



# Shelter Sharings

FEBRUARY 2016

## CITRUS COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES

4030 S. AIRPORT ROAD, INVERNESS FL 34450

352-746-8400

352-726-4120 FAX

[Citruscritters.com](http://Citruscritters.com)

### Hours of Operation:

Closed Sundays, Mondays and holidays

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday

10-4 kennels

10-5 office

Thursdays

10-6 kennels

10-7 office

## February is Spay/Neuter Month

### Why You Should Spay/Neuter Your Pet

The decision to spay or neuter your pet is an important one for pet owners. It can be the single best decision you make for his long-term welfare.

#### Pets are homeless everywhere

In every community, in every state, there are homeless animals. In the U.S., there are an estimated 6-8 million homeless animals entering animal shelters every year. Barely half of these animals are adopted. Tragically, the rest are euthanized.

The number of homeless animals varies by state—in some states there are as many as 300,000 homeless animals euthanized in animal shelters every year. These are not the offspring of homeless "street" animals—these are the puppies and kittens of cherished family pets and even pure-breds.

Many people are surprised to learn that nationwide, more than 2.7 million healthy, adoptable cats and dogs are euthanized in shelters annually. Spay/neuter is the only permanent, 100 percent effective method of birth control for dogs and cats.

**Curb pet over population and make your pet healthier**

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## Message from the Director

With February being spay/neuter month, it brings an opportunity to spotlight the importance of having pets sterilized. Pet overpopulation is a national problem and concern. Unwanted or unin-

tentional breeding leaves many animals homeless or left at local animal shelters. By having your pet sterilized, it can help improve their health, disposition and less desire to possibly roam.

Stop by our shelter the next time you are thinking about a new best friend and check out our Best Friends Festival Saturday Feb 6 from 9am-2pm. Information can be found on our website.

**CALENDAR  
OF EVENTS**

2/6/16, 9 –2

**Best Friend Fest  
Citrus County  
Auditorium**

2/13/16

**Love Me, Love  
My Pet adoption  
promotion, all  
animals \$10. plus  
license.**

2/20/16 2 pm

**Foster Pet Par-  
ent training,  
CCAS shelter**

"Some people talk to animals. Not many listen though. That's the problem."

— A.A. Milne, *Winnie-the-Pooh*

**Kramer,  
ready to be  
adopted  
today!**



# Tips from the Veterinarian

## Spay/Neuter Your Pet

Spay is a general term used to describe the ovariectomy of a female animal. Neuter is the term for castration of a male animal.

By spaying and neutering your pet, they have a greatly improved chance of long life and good health. Sterilization also acts as a powerful population control.

Why should you spay./neuter your pet? There are so many benefits, including:

For females: no heat cycles, less desire to roam, reduced or eliminated risk of mammary

gland tumors, ovarian and uterine cancer and less unwanted cats/dogs.

For males: less roaming and therefore less likely to be injured due to fights or car accidents, reduces or eliminates risk of spraying and marking, elimination of risk of testicular cancer and reducing the incidence of prostate disease, less aggression and a lower incidence of dog bites.

Other facts:

- ◆ Cats are 45 times and dogs are 15 times as prolific as humans when it comes to reproduction.
- ◆ Surveys indicate that as many as 85% of dogs hit by cars are unaltered.

- ◆ Intact male cats living outside have been shown to live on average less than 2 years.
- ◆ Feline immunodeficiency disease is spread by bites and intact cats fight a great deal more than altered cats.
- ◆ Dogs and cats do not need our help to expand their numbers; they need our help to reduce their numbers by following a spay/neuter program until there are good homes for them all.

*Dr. Danesh Aryomolo, DVM*

# 5 Winter Care Tips For Community Cats

Winter can be trying for community cats—check out five ways you can help keep felines comfortable during cold weather.

- 1. Build a Better Cat House** Use inexpensive items like foam coolers and plastic storage tubs as cozy shelters for community cats.
- 2. Warming Trends** Straw is the top choice for insulation and

- bedding in community cat shelters because it resists moisture. Avoid blankets, which absorb moisture like a sponge.
- 3. "Wet" Their Appetite** Feed cats wet food, which takes less energy to digest. That way they'll have more energy for keeping warm. Just be sure to serve the wet food in insulated containers so it doesn't freeze.
- 4. Clean & Clear** To prevent cats from getting

- snowed in, remove snow from all entrances and exits to their shelters. Shovel regularly to stay ahead of the game.
- 5. Not Worth Their Salt** Don't use salt or chemicals designed to melt snow near cat colonies. They can be toxic when licked off paws or ingested from melting puddles, and can hurt a cat's paw pads.

—ASPCAPro, Jan. 2016

## Spay/Neuter cont. from page 1

### Your pet's health

A USA Today (May 7, 2013) article cites that pets that live in the states with the highest rates of spaying/neutering also live the longest. According to the report, neutered male dogs live 18% longer than unneutered male dogs and spayed female dogs live 23% longer than unspayed female dogs.

