

Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA Announces 1,000th Surgery In the Shelter's Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic

In 2007, the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA in San Mateo reached another organizational milestone: one of the Society's four full-time staff veterinarians performed the 1,000th surgery on the shelter's state-of-the-art mobile sterilization unit. In 2006, PHS/SPCA began targeting communities with its new program. By bringing the service to residents and making it free, the Society eliminated previous hurdles of cost and transportation.

The "surgery suite on wheels" – an extension of the shelter's Spay/Neuter Clinic -- has been a fantastic success, further driving down the number of unwanted pets by providing a vital service for folks who otherwise might not fix their pets, even though they know it's the right thing to do.

Delivery of the program is simple. PHS/SPCA targets a city or neighborhood. They promote a number of upcoming spay/neuter days in the targeted community, and invite local pet owners to show up, no appointment necessary, with their dog or cat between 8-9 am. When shelter staff pull the 26-foot long, custom-painted vehicle into a pre-determined, highly visible location, they are often greeted by owners looking to ensure their pet a spot on the day's surgery schedule. Of course, owners are instructed to fast their pet from midnight on the night before surgery. They return to the mobile clinic later the same afternoon and are given instructions for their pet before heading home together. The free fix has no strings attached, unless you count the little ones used by the shelter's vet during surgery!

The San Francisco Bay Humane Friends, a fundraising group founded by PHS/SPCA Board member Vanessa Getty, "seeded" this program and covered all operational costs for its initial years. PHS/SPCA is committed to providing free spay neuter surgeries for targeted communities. To help keep the mobile spay/neuter program rolling, please contact Lisa Van Buskirk at 650/340-7022, ext. 327 or LVanBuskirk@PHS-SPCA.org.

To find out where PHS/SPCA is visiting next, please call Patricia Cashman at 650/340-7022, ext. 389.