



Municipal Services Agency

Department of Animal Care
and Regulation

Pat Claerbout, Director

Terry Schutten, County Executive
Paul Hahn, Agency Administrator

County of Sacramento

News Release

November 20, 2008

Annie Parker
Communication and Media Office: (916) 875-1257
parkera@saccounty.net

Pat Wilcox, Chair
TEACHING EVERYONE ANIMALS MATTER (TEAM)
916-362-8741

Sacramento County Animal Shelter's Nonprofit Affiliate, TEAM, Receives PetSmart Charities® Grant To Help Curb Pet Overpopulation

Grant funding will target female cats and large dogs for spay/neuter services

Sacramento, CA - TEAM (Teaching Everyone Animals Matter), the nonprofit affiliate of Sacramento County Animal Care and Regulation, recently received an \$8,764 grant from PetSmart Charities® to provide spay/neuter vouchers to low-income county residents.

TEAM will make the grant funding available to low-income residents through the Sacramento Area Animal Coalition's (SAAC) established voucher program to sterilize companion animals in the Sacramento area.

The spay/neuter grant funding specifically targets female cats and large dogs. Vouchers for female cats (only) are \$10 and vouchers for large dogs (only) are \$15. Animals must be between 3 months and 7 years, and pregnant cats can also be spayed with veterinarian approval.

"We will be focusing on female cats and large dogs because unspayed female cats may have multiple litters and it is more difficult to get large dogs adopted once they come into the shelter," said Pat Claerbout, Shelter Director.

Low-income residents (annual household income of \$35K or less) in Sacramento County, excluding the cities of Sacramento, Rancho Cordova and Elk Grove, can receive vouchers by calling the Spay/Neuter Hotline at 916-808-SPAY (916-808-7729). They can also apply for the vouchers online through the SAAC website, www.sacanimal.org. Residents who apply for vouchers must provide proof of low-income status with pay stubs, tax returns or proof of government benefits. Eligible families may receive up to four (4) vouchers.

TEAM was established 1997 to assist the Sacramento County animal shelter with funding assistance for medical and volunteer care programs dedicated to curtailing pet overpopulation and improving the adoption prospects of shelter animals. SAAC was founded in 1999 to eliminate companion animal overpopulation in the Sacramento region through aggressive spay/neuter efforts, including local sponsorship of the annual Spay Day event each February and spay/neuter efforts for feral cats.

(continued)

For additional information, please contact Sacramento County Animal Care and Regulation, www.saccountyshelter.net; 916-368-7387 (PETS) or Annie Parker, parkera@saccounty.net; 916-875-1257.

ABOUT PETSMART CHARITIES, INC.

PetSmart Charities, Inc. is an independent 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization that creates and supports programs that save the lives of homeless pets, raise awareness of companion animal welfare issues, and promote healthy relationships between people and pets. Since 1994, PetSmart Charities has funded more than \$70 million in grants and programs benefiting animal welfare organizations and, through its in-store pet adoption program, has helped save the lives of more than 3.5 million pets. To learn more about how PetSmart Charities is working to help find a lifelong, loving home for every pet, visit www.petSMARTcharities.org or call 1-800-423-PETS.

