

WARREN

February 27, 2012

Animal rescue to add mobile spay/neuter unit

By Brian Louwers
C & G Staff Writer



Photo by Brian C. Louwers

From left, Shannon Dempsey of Chesterfield Township and Hailee Cleaveland of Warren prep Jake for surgery at All About Animals Rescue.

WARREN — Clinic Director Cheryl Davison said All About Animals Rescue provided 15,000 low-cost pet sterilization procedures last year alone. The staff spays or neuters an average of 68 pets every day at the facility in Warren on Pinewood, near Mound and Stephens.

The rescue wants to add to that number and will be taking its services on the road this spring, working to further its mission of “no more homeless pets” by sterilizing cats and dogs in neighborhoods in and around Detroit with a new mobile unit.

The 37-foot surgical hospital on wheels comes complete with cages, a power supply,

restrooms and an autoclave for sanitizing equipment.

After staff training with the new unit is complete, the rescue plans to operate it five days a week for 38 weeks during the year, sterilizing at least 30 pets each day in areas where the service is needed the most.

Pet owners will be able to drop their cats or dogs off in the morning, right in their own neighborhood, and pick them up in the evening.

“The challenge is with Detroit, and that’s where we’re targeting,” AAAR President Amber Sitko said. “We want to go in and develop a relationship with the community, to reach out to pet owners.”

The unit will become the only one in operation in the tri-county area.

Catherine Griffin, director of development and marketing for AAAR, said the unit will fill gaps in neighborhoods, including in the city of Detroit, where low-cost spay and neutering services aren’t readily available.

“There’s an estimated 390,000 owned pets in Detroit. Cats can get pregnant as early as 4 months old and dogs as early as 5 months,” Griffin said. “Cats are breeding twice a year and dogs once a year. Both have an average of five offspring per litter.

“Doing the math, that’s over 730,000 animals born in a year. There are just not enough homes,” Griffin said.

All About Animals Rescue charges \$80 to sterilize a dog, and \$40 for a cat. Sitko said AAAR could offer the lower cost through surgical efficiency and by specializing in the spaying and neutering procedures.

According to data provided by AAAR, more than 100,000 animals were euthanized in Michigan shelters last year. That number reportedly did not include statistics through Detroit Animal Control.

But Griffin said efforts to sterilize animals are reducing the number of homeless pets.

“Spay and neuter is working. In the 1970s, the U.S. was euthanizing over 20 million cats and dogs a year. With preventative measures like spay and neuter, that number is down to 4 million,” Griffin said. “But that’s still too high. With more education and available resources, euthanasia of healthy, adoptable animals should be something that we talk about as happening in the past.”

For more information about All About Animals Rescue or the mobile spay/neuter unit, visit www.allaboutanimalsrescue.org.

You can reach C & G Staff Writer Brian Louwers at brianlouwers@candgnews.com or at (586)498-1089.

<http://www.candgnews.com/news/animal-rescue-add-mobile-spayneuter-unit#e3a74cfdad3c99ac094ab0159b9d73eb>