



P.O. Box 161043 | Sacramento, CA 95816 | (916) 207-0983 tel | (916) 848-3325 fax | contact@sacanimal.org email | www.sacanimal.org web

November 13, 2003

Dear Sacramento Area Veterinarian,

We've got good news! On February 22, 2004, an amazing partnership will produce the largest Spay Day effort ever. The California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), the Sacramento Valley Veterinary Medical Association (SVVMA), UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, the City of Sacramento, the County of Sacramento, the Sacramento Area Animal Coalition (SAAC), United Animal Nations and the Doris Day Animal Foundation are coordinating the "Capitol to Capitol, Coast to Coast, Paws Across America" campaign to spay/neuter 1,000 dogs and cats in Sacramento and 250 dogs and cats in Washington, DC.

Our efforts for Spay Day 2003 helped to assure that more than 15,000 new puppies and kittens were NOT born this year in Sacramento! Some of the words used by volunteers to describe their Spay Day USA 2003 experience: Amazing... Excellent... Exciting... Fabulous... Fantastic... Frantic... Fulfilling... Fun... Great... Hard Work... Important... Necessary... Positive... Responsible... Rewarding... Satisfying... Wonderful... Worthwhile.

Spay Day USA 2004 will be held Sunday, February 22, 2004. Mark your calendars now!

CVMA and SVVMA are taking the lead in recruiting veterinarians and clinics for this historic effort on behalf of low-income families and their companion animals in Sacramento. Our goal is to secure the clinics and veterinarians needed to perform 800 surgeries on Spay Day in Sacramento. The other 200 surgeries will be performed at the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine in the new 30-table surgery laboratory.

While some of you have participated in Spay Day efforts before, others of you may either be unfamiliar with it, or have concerns that have prevented your prior involvement. We want to allay those concerns.

MYTH 1: If my clinic participates, we will be overwhelmed with animals and I won't be able to practice the quality of medicine that makes me comfortable.

You will decide how many surgeries you are comfortable committing to and you will not be sent any additional animals. The more clinics participate - on whatever scale - the fewer surgeries any individual hospital has to perform to meet our goals. We want you to be comfortable, practice high quality medicine and have the resources you need to do that.

MYTH 2: It is too expensive.

The Sacramento Area Animal Coalition is providