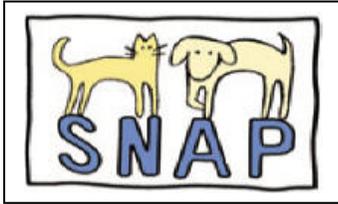


# **Spay and Neuter One-Year Program**



**Spay and Neuter Action Program (SNAP)**  
**“For Pets of Low-Income Families”**  
**2405 W. Picacho, Las Cruces, NM 88007**  
[www.snapnewmexico.org](http://www.snapnewmexico.org)  
**575-524-9265**

SNAP requests the support of the City of Las Cruces in its effort to assist with overpopulation of pets within Dona Ana County in the amount of \$50,000. Since 53.3% of pets spayed or neutered were from pet owners within the City of Las Cruces, it should be the responsibility of the city to support the services of the Spay and Neuter Action Program rather than to spend taxpayer's monies to handle, adopt, or euthanize these animals.

During calendar year 2010, the Spay and Neuter Action Program (SNAP) provided spays or neuters for 1240 pets. The total cost for these surgeries was \$89,019.00 and were performed by eleven veterinarians who support SNAP. Eight of these veterinarians are located in Las Cruces, one in Anthony, one in El Paso, and one in Santa Teresa.

Out of these 1240 surgeries, 53.3% were for City of Las Cruces residents at a cost of \$46,571.63. The surgeries consisted of 424 dogs and 237 cats.

During CY 2010, The Animal Service Center performed spays and neuters of 173 dogs and 98 cats at a reduced rate to SNAP pet owners.

Pet owners outside the City of Las Cruces, i.e. Anthony, Vado, Chaparral residents, consisted of 46.7% of the surgeries at a cost of \$36,530.15 and consisted of 381 dogs and 198 cats.

SNAP received a grant from Dona Ana County in the amount of \$10,000.00, but did not receive any financial support from the City of Las Cruces for calendar year 2010.

When you consider the cost to taxpayers of animal control picking up an animal, completing their paperwork, and the expenses from the Animal Service Center to process and either adopt or euthanize an animal, the cost would amount to \$175.00. On the other hand, when a pet owner utilizes the Spay and Neuter Action Program, the average to spay or neuter a dog is \$71.00 and to spay or neuter a cat, \$49.00. You can see that it is more cost effective for the City of Las Cruces and Dona Ana County to support the Spay and Neuter Action Program.

The statistics show that the number of cats does not decrease by just euthanizing the population. The City of Las Cruces and Dona Ana County need to take a look at the TNR (Trap, Neuter, and Release Programs) that have proven effective in other parts of the United States, as well as other countries. It is obvious that the current methods used within Dona Ana County are not working as a means to control the feline population.

SNAP services consist of 66% dogs and 34% cats. These percentages show that additional education and services need to be made available for cat pet owners in an effort to make a difference in the overpopulation of cats within Dona Ana County.

[SNAP is a 501\(c\)3 non-profit organization](#)  
Working to end pet overpopulation in Dona Ana County, New Mexico