. Many veterinarians provide low-cost sterilizations or participate in clinics that do, often out of a desire to assure that as many animals as possible receive the care they need to

maximize their chances of a long and healthy life. Thus, not only is it possible for sterilization clinics to develop referral relationships with veterinary practices; it is in the best interest of the animals as well as of the people (professionals and owners) who care for them.



## EDUCATION

**F**ortunately for human—and animal—nature, ignorance is curable. Educated pet owners are more likely to choose animals that are appropriate to their lives, the size of their homes, the composition of their households, their time resources, and their expectations. Educated pet owners understand the importance of sterilization and other aspects of animal care. Whether or not they own or want pets, people who understand the magnitude—and the causes—of the animal overpopulation problem and its heartbreaking consequences are more likely to act responsibly toward animals.

Many Indianapolis-area residents have a greater understanding of how to choose and care for a pet than they do of the extent of the animal overpopulation problem. Existing educational



programs often do not reach the population segments that have the greatest need to hear their message.

Although educational outreach is not the primary focus of the I-CAN Non-Profit Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic, it nonetheless is a priority in addressing components of the animal overpopulation problem. Programming directed toward enhancing public awareness of the problem, its causes and solutions, as well as direct educational efforts targeting clients of the Clinic, are an important adjunct to the Clinic's immediate mission.

**For every  
person born  
in the U.S.,  
15 dogs and  
45 cats  
also are born**

## **THE I-CAN NON-PROFIT MOBILE SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC**

**T**he Indiana Companion Animal Network (I-CAN) is a non-profit animal advocacy organization (Federal ID 35-2142452) whose mission is to decrease pet overpopulation through humane education, spay/neuter assistance programs, and the promotion of responsible pet guardianship, and by fostering cooperation among Central Indiana's animal advocacy organizations.

In furtherance of that mission, the I-CAN Non-Profit Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic has been founded to provide

high-volume, low-cost sterilization services that uphold the finest traditions of humane animal care, respect for animal well being, and the importance of pet/owner relationships.

The Clinic will operate from a 30-foot Class A mobile facility built to I-CAN's specifications by La Boit, Inc., of Columbus, Ohio. Performing a minimum of 5,600 sterilizations per year, the Clinic will schedule its services at conveniently accessible locations throughout the Indianapolis metropolitan area. The Clinic's brightly colored vinyl graphics will make it a traveling billboard, heightening community awareness of the importance of pet sterilization.

Outside its hours of operation, the Clinic vehicle will be housed on a property located at 702 North Shortridge Road near the Eastgate Consumer Mall. Approximately one acre in size, the property offers convenient access from I-465 and I-70.



**The I-CAN  
Non-Profit Mobile  
Spay/Neuter  
Clinic will serve  
low-income  
Indianapolis  
residents**

**I-CAN was  
founded to  
address pet  
overpopulation  
and foster  
animal advocacy**

of the extent of the animal overpopulation problem and the ongoing need for accessible low-cost sterilization services, the I-CAN Non-Profit Spay/Neuter Clinic is a complement, rather than a competitor, to FACE, which does not operate a mobile clinic.

The Clinic will employ at least one full-time veterinarian to perform all surgeries and other procedures for which that credential is required. Two Registered Veterinary Technicians and a Veterinary Assistant, all full-time staff members, will assist the veterinarian and provide other services within the scope of their licensure. A full-time driver/maintenance supervisor will be in charge of vehicle operations and oversight. Cofounder Julie Smith will serve as Clinic Director on an uncompensated volunteer basis.

Indianapolis' sole low-cost pet sterilization resource is the FACE (Foundation Against Companion Animal Euthanasia) Clinic. In March of 1997, FACE opened in downtown Indianapolis to offer high-volume, low-cost sterilization services. Between its opening date and Fall 2001, the clinic performed nearly 25,000 sterilization procedures. (These numbers include animals from outside Marion County.) The clinic also offers vaccinations and basic wellness care. Demand for its services keeps the clinic fully booked. Because





## **CLINIC SERVICES AND CLIENTS**

### **SPAY/NEUTER SURGERY**

Sterilization surgeries will be the I-CAN Non-Profit Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic's primary service. Initially, the Clinic will specialize in felines.

