

FACTS ABOUT SPAY/NEUTER

- **Spay** (ovariohysterectomy)
An operation involving the complete removal of both ovaries and the uterus of the female animal.
- **Neuter** (castration)
An operation involving the surgical removal of both testicles of a male animal.
- Dogs and cats should be spayed or neutered prior to 6 months of age. The Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association supports the concept of early spay/neuter for the benefit of overpopulation problems in shelters and impound facilities.
- Sterilized animals do not become fat or lazy. Metabolism can be affected, which should lead to regular exercise and a reduction in food consumption.
- A pet's disposition may change by becoming more gentle and affectionate, while having no effect on intelligence.
- Sterilization increases a pet's life expectancy. Spaying eliminates a female's chances of developing uterine infections and mammary cancer. Neutered males usually become less aggressive, decreasing the urge to roam or fight.
- Having a female dog or cat spayed is simpler if the animal has not had a litter. "Just one litter" does not make a happier pet and contributes to the pet overpopulation problem.

State of Connecticut Department of Agriculture

Dannel P. Malloy

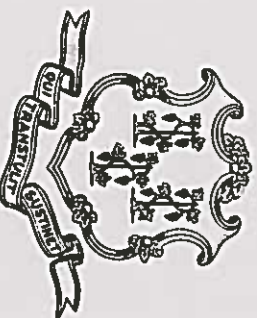
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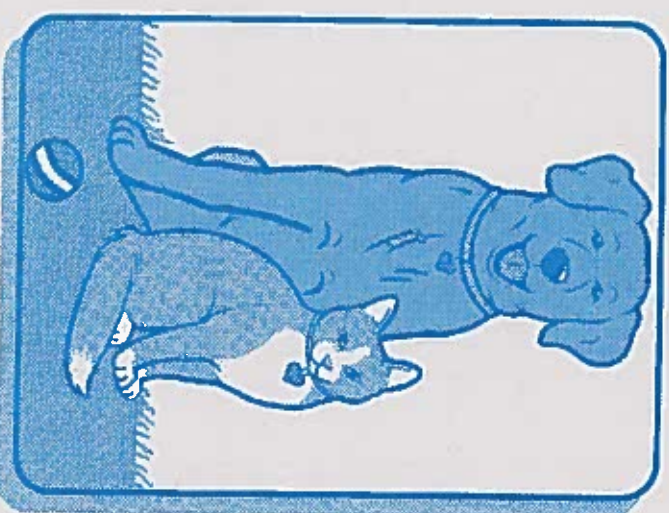


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Rev. 1/14

The Connecticut Animal Population Control Program



Sterilization Benefits For Dogs and Cats:

- Municipalities
- Low-Income Residents
- Feral Cat Organizations

Q. What is the Animal Population Control Program (APCP)?

The APCP was created by a state statute in 1992 and implemented in May 1995. The program was established to provide vaccination and sterilization benefits for any unsterilized dog or cat adopted from a municipal impound facility. In 2007, a program expansion provided benefits to non-profit organizations to sterilize feral cats and in 2008 low-income residents became eligible to receive benefits for owned animals.

The APCP intends to:

- **REDUCE** the surplus population of Connecticut companion pets
- **REDUCE** the cost and burden to towns coping with pet overpopulation
- **REDUCE** the spread of rabies and other diseases through population control and immunizations
- **INCREASE** the effectiveness of Animal Control Departments through education and law enforcement

Q. How does one receive pound pet benefits?

After selecting a pet at a municipal impound facility and paying a \$50 adoption fee, an adopter will receive a vaccination/sterilization voucher. Adopters must take the pet to a participating veterinarian for an examination and to schedule surgery. All pets must be sterilized within 60 days from the adoption date to receive benefits. Pets that are too young or sick will be granted a medical extension from a participating veterinarian.

Q. How does one receive feral cat and low-income benefits?

A limited number of vouchers are provided annually to qualified non-profit organizations for the sterilization and vaccination of feral cats and to low-income Connecticut residents for their own pets. Please contact the APCP for more details.

Q. What does the voucher provide?

The voucher provides a one-time sterilization fee of \$50 for a male cat, \$70 for a female cat, \$100 for a male dog and \$120 for a female dog. In addition, two pre-surgical vaccinations will be provided coincident with sterilization. **A voucher becomes void if not used within 60 days.**

Q. Does the program cover other veterinary services?

No. In fact, voucher recipients may have to pay the veterinarian a difference between the voucher and normal sterilization fees. The veterinarian may also have charges for other vaccines and services associated with surgery including medical complications.

Q. What happens if my veterinarian is not a participant in the program?

A voucher recipient may use the services of a non-participating veterinarian, but will be responsible for all costs.

Q. How is the program funded?

Revenue is received from the \$50 adoption fee, a surcharge on dog licenses (\$2.00 sterilized/\$6.00 unsterilized), proceeds from the "Caring for Pets" commemorative license plate and donations.

Q. Does Connecticut still have a pet overpopulation problem?

Yes, but great strides have been made over the past 25 years to help reduce the surplus pet problem. A declining number of stray dogs and cats have allowed the APCP to expand its services to feral cats and pets from low-income residents in recent years.

Q. Is Connecticut the only state to operate a population control program?

Connecticut is one of only a few states nationwide to offer spay/neuter benefits from a state agency, but is believed to be the only state with a program offering benefits to pound animals, feral cats and low-income residents.

BY THE NUMBERS

420,000 The number of cats which can result from one unspayed female in seven years.

67,000 The number of dogs which can result from one unspayed female in six years.

100,000 The number of companion pets receiving APCP benefits from 1995-2014.



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