

# Press Release



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## **Hundreds of Animal Lovers Spay/Neuter Pets at Humane Society Silicon Valley and Vet Clinics to Mark Spay/Neuter Month**



**SANTA CLARA, Calif., -- February 28, 2007** – Hundreds of animal lovers spayed or neutered their pets in February to take advantage of 50 percent discounts offered by Humane Society Silicon Valley (HSSV) and 13 participating veterinary clinics. HSSV also offered a limited number of FREE spay/neuter surgeries for pit bulls. HSSV organized spay/neuter month as part of a larger effort to mark Spay Day USA, a national day of action to promote the spaying or neutering of pets.

Humane Society Silicon Valley President Christine Benninger says spaying and neutering animals is the fastest way to help end pet overpopulation, reduce the needless suffering that many homeless animals endure, and save taxpayers money at the same time.

Benninger says while a majority of pet owners alter their pets, some delay the operation for a variety of reasons. "Some people do not spay/neuter their pets because of the expense so we wanted to offer 50 percent discounts throughout the month of February to encourage pet owners to take action.

Benninger says other pet owners worry their pet is too young or will get fat and lazy after being spayed or neutered. "It is perfectly safe to spay/neuter cats or dogs at eight weeks of age," Benninger says, noting that all animals are altered before they are adopted from the shelter. With regard to pets getting fat or lazy, Benninger says most pets get that way because their owners feed them too much and don't exercise them enough. Benninger says spaying/neutering actually helps animals live longer healthier lives and can greatly reduce the incidence of certain cancers. She says neutering male pets can also make them less likely to roam the neighborhood, spray, run away or get into fights.

The following veterinary clinics and hospitals that participated in spay/neuter month:

- Almaden Animal Clinic
- Animal Medical Center
- Animal Medical Clinic
- Central Animal Hospital
- Cherry Chase Pet Hospital
- ELC Veterinary Clinic
- Serra Veterinary Hospital
- Sunnyvale Veterinary Clinic
- The Animal Clinic
- The Cat Hospital
- VCA Hemingway Cat Hospital
- VCA Vets and Pets
- VCA Winchester

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**About Spay Day USA**

Spay Day USA is America's first and only national day of action to promote the spaying or neutering of pets. During Spay Day USA, veterinarians, animal welfare professionals, business owners, and citizens join forces nationwide to provide spay/neuter services and to promote spay/neuter as an essential component of good pet health care, as well as an effective and humane means of decreasing the euthanasia of homeless animals in shelters. During Spay Day USA's first 12 years, participants spayed or neutered an estimated 1,366,000 animals! When you consider that an unspayed cat can give birth to 18 kittens each year and an unspayed dog can give birth to 20 puppies each year, and that the average cost for shelters to handle each homeless animal is \$176, it's clear that Spay Day USA participants have, potentially, prevented millions of surplus births and saved millions of taxpayers' dollars.

**About Humane Society Silicon Valley**

Humane Society Silicon Valley (HSSV) is an independent, non-profit agency offering quality adoptions, medical care and education programs to enhance the human-animal bond. Established in 1929, HSSV has served Silicon Valley for 77 years adopted more than 500,000 animals into permanent, loving homes. HSSV is an "open door" shelter and accepts animals 24-hours a day, seven days a week, regardless of any temperament or health related problems. HSSV's medical center offers affordable spaying/neutering, vaccinations and microchips to the public. More information about HSSV can be found at our website at [www.hssv.org](http://www.hssv.org).

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