### **VACCINATIONS AND PET CARE SUPPORT**

All clients of the I-CAN Non-Profit Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic will be offered the opportunity to have their pets immunized at the time sterilization surgery is performed. A combination of high-priority vaccinations will be

administered at a cost of \$15.00. Specialty vaccinations, vital diagnostic tests, parasite prevention and treatment products, and identification microchips also will be available at additional modest costs.

### **BASIC WELLNESS SERVICES**

The Clinic will conduct a basic wellness check of every animal brought in for sterilization surgery. These services are not designed to supplant those of a private veterinary facility.

**The I-CAN  
Non-Profit  
Mobile Spay/  
Neuter Clinic  
will offer basic  
wellness  
services**



## **REFERRALS TO FULL-SERVICE VETERINARY PRACTICES AND CLINICS**

I-CAN recognizes and reinforces the value of full-service veterinary care in its contacts with Clinic clients. The Clinic will make every effort to refer each client to a private veterinary practice. All area veterinarians who are interested in participating in this outreach will be included in the roster of referral contacts. Because some Clinic clients may have limited means of transportation, the Clinic will strive to offer geographically convenient referrals.

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION**

Both on-site and outreach educational programming will enable I-CAN to meet its commitment to public awareness of the challenges and rewards of relationships with companion animals, as well as the breadth of



and solutions to the problem of animal overpopulation. In concert with Central Indiana veterinary professionals, I-CAN will work to heighten pet owners' awareness of the importance of a full-service veterinary practice in the life of every pet.

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT WITH VETERINARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

Indiana is a leader in veterinary education. The I-CAN Non-Profit Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic will explore opportunities for collaboration with these educational programs for primary and support professionals.

**The I-CAN  
Non-Profit  
Mobile Spay/  
Neuter Clinic will  
refer clients to  
full-service  
veterinarians**

## **ADOPTION SERVICES AND DISASTER RELIEF**

The I-CAN Non-Profit Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic can function as a mobile adoption center. Additionally, its medical facilities will make it a front-line resource in the event of natural disaster.

## **CLINIC CLIENTS**

The I-CAN Non-Profit Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic has been established to serve lower-income clients, non-profit animal shelters, and pet rescue groups. Client prequalification enables the Clinic to focus its services on those for whom the costs of veterinary care can be prohibitive.



**The I-CAN  
Non-Profit  
Mobile Spay/  
Neuter Clinic will  
educate as well  
as provide  
clinic services**

With the exception of advanced diagnostic and treatment services for companion animals with serious illness or injury, the single largest expense of responsible pet ownership comes at the onset of the pet/owner relationship. The costs of pet sterilization may seem modest by middle-income standards, but for lower-income pet owners, they can be unaffordable. Faced with a choice between meeting household needs and defraying the costs of a pet's sterilization surgery, many low-income pet owners opt, quite understandably, for the former.

The I-CAN Non-Profit Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic makes these vital services available to pet owners who desire to act responsibly—or who respond productively to the compelling benefits of responsible behavior—but whose good intentions are overset by their financial limitations. The Clinic's fees for sterilization procedures will range from \$15.00 to \$20.00 for cats.



Although the fees charged by metropolitan-Indianapolis private veterinary practices for these procedures vary widely, the Clinic's charges will be far less than half the area average.

The Clinic's services center around those that are essential to the long-term well being of newly adopted pets, in part because of the consequences of neglecting these crucial services as well as because the Clinic upholds a commitment to transitioning its clients into the care of private veterinary practices. Furthermore, in every client contact, Clinic staff will reinforce the importance of full-service private veterinary care and offer referrals thereto.

The I-CAN Non-Profit Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic will conduct a variety of educational out-

reach efforts targeting children and adults. These activities will be facilitated in conjunction with INDY PETS ALIVE!, a project devoted to educating the public about responsible animal care and to fostering interoperation among animal-care agencies, private citizens, and the veterinary community. I-CAN has signed up more than 200 volunteers through INDY PETS ALIVE! Eric and Julie Smith are cofounders of INDY PETS ALIVE!, which has been created as an I-CAN initiative focusing on the challenges facing Marion County.

