

Priority: Vibrant Communities
Program Offer Type: New Program
Related Programs: 91002A, 91003A

Lead Agency: Community Services
Program Contact: Mike Oswald

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

This program offer will establish a pilot outreach program providing cat spay-neuter assistance for low-income cat owners in selected neighborhoods. The program will involve a coalition of non-profit animal welfare agencies, veterinarians and Animal Services working together to make affordable cat spays and neuters available to cat owners in financial need by providing outreach surgery services in the community. The program goal is to reduce the number of homeless and unwanted cats in the community that end up euthanized at animal shelters in the Portland metro area.

Program Description

According to a 2002 American Veterinary Medical Association study, cats have surpassed dogs as the most popular pet in the U.S. Multnomah County residents own an estimated 270,000 cats. The growing popularity of cats as pets has resulted in an increase in the number of cat-related problems in neighborhoods—and an increase in cats entering the county’s animal shelter. Multnomah County Animal Services received 5,100 cats in FY2005—and, the cat population entering the shelter has increased 69% from FY2000 to FY2005. This increase in population drives animal shelter operation costs and impacts cat holding capacity. Approximately 90% of all the cats entering the shelter are brought in from neighborhoods by the public. All cats entering the shelter receive temporary care, feeding and housing until owners can be located. If not claimed by their owner, cats are assessed for adoption. If homes can be found and the shelter exceeds capacity, cats are euthanized. This program offer creates a coalition who will utilize promotional and educational materials, local veterinarians and mobile surgery units to deliver affordable spay/neuter surgery services in targeted neighborhoods. The rising cost of spay-neuter surgeries is a barrier for some pet owners to spay-neuter their cats. This program would provide financial assistance based on a cat owner’s demonstrated financial need. Priority will be given to low-income clients. Recipients of financial assistance will be required to make a co-payment according to ability to pay

Program Justification

Effective spay-neuter programs save lives by dramatically reducing pet overpopulation. National studies have shown that the two primary sources of surplus pets in a community are: the homeless pet population and low-income pet owning households. This program offer will provide educational material to neighborhoods and cost assistance to qualified cat owning households. There are many similar examples of effective spay-neuter assistance programs across the country with proven records of reducing euthanasia in animal shelters. Successful programs exist in New Hampshire, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina and Colorado. The coalition partners will provide educational materials to neighborhoods and assistance based on demonstrate financial need and priority will be given to low-income clients. Spay-neutering is a proven program to stem the raising tide of homeless, abandoned and unwanted in neighborhoods that die from disease and neglect, injured or killed in traffic, and cause concern for neighbors. This program directly addresses the top priority strategy to support clean, healthy neighborhoods that contribute to a vibrant sense of community.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY04-05)	Current Year Purchased (FY05-06)	Current Year Estimate (FY05-06)	Next Year Offer (FY06-07)
Output	Number of Spay-neuter surgeries performed	0	0	0	1,000
Outcome	Shelter intake reduction	0%	0%	0%	5%
Outcome	Percent of cost recovery	0%	0%	0%	30%

Performance Measure - Description

The number of spay-neuter surgeries performed is a workload measure for the program. The goal of the program is to reduce the number of cats that enter the shelter. The program will target specific areas (zip codes). Baseline data have been collected for FY05. Program impact will be measured against the baseline in targeted zip codes. The program includes a cost recovery element. Performance will be measured as the percent of cost recovery.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

There are no legal requirements for cat owners to spay or neuter their cat.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2006	2006	2007	2007
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$4,500	\$0
Contracts	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$25,500	\$0
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$40,000	\$0
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$0	\$0	\$40,000	\$0
Program Total:	\$0		\$40,000	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Fees, Permits & Charges	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$0
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

Each cat owner who is a recipient of spay-neuter assistance will be responsible for a co-payment for the surgery. The co-payment will be 25% to 40% of the cost. Total co-payment revenue is estimated at \$5,000 for the first year.

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was:

This is a new program offer