Another contributor to the increased longevity of altered pets involves the reduced risk of pyometra (a fatal uterine infection), uterine cancer, and other cancers of the reproductive system.

Here are a few myths surrounding having your pet sterilized, and the truth behind it.

MYTH: It's better to have one litter before spaying a female pet.  
FACT: Every litter counts.

Medical evidence indicates just the opposite. In fact, the evidence shows that females spayed before their first heat are typically healthier. Many veterinarians now sterilize dogs and cats as young as eight weeks of age.

Check with your veterinarian about the appropriate time for these procedures.

MYTH: I want my dog to be protective.  
FACT: It is a dog's natural instinct to protect home and family. A dog's personality is formed more by genetics and environment than by sex hormones.

MYTH: I don't want my male dog or cat to feel like less of a male.  
FACT: Pets don't have any concept of sexual identity or ego. Neutering will not change a pet's basic personality. He doesn't suffer any kind of emotional reaction or identity crisis when neutered.

MYTH: My pet will get fat and lazy.  
FACT: The truth is that most pets get fat and lazy because their owners feed them too much and don't give them enough exercise.

MYTH: But my dog (or cat) is so special, I want a puppy (or kitten) just like her.  
FACT: Your pet's puppies or kittens have an unlikely chance of being a carbon copy of your pet. Even professional

breeders cannot make this guarantee. There are shelter pets waiting for homes who are just as cute, smart, sweet, and loving as your own.

MYTH: It's expensive to have my pet spayed or neutered.  
FACT: Many low-cost options exist for spay/neuter services. Most regions of the U.S. have at least one spay/neuter clinic within driving distance that charge \$100 or less for the procedure, and many veterinary clinics provide discounts through subsidized voucher programs. Low-cost spay/neuter is more and more widely available all the time. .

MYTH: I'll find good homes for all the puppies and kittens.  
FACT: You may find homes for your pet's puppies and kittens. But you can only control what decisions you make with your own pet, not the decisions other people make with theirs.

*Humane Society of America*

## It's always Hip to Snip

February is National Spay and Neuter month. On January 26, the Board of County Commissioners proclaimed February Spay and Neuter Month in Citrus County. **Snippet Citrus** and **Friends of Citrus County Animal Services (FOCCAS)** have partnered to sponsor a pet promotion during February. This cooperative partnership was born based on information from Animal Services and the need to find an affordable, accessible way to spay/neuter pets for those unable to afford the procedure.

With local veterinarians charging from \$100 to over \$300 to spay or neuter a pet, many citizens have put off having their pets "fixed", adding to the increased pet population.

Starting Monday, Feb. 1 thru Monday, Feb. 29 as long as funds are available, the "It's Hip to Snip" promotion will allow Citrus County citizens who qualify for financial assistance to spay or neuter at the normal price of \$10 for cats, and the special price of \$20 for any size dog. You will need to call 352-436-

4268 to see if you qualify. Please do not call for this promotion before Monday, Feb. 1 at 8 am. If you qualify, you will need to call and schedule an appointment during February. The surgery doesn't need to be completed before the end of February, but you must call and schedule an appointment before the end of the month.

Call 352-436-4268 Monday - Friday from 8 am - 5 pm. Visit us at SnippetCitrus.com and Snippet Citrus Facebook.





## Citrus County Notes

Municipal Ordinances

Chapter 14, Article II

Section 14.32 Definitions

**Service animals means animals that are individually trained to perform tasks for people with disabilities, such as guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling wheelchairs, alerting and protecting, or performing other special tasks. Service animals are working animals, not pets. Guide dogs, search and rescue dogs, detection and protection dogs and therapy dogs are considered service animals.**

## Meet...Becky Drummond

Becky Drummond is one of the three wonderful ladies you meet when you first enter the shelter. Becky started working at the shelter as Front Desk Clerk representative in July of 2014 and truly enjoys the diversity of her job.

In the past, Becky has worked with computers and in pediatrics. She can easily find her way through most software programs, and is often the go-to person for other employees having a computer problem. After a brief work hiatus Becky applied to work at the shelter because of her love of all animals.

When Becky was a young girl growing up in Brooksville, she dreamed of a future filled with lots of children and a house with a white picket fence. Today she lives in a home, although

there isn't a picket fence, and she has an amazing daughter. "My daughter has given me the best gift, a beautiful granddaughter that she lets me spoil". Becky also lives with two dogs, two birds and two hamsters. If she had her way however, Becky would adopt a bear or two!

One of the things Becky loves about



**Becky Drummond completing another happy adoption.**

working at the shelter is sharing the times the animals are adopted and go out into their happy, ever-after homes. "I also love seeing our dogs and cats come back in for shot clinic and how happy and healthy they are. It reinforces all the hard work we all do in getting each and every one adopted."

Throughout a typical day, Becky will help customers find their lost pet, sell licenses and flea/tick products, answer a thousand questions about just about anything pet related, complete the in-take process on stray animals, track missed medical appointments, process applications, give comfort to the person bringing in their sick pet, and process those happy adoptions. All of this and so much more, all done with a smile and a "thanks sweetie, have a wonderful day."