Although full-time professional and support staff will provide the core of the Clinic's service structure, volunteers will assist with every aspect of non-clinical operations. In addition to supporting the Clinic's educational and referral efforts, volunteers will help with client intake and support the logistics of on-site mobile operations.

**The I-CAN  
Non-Profit  
Mobile Spay/  
Neuter Clinic  
clients are an  
underserved  
population**

**INDY PETS ALIVE!,  
cofounded by  
Eric and Julie  
Smith, will  
assist in Clinic  
educational  
efforts**

### **FERAL CAT MANAGEMENT NETWORK**

The I-CAN Non-Profit Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic will join with INDY PETS ALIVE! to support a city-wide feral cat management network using the “TNR” (trap/neuter/return) program model that has succeeded in other cities across the U.S. The Clinic vehicle will be made available at strategic locations to provide sterilizations, wellness checks, and vaccines for feral cats, who will be returned back into non-breeding colonies after surgery. Feeding and care will be managed by volunteers under professional supervision. The relatively modest costs of a TNR program can result in a dramatic reduction in the numbers of impounded and euthanized cats.



## THE FOUNDERS

**E**ric Smith combines expertise as a musician, broadcaster, and entrepreneur. His business background includes restaurant ownership, pet product manufacturing, computer services, acoustic consulting, marketing, and graphic design.

**J**ulie Smith is a Registered Nurse whose commitment to animal welfare precipitated her retirement from active professional service after 15 years in a variety of staff and supervisory positions.

The Smiths' current business interests lie in multimedia production (Alien Multimedia), acoustical products for the recording-studio and home-theatre markets (Auralex Acoustics), and on-

hold messaging and voice talent services (Captive Audience).

Eric Smith also conducts seminars and writes articles on acoustics and recording/broadcast studio design, while Julie Smith is involved in campaigns providing enhanced humane education for at-risk populations. The Smiths have retired from the day-to-day operations of their business interests to devote their time to I-CAN, the I-CAN Non-Profit Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic, and their other involvements in the field of animal welfare. Along with I-CAN, the Smiths are cofounders of the Alliance for Responsible Pet Ownership (ARPO), a pet rescue and adoption service based in Indianapolis, and INDY PETS ALIVE!, an I-CAN initiative devoted to facilitating inter-operation among veterinary professionals, animal agencies, and concerned members of the general public.

**Eric and Julie  
Smith have been  
active in animal  
welfare causes  
for 19 years**



The Smiths are members of the Indiana Animal Care and Control Association, and have taken active roles in past investigations of cruelty toward and neglect of animals. Together, the Smiths produce documentaries on subjects related to animal welfare.

In central Indiana and beyond, the Smiths are noted for their tireless commitment to animal welfare. In Indianapolis, the Smiths were invited to provide consultative input to the Mayor's Animal Care and Control Task Force, and were significant contributors to the report and recommendations submitted by that body to the Mayor. When the Humane Society of Indianapolis formed a Search Committee to select its new Executive Director, the Smiths accepted an official invitation to

participate. Their recent speaking engagements include a pre-

sentation on feral cat management at a Purdue University conference for veterinarians and animal shelter personnel. Nearly 400 concerned citizens and other interested participants attended the inaugural INDY PETS ALIVE! Action Summit.

The I-CAN Non-Profit Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic coalesces many phases of the Smiths' expertise, involvement in, and commitment to animal welfare into a facility that will take an active role in resolving the pet overpopulation problem.



**Every aspect  
of Clinic design  
and operations  
upholds best  
professional  
practices**

## U.S. NON-PROFIT MOBILE STERILIZATION PROGRAMS

*Although not exhaustive, this descriptive roster includes clinics operated by private non-profit animal advocacy groups and by governmental units in communities small and large.*

The **Alaska SPCA** Spay/Neuter program performed approximately 4,900 sterilization surgeries state wide in 2000. The AKSPCA's mobile spay/neuter and education clinic travels the state during the summer months.

The **Arizona Humane Society** operates a 60-foot Mobile Spay/Neuter and Animal Wellness Center, providing low-cost sterilization and basic wellness services.

