

San Diego Encourages Spaying to 'Beat the Heat'

San Diego County residents are offered \$75 coupons in February to spay cats.

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San Diego County Animal Services and six participating cities are offering residents \$75 coupons to spay their cats and kittens through the end of February.

"We can't adopt ourselves out of this huge problem," says Dawn Danielson, director of the county Department of Animal Services. "There are simply not enough families looking to adopt a new cat or kitten. In February and March, cats as young as 4-5 month old go into heat, and when spring arrives so do the kittens. They come in all shapes, sizes, colors and personalities. They all have one thing in common. They are homeless."

The coupon will be offered throughout February to help pay for spaying female cats; after that the coupon is reduced to \$50. The coupons will be accepted by many veterinarians throughout the county or the department will reimburse cat owners \$75 if they mail in the coupon with proof of spaying.

In addition to the coupons, residents may visit the website of County Animal services for a list of veterinarians who perform the surgery at reduced fees. Combined with the coupon, the entire cost of the surgery may be met.

Coupons are available at the three County Animal Shelters in Mission Valley, Bonita or Carlsbad.