

SPAY-NEUTER INITIATIVE PROGRAM (SNIP) CLINIC

Since 2005, HAWS has lowered the incoming number of stray cats to our shelter by 38%; we know our efforts put into the free spay and neuter of our county's outdoor cats is working to decrease the breeding population of cats in our county. The benefits of reducing this breeding population include:

- Fewer outdoor cats breeding in our community means fewer cats turned into our shelter. This directly impacts euthanasia rates. It improves the health of cats in our care by (1) addressing the lack of vaccinations in these outdoor cats prior to entering the shelter, and (2) by relieving the overcrowding situation in our facility.
- Spay / neuter of our outdoor cat population will eventually lead to much fewer cats living outdoors in the community. This will be healthier for those cats remaining outdoors, as breeding behaviors and territorial fighting can easily transmit diseases.
- The impact on area wildlife will be lessened as natural attrition further reduces the number of outdoor cats remaining in the community.

Specific improvements of an expanded and relocated SNIP clinic are:

- Dedicated entrance
 - Animals, especially dogs, will no longer need to come and go through our small animal ward, past the rabbits, guinea pigs and birds.
 - Aggressive and poorly managed dogs will not need to walk through our lobby during popular visiting hours and while children's programs are in session.
- Up to three (3) additional surgical tables and surgical prep areas will allow a substantial increase in surgical capacity. The goal is to eventually double the number of surgeries performed in HAWS' clinic.
- Additional recovery space will meet the increased surgical capacity.
- Dedicated medical office space is being added for ease of patient check-in / check-out.
- Dedicated exam space will separate the office check out area from the exam area.