The **Plateauland Veterinary Clinic** of Flagstaff, AZ, has been providing low-cost mobile spay/neuter services since October 1995. The service operates primarily on the Hopi, Western Navajo, Apache and Yavapai Reservations, as well as off-Reservation sites in Parks, Williams, Ash Fork, Seligman, Tusayan and Valle townships (in which no veterinary practices are established), and metropolitan Flagstaff.

**Central Arkansas Rescue Effort for Animals** (CARE) of Little Rock, AR, began offering free sterilization surgeries for low-income pet

owners in January 2000. Its spay/neuter service program began in September 1998. A mobile clinic facility capable of performing 24 surgeries per day is in the planning/funding stages. In 1999, Little Rock's human population was estimated at 176,136, along with 35,493 dogs and 37,752 cats. In 2000, Little Rock Animal Services impounded 4,448 dogs and 1,382 cats, of which 2,774 dogs (62%) and 901 cats (65%) were euthanized. Overall, the Little Rock euthanasia rate was 77% in 1998, 80% in 1999, and 70% in 2000.

The **Spay-Neuter Assistance Program** (SNAP) of Los Angeles, CA, operates a fleet of mobile sterilization clinics. In combination with its stationary clinic facilities, SNAP provides direct care to 50,000 animals each year.

**Mendocino County, CA, Animal Care and Control** operates a 26-foot mobile spay/neuter clinic.

The **North County Humane Society & SPCA** of Oceanside, CA, is completing fundraising to launch operation of a multi-purpose mobile facility that will combine sterilization, adoption and disaster-relief services.

The **San Bernardino, CA, Valley Humane Society** commenced operation of a 26-foot mobile sterilization clinic in 2001.

The **Central Coast Animal Protection Society** (C-CAPS) of San Luis Obispo County, CA, operates the Central Coast Spay Shuttle, offering low-cost sterilizations and vaccinations.

The **SPCA** launched the SNIP SHIP, a mobile spay/neuter clinic operating in Santa Cruz County, CA, in 1999.

**Stanislaus County, CA, Animal Services** planned to implement a low-cost mobile sterilization clinic in the fiscal year 2000-2001.

The **American Humane Association** of Englewood, CO, operates the Animal Planet Rescue Rig, an 82-foot custom-built semi trailer that contains a complete veterinary clinic.

The **TEAM (Tait's Every Animal Matters) Mobile Feline Unit**, Connecticut's first mobile feline sterilization and vaccination facility, began operations in March 1997 and averages 1,000 feline sterilizations per month. Based in Westbrook, CT, the TEAM unit focuses on feral feline populations and low-income cat owners.

The **Delaware Humane Association** of Wilmington, DE, planned to begin operation of a mobile sterilization facility in February 2002.

The **A.R.N.I. (Animal Rescue, Need & Intervention) Foundation** of Daytona Beach, FL, began operating the Spay/Neuter Bus in early 2000. The facility provides low-cost sterilization services to low-income pet owners in Volusia, Flagler and Putnam Counties.

**Lee County, FL, Animal Control** received preliminary approval in May 2002 from the Lee County Commissioners for the purchase of a mobile spay/neuter clinic.

The **Marion County Animal Center**, headquartered in Ocala, FL, operates the Neuter Commuter, providing low-cost sterilization surgeries throughout the County. The Animal Center is a department of Marion County government, overseen by the Marion County Board of County Commissioners.

The **Animal Services Unit of the Miami Dade Police Department**, headquartered in Miami, FL, operates the M.A.C. (Mobile Animal Care Unit), providing free sterilization services and low-cost vaccinations to all County residents. Pet owners who do not qualify for free services may obtain them at low cost.

**Palm Beach County, FL, Animal Care and Control** operates the Spay Shuttle, a mobile clinic providing low-cost sterilization services. Recent Palm Beach County euthanasia rates have averaged more than 10,000 animals annually.

**Puppies Under Protection, Inc.**, of Palm Beach County, FL, began operation of a mobile sterilization and health-service facility in April 2002. Services are available for dogs and cats.

The **Animal Rescue Coalition** of Venice, FL, planned to begin operation in January 2002 of a mobile spay/neuter clinic providing free or low-cost sterilizations to Sarasota County dog and cat owners. Families on public assistance are eligible for services at no cost.

