



Pennsylvania University and Animal Care Association Launch Spay/Neuter Program

Under the program, 100 percent of animals at the Philadelphia animal shelter will be spayed or neutered prior to adoption.

The University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine and the Philadelphia Animal Care and Control Association are teaming up to eliminate the unnecessary killing of potentially adoptable animals in Philadelphia with the launch of a spay/neuter program.

The program, a component of the school's new shelter animal medicine program, will be a model of Penn's interaction with both the private sector and government agencies to benefit our community and beyond, said Dr. Joan Hendricks, the School's Gilbert S. Kahn Dean of Veterinary Medicine.

This program, which supports the spaying and neutering of dogs and cats adopted from the PACCA, is now up and running due to support by the ASPCA, PetSmart Charities and other donors.

I am immensely grateful to our generous donors, and I am proud of our school's commitment to positively impacting the relationship among animals, people and society by strengthening the bonds of the healing connection, Hendricks said.

With almost 30,000 animals entering the shelter each year, PACCA sees the greatest number of unwanted, orphaned and abandoned animals in its region. PACCA has made a commitment to ensure that 100 percent of dogs and cats adopted from the shelter will be spayed or neutered prior to going home. With this new funding, about 1,200 additional animals are expected to be sterilized in 2006.

The heartbreaking problems caused by pet overpopulation in our city are very real, and when we fail to work together as a community, animals who might otherwise live long lives, bringing joy to people, will die. To impact the bottom line to save lives we must identify new ways to maximize results by combining community resources, said PACCA CEO Tara Derby-Perrin.

Both organizations are members of the Alliance for Philadelphia's Animals, a coalition of animal welfare and rescue groups working to control and care for Philadelphia's animals through pet adoption programs and spay-neuter initiatives.

Alliance for Philadelphia's Animals President Anne Trinkle said the goal of the Alliance is to create a city where no healthy or treatable companion animal loses its life simply because it does not have a home.

This new program addresses many of the issues in making that goal a reality, she said. For more information about PACCA, visit <http://www.pacca.us>. Posted: April 29, 2006, 5:00 a.m. EST