

Income Tax Option Gives Cats a Break

Georgia residents can donate to a spay-and-neuter program by checking a box on their tax returns.

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Georgia residents now have the opportunity to provide spay and neuter assistance to cats throughout the state simply by checking a box their state tax forms.

The Dog and Cat Sterilization Fund State Income Tax Checkoff is available on 2006 state income tax forms. The check box is located on line 32 of the 500 form and line 15 of the 500EZ form.

Georgians can donate as much as they would like from their tax refunds or in their payments to support the program. Created in 2004 by state House Bill 452, the Dog and Cat Sterilization Fund Income Tax Checkoff provides funding for the Department of Agriculture's statewide spay-and-neuter program.

Georgia also sells original cat license plates at county tag offices for a one-time \$25 fee. Of that fee, \$22 directly funds spay-and-neuter subsidies and educational outreach programs.

"Because the Dog and Cat Sterilization Program receives no state funding, we depend solely on donations to achieve our critical spay/neuter mission," Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Tommy Irvin said. "This additional source of funding will supplement license plate sales and help curb pet overpopulation in our state."

For information on the Dog and Cat Sterilization Program, visit the Georgia Department of Agriculture website.