



# The Heart of the Triangle

sharing the vision, supporting the mission  
of the triangle area non-profit community

## *Pet Adoption: Solving Pet Overpopulation One Pet at a Time*

**D**espite extensive public education and exposure to the horrors of puppy mills, the largest ever raid of a puppy mill recently took place in Mount Olive, North Carolina. More than 300 dogs were rescued. North Carolina has no laws regulating puppy mills. While out-of-area animal rescue centers along the East coast are accepting the dogs, many are already overcrowded. Sadly, many of these animals will be put down because there are not enough families to adopt them.

According to the Chatham Animal Rescue and Education, more than 219,000 cats and dogs were euthanized in North Carolina in 2007; more than 1,700 in Chatham County alone. Overpopulation, intended and unintended, is the leading cause of death for companion animals. Many local rescue and animal centers are working to educate the public and to provide low cost veterinarian care so that more owners will spay or neuter their pets.

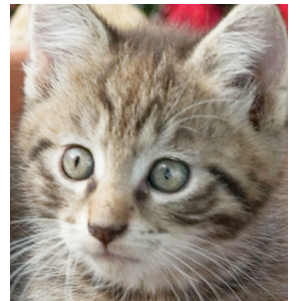
Mondy Lamb of the SPCA of Wake County comments, "The number one aspect of animal welfare is prevention. While we rescue and adopt as many as we can, real change and the end of pet overpopulation can only take place by preventing unwanted animals from being born." By spaying or neutering your pet, you become an important part of the solution to animal overpopulation. All too often, the offspring of a cherished pet companion end up in shelters and are euthanized because there just aren't enough people to adopt all that are produced. Sue Edwards, Chair of C.A.R.E.'s Spay Neuter Committee adds, "Animal rescue groups cannot adopt themselves out of the pet overpopulation problem - adoptions don't occur nearly as frequently as births."

Spay Day, an annual campaign of The Humane Society of the United States, was organized to spread public aware-

ness of the benefits of spaying or neutering pet companions. Spaying or neutering may also reduce the risk of certain health problems, reduce the care needed for females going into heat, and curb the boisterous behavior of male pets. Depending on your pet's age, size and health, recovery will require only a few hours to a few days. Visit a licensed veteri-

narian or clinic to learn how spaying or neutering your pet can benefit your family and the community.

When you decide to adopt a pet companion, consider visiting a local rescue or pet adoption center. And when you do find and adopt your pet companion, remember to ask about spay-neuter programs in your area.



### Resources

#### **The SPCA of Wake County**

The SPCA of Wake County was founded in 1967. Their low-cost spay/neuter clinic does 30 surgeries a day. Costs are \$30-\$45, with lower fees available to people on public assistance. The SPCA provides pet adoption services for dogs, cats and rabbits. Each year the SPCA finds homes for about 3,000 animals. For information, visit <http://www.spcawake.org> or call 919-772-2326.

#### **Chatham Animal Rescue & Education**

Chatham Animal Rescue & Education provides spay/neuter services for abandoned animals in Chatham County. CARE provides adoption and pet foster care services and is always in need of donations and supplies. For information, visit <http://www.chathamanimalrescue.org> or call 919-542-5757. APS of Orange County/Paws 4 Ever

The Animal Protection Society of Orange County (APS)/Paws 4 Ever provides adoption services from local animal shelters and other sources. Nicks Road Veterinary Clinic contracts with the APS to provide low-cost spay/neuter surgeries for dogs and cats in the community. For information visit <http://www.animalprotectionsociety.org/> or call 919-304-2300. Also visit [www.animalkind.org](http://www.animalkind.org).

#### **APS of Durham**

The Animal Protection Society of Durham (APS) opened in 1970 and has managed the Durham County Animal Shelter since 1990. APS relies on county funding and donations from individuals and corporations and cares for nearly 7,000 animals each year. APS of Durham provides adoption services, low cost spay and neuter services and has multiple volunteer opportunities. For information, visit <http://www.apsofdurham.org> or call 919-560-0640.

