

HOV Spay/Neuter Assistance Program – A Year in Review

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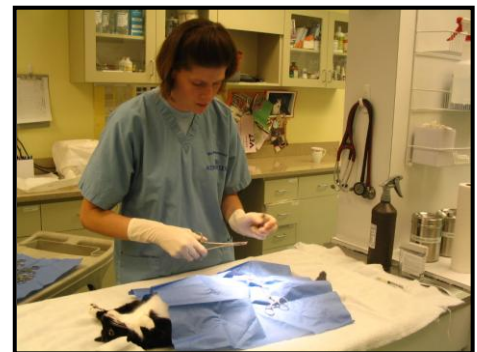
Heart of the Valley began the Spay Neuter Assistance Program (S.N.A.P.) in December 2008. The focus of the program is spaying and neutering of feral and semi-feral cats to improve cat health and prevent unwanted litters. Many feral and semi-feral cats and kittens are surrendered to HOV each year due to overpopulation of colonies, sickness or becoming a nuisance within the community.

S.N.A.P. clinics occur on a once monthly basis and are almost completely volunteer driven. A core group of volunteers, under the direction of the HOV staff vet and Medical coordinator, are trained on all aspects of the clinic from check-in paperwork to surgery prep and recovery of animals. Eight local veterinarians and several veterinary technicians from various clinics in Bozeman and surrounding areas generously donated their time to participate in the surgeries. The S.N.A.P program spayed or neutered a total of 323 cats in its first year of clinics. Statistics are as follows:

174 female cats spayed
149 cats neutered
323 cats NOT reproducing!

One unspayed female cat, her mate and their offspring, producing 2 litters per year with 2.8 surviving kittens per litter can total:

1 year: 12
2 years: 67
3 years: 376
4 years: 2,107
5 years: 11,801
6 years: 66,088
7 years: 370,092
8 years: 2,072,514
9 years: 11,606,077



Thank you to all who participated in the S.N.A.P. clinics. A special thanks to Jan and Terry Deal for managing the program with efficiency and grace. We look forward to another great year! If you are interested in volunteering time or giving money to the S.N.A.P. program, please contact Kari Chiochi at 388-9399 ext. 105.