

Spay and Neuter Annual Update

The City of Las Vegas enacted a mandatory spay and neuter ordinance in November 2009 wherein those residing within the jurisdictional boundaries of the city would be required to spay or neuter any cat or dog over the age of four months except under certain circumstances. Exceptions are granted for animals being held by a shelter or other organization for adoption; animals held by persons with a fanciers' permit; animals incapable of breeding or are medically unsuited for the procedure; and service and law enforcement animals. Additionally, the bill required dogs and cats be micro chipped before they can be recovered from impound or adopted. A "grace period" of approximately 5 months was defined to afford residents an opportunity to come into compliance thereby designating April 1, 2010 the date wherein the ordinance would start being enforced.

Recognizing this initiative is, by design, a long term project, impacts will not be seen over months but rather years. The information provided below shows we have had a positive impact thus far.

Pet Licensing

Since the Spay & Neuter ordinance was passed in November 2009, the City of Las Vegas has sold 22,183 pet licenses. 16,329 of the pet licenses were for spayed or neutered animals which results in approximately 74% compliance rate with the City of Las Vegas Mandatory Spay & Neuter ordinance.

We recognized an immediate upward trend as citizens became compliant with the pet licensing portion of the ordinance. This information is particularly useful in establishing baseline data from which comparisons can be analyzed. The recordation of pet licensing data will assist Animal Control in educational efforts thereby increasing the number of animals being spayed and neutered.

Shelter/Community Impact

The Animal Foundation has recognized a significant increase in the number of animals returned to their owners which are now required to be either spayed or neutered, as well as microchipped, prior to being released. These animals have been impounded by Animal Control Officers and are ones that have, in the past, contributed to other animals becoming pregnant and thereby increasing the local animal population and impacting shelter intake services.

Recent reports, provided by the Animal Foundation, indicate the actions taken by the City of Las Vegas have greatly improved efforts to protect our pet population. As of March, 2011:

- 3458 spay & neuter surgeries were performed on animals placed in adoption status which is a 100% increase from data collected during the reporting period of August 2008 to November 2009.
- 520 impounded animals were returned from the shelter, to their owners, with a spay & neuter surgery as opposed to 9 animals meeting the same criteria for the reporting period August 2008 to November 2009 reflecting a 5700% increase.
- 572 animals were returned to their owners with a microchip as opposed to 39 for the reporting period August 2008 to November 2009.

- 717 unaltered animals were impounded and brought to the shelter as opposed to 845 for the reporting period August 2008 to November 2009 reflecting a 17.8% decrease.

Veterinarian Impact

The Animal Control Unit surveyed approximately 20% of the 36 veterinarians who operate within the City of Las Vegas. On average, veterinarians reported their clients were receptive to the mandatory spay & neuter surgeries and that they had an approximate 10% to 20% increase in said surgeries. Additionally, two thirds of veterinarians lowered the cost of spay & neuter surgeries to accommodate clients due to ordinance requirements.

Citizen Feedback

At the time of implementation, citizens expressed concerns and voiced their hesitancy. We believe the numbers reported above reflect the communities desire to comply with the ordinance thereby protecting and controlling the City's pet population.