Approximately 6,000 euthanasia procedures are performed in Sarasota County annually. The mobile facility is projected to perform 3,000 sterilizations in 2002.

The ARC is a public-private partnership among 10 animal-welfare organizations, including the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office Animal Services. Partial funding for the clinic is provided by the Sarasota County Board of Commissioners, with the balance obtained from corporate sponsors and foundations.

The **Anti-Cruelty Society** of Chicago, IL, operates a mobile vaccination van providing free services at three sites throughout the metropolitan

area. Sterilization surgeries are provided at the main ACS location at a cost of \$25 per dog or cat.

The **Southern Animal Foundation** of New Orleans, LA, operates the SNIP (Spay/Neuter Intervention Program) mobile clinic. The 24-foot facility provides free sterilization services to qualified low-income families. SNIP operates throughout Southern Louisiana.

The **Maryland SPCA** of Baltimore, MD, operates the Neuter Scooter, a 36-foot mobile clinic providing free sterilization services in metropolitan Baltimore. The Neuter Scooter was placed in service in May 2000. From its inception through the end of 2001, the facility performed more than 4,000 sterilization surgeries, of which 2,419 were performed in 2001. Approximately 30,000 animals were surrendered to Baltimore city shelters in 1998.

The **Animal Rescue League** of Boston, MA, began operating a mobile veterinary clinic in 2000, providing low-cost vaccinations and sterilization surgeries in the counties of Bristol, Plymouth and Barnstable. Additionally, the ARL operates a fleet of nine ambulances serving 80 cities and towns in eastern Massachusetts. This emergency service is available to perform animal rescues, assist in times of natural or environmental disaster, transport injured or unwanted animals, and assist law enforcement in conducting cruelty investigations.



The **Community Spay/Neuter Initiative Partnership** (C-SNIP) of Grand Rapids, MI, received funding in June 2000 to instigate a mobile spay/neuter clinic. The Kent County, MI, Humane Society and Animal Shelter was euthanizing an estimated 12,000 dogs and cats annually at that time. The C-SNIP mobile clinic was anticipated to prevent the births of 23,000 unwanted animals per year and to reduce area impoundment/euthanasia rates by 20%.

The **Humane Society of Guilford County**, NC, began offering low-cost mobile spay/neuter services in January 2000. The Society's Piedmont Communities Spay/Neuter Clinic began with mobile operations. Planned expansion of the service included addition of a free-standing clinic. Prior to the inception of this service, Guilford County had a euthanasia rate of 10,000 dogs and cats per year.

The **Spay-Neuter Assistance Program of North Carolina** (SNAP-NC), based in Raleigh, NC, operates the SNAP Van, a 26-foot Mobile Surgery Unit. Services include sterilization and vaccinations.

The **Humane Society of Atlantic County**, NJ, conducts weekly mobile sterilization clinics at three locations in South Jersey. The Society's Mobile Animal Spay Hospital (MASH) has been in service since June 2001.

**Animal Control of Cape May, NJ**, has operated a 40-foot mobile spay/neuter clinic since July 2000.

The **Santa Fe Animal Shelter and Humane Society** of Santa Fe, NM, operates a 30-foot mobile animal care unit that offers low-cost services in Northern New Mexico.

**Reno Animal Services** of Reno, NV, plans to implement a mobile spay/neuter facility in early Fall 2002.

The **Finger Lakes SPCA, Inc.**, of Bath, NY, provides subsidized spay/neuter services for non-feral cats in Steuben and surrounding counties through Operation Catnip, a mobile clinic supported by local veterinarians.

**ASPCA CARES** (Community-based Animal Resources, Education and Services) of New York City, NY, provides free and low-cost sterilization surgeries and routine vaccinations by means of two mobile clinics that travel the five boroughs.

In 2003, the **Liverpool Animal Protection Society** of Oswego County, NY, will begin offering mobile spay/neuter services to senior citizens and pet owners who lack transportation to veterinary services. LAPS anticipates attaining a sterilization rate of 6,000 dogs and cats in the first year of mobile clinic operations.

The **SPCA of Cattaraugus County**, NY, headquartered in Olean, began operation in 2000 of a mobile sterilization clinic targeting feral felines.

