



**ONTARIO
SPCA**
AND HUMANE SOCIETY
PROTECTING ANIMALS SINCE 1873

SPAY & NEUTER

fact sheet

Do high-quality high-volume spay/neuter clinics reduce the number of animals who enter shelters?

After five years of operating our Newmarket and Barrie locations, Ontario SPCA shelters across the province have experienced an overall decline of 19% for cat intake and 8% for dog intake. Our adoption centres closest to our clinics have experienced up to a 52% decline for cat intake and 16% for dog intake. Clinics utilizing this spay/neuter model in the United States have reduced shelter admission and euthanasia by up to 70%! We invite all interested members of the public, veterinarians and veterinary technicians to visit the Humane Alliance web site to receive more information on this model: <http://humanealliance.org/>.

Do these types of clinics compete with private veterinarians?

Data collected from these types of clinics show anywhere from 40-86% of spay/neuter clients have no previous relationship with a veterinarian. A paper published in the Journal of Ecological Economics reported the following, "...[T]here are a number of people who have argued that low-cost spay/neuter programs merely cannibalize regular spay/neuter procedures rather than increasing total spay/neuter levels... The results of this study present strong evidence that neither of these cannibalization or substitution effects take place, or at least if they occur, they are more than compensated for by positive spill over effects (i.e. a complement effect) in adoption and spay/neuter efforts. The evidence is particularly strong in the case of spay/neuter procedures, where discount programs appear to significantly promote regular spay/neuter procedures." We invite all members of the public, veterinarians and veterinary technicians to advocate for municipal spay/neuter clinics to follow the Humane Alliance model, creating broader access to spay/neuter services on a cost recovery basis!

Who is allowed to use the clinic?

Ontario SPCA veterinary clinics are open to any individual, rescue, shelter or colony care-taker to bring in their own or free-roaming animals.



There are no limitations on geographic area or income. Age and health restrictions, which may apply, can be found at: spayneuter.ontariospca.ca

How can I hear the latest news about the clinic?

Please visit our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/ontariospcaspayneuterservices for the latest news, facts, and stories.

Does the clinic offer other procedures besides spaying and neutering?

We offer vaccinations, microchipping and umbilical hernia repairs at the time of surgery, if requested. We recommend all pet owners establish a relationship with a full-service veterinarian for annual vaccines and ongoing wellness exams.

Does the Ontario SPCA receive funding for these clinics?

The Ontario SPCA has received grant funds from PetSmart Charities of Canada for start-up equipment costs at each of our locations. As a non-profit, charitable organization, our clinics receive some donations from members of the public, however, formal fundraisers are not held by the clinics. The clinic model used by the Ontario SPCA is designed to financially break-even, therefore, annual expenses are paid in full by the fees collected for services provided at these clinics. No subsidies, ongoing grants or other financial support is required or provided to operate our clinics.



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Why should I get my pet spayed/neutered?

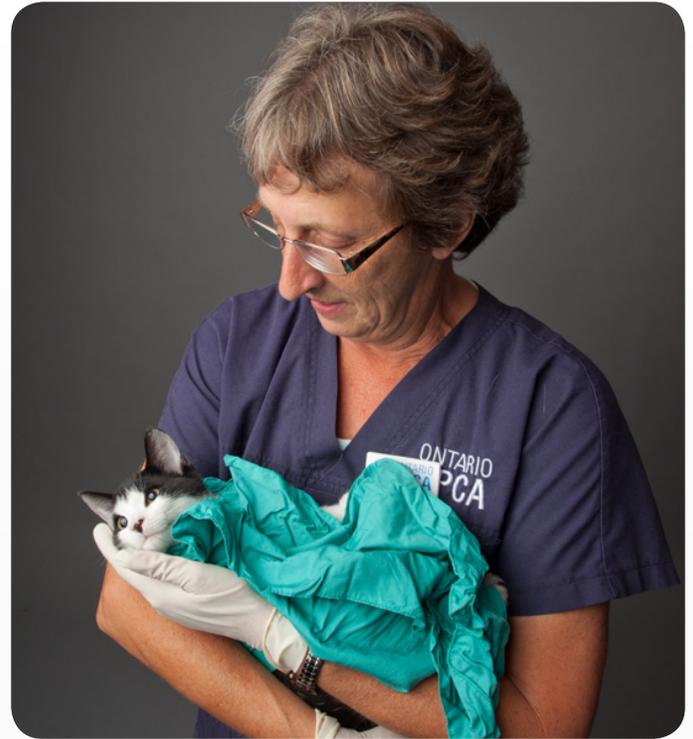
Pet overpopulation is at crisis levels in Ontario; each year tens of thousands of dogs and cats end up on the streets or in shelters. Many homeless animals suffer neglect, abandonment and abuse. Spaying and neutering pets will reduce shelter intake and euthanasia. It can also reduce health risks, physical stress and improve behaviour. Spaying a female cat or dog before their first heat will greatly reduce her risk of developing mammary, ovarian and uterine cancer. Fixed pets are also less likely to roam, reducing the risk of injury, accident and loss.

Do your clinics work with TNR (trap-neuter-return) programs for feral cat colonies?

Clinics offer spay/neuter services to groups and individuals who operate TNR programs. Walk-in appointments are available at 8:00 a.m. on a first-come first-served basis, with a maximum of one cat per care-taker; only cats in live-traps can be accepted. Those looking to have more than one cat spayed/neutered should contact their local clinic to arrange an appointment in advance. All feral cats are ear-tipped, at no charge, to identify from a distance that they have been sterilized.

How is the clinic able to keep your prices so low? Is my vet overcharging me? Or is your clinic cutting corners, or using student vets?

Your pet will be provided with high-quality care by a fully licensed and very skilled veterinarian and registered veterinary technicians, all employed by the Ontario SPCA. Our supplies and medications are the same as those available at any other veterinary clinic. All animals are provided with pain medication following surgery, and have the same procedure as they would at a regular clinic, in addition to receiving complimentary rechecks for any surgically-related concern after surgery.



We are able to keep our prices as low as we do for several reasons:

- The Ontario SPCA either has a low mortgage or owns the buildings in which our clinics operate, reducing significant expenses.
- As a registered charity, we save on some taxes that are paid by private veterinary clinics.
- By focusing on spay/neuter surgeries, we do not require a lot of other very expensive veterinary supplies and equipment, including some diagnostics, which reduces our overhead substantially.
- With a model that is based on high-volume, we are able to use our purchasing power to reduce our costs further ... all savings we can pass along to you!
- The Ontario SPCA is a non-profit organization and our clinics are designed to financially break-even. Veterinarians spend many years in training and investing substantially in their clinics, and while they are doing their jobs because they love animals, they also hope, and rightly expect, to operate a successful and profitable business.