

New Program Begins in Illinois

The state's Animal Population Control Program offers discounts on spay and neuter surgeries for low-income pet owners and feral cat caretakers.

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The Illinois Animal Population Control Program provides discounts on spay and neuter surgeries. (Stock photo)

As of the first of the year, the Animal Population Control Program became effective. The program, administered by the Illinois Department of Public Health, makes it possible for feral cat caretakers and pet owners who receive food stamps or social security disability payments to have their cats and dogs vaccinated and spayed or neutered for \$15.

Currently, 90 veterinarians throughout the state of Illinois participate in the Animal Population Control Program. Illinois residents can apply for the discounted services at local health departments, Department of Human Services' offices and certain veterinarians' offices.

"With this program, Illinois has shown its commitment to help protect the public and stop the killing of pets," said Ledy VanKavage, ASPCA senior director of legal training and legislation. "...I'm proud to see a Midwestern state join the pack of progressive states in the East — like New Hampshire and Delaware — that are launching innovative, well-funded pet population control programs."