**North Shore Animal League America** of Port Washington, NY, operates 35-foot adoption vans that double as disaster relief units. These multi-purpose mobile centers provide service in a three-state area.

The **Animal Protective Foundation** of Schenectady, NY, operates the Pet Pal, a mobile spay/neuter facility providing services to qualified low-income pet owners.

The **Suffolk County, NY, SPCA** operates a mobile animal hospital, one of three such units in the United States, to provide field service and disaster relief. The SCSPCA served as lead animal support agency during rescue and relief operations conducted at Ground Zero in New York City and at off-site facilities. It currently is developing plans for a mobile spay/neuter facility.

**Adopt-A-Pet** of Columbus, OH, operates the Mobile Animal Sterilization Hospital (MASH), providing low-cost cat sterilization services in communities throughout central Ohio. In 1997 and 1998, more than 4,600 cats were sterilized through this program.

The **Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon** operates a mobile veterinary clinic dedicated exclusively to the care of feral cats.

**Peaceable Kingdom, Inc.**, of Allentown, PA, operates a mobile spay/neuter clinic.

The **Humane Association of Wilson County**, headquartered in Lebanon, TN, operates the Spay Station to provide low-cost sterilization services for low-income pet owners. This 30-foot mobile clinic has performed more than 8,000 sterilizations since commencing operations in April 2000. The mobile facility travels to counties throughout Tennessee, conducting clinics co-sponsored by local organizations.

**ACT Now**, the Animal Care Taskforce of Nashville, TN, has operated the Mobile Pet Doctor since February 2000. The facility provides low-cost sterilization surgeries to qualified low-income pet owners.

**EmanciPet** of Austin, TX, operates the Mobile Spay • Neuter Clinic™ to provide free and low-cost sterilization surgeries and vaccination services in the Austin metropolitan area. Approximately 1,000 dogs and cats are euthanized each month in Austin. The EmanciPet mobile unit has been in service since February 1999. EmanciPet was founded by Dr. Ellen Jefferson, DVM, in 1998.

The **City/County Council of El Paso**, TX, approved the purchase of a mobile spay/neuter clinic in April 2001.

The **Fund for Animals** of Houston, TX, launched the mobile phase of its Spay-Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP) in 1998 with grants from the owners of the Houston Rockets of the NBA. The mobile clinic provides sterilization services free of charge to pet owners who receive public assistance. Houston's euthanasia rate was estimated at 85,000 animals per year in 1998.

**No More Homeless Pets in Utah**, a coalition of animal shelters, animal control agencies, rescue organizations, foster groups, veterinarians, and concerned individuals, operates The Big Fix, a mobile spay/neuter unit that performs approximately 5,000 surgeries annually. The Big Fix also serves as a mobile adoption center. Euthanasia rates in Utah average 15,000 animals per year, down from 24,000 in 1985 and 21,000 in 1990.

**Capital Animal Care** of Arlington, VA, operates the Capital Area Mobile Spay Neuter Clinic to provide free sterilization, vaccination and wellness services to qualified low-income pet owners in the District of Columbia and Northern Virginia. Additionally, the 26-foot facility aids in disaster relief in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, and North and South Carolina.

The **PETA (Norfolk, VA) Community Animal Project** features the SNIP (Spay and Neuter Immediately, Please) mobile clinic, which performs an average of 25 free and low-cost pet sterilizations per day throughout southeastern Virginia. The SNIP-mobile also spays and neuters animals awaiting adoption in animal shelters.

**Assisi Animal Clinics** of Roanoke, VA, has operated the Angels of Assisi Mobile Spay Shuttle Clinic since Fall 2001, serving animal shelters and low-income pet owners. The program performed nearly 500 free and low-cost sterilizations in its first 45 days of service. Approximately 145,000 animals were euthanized in Virginia in 2000.

**Pasado's Safe Haven Spay Station**, of Sultan, WA, offers free and low-cost sterilization surgeries in King, Skagit and Snohomish counties. The facility's target is 4,000 sterilizations per year. The Spay Station also provides disaster relief services. Approximately 100,000 animals are euthanized in Washington each year.

**Help for Animals** of Putnam County, WV, has operated a low-cost mobile sterilization service since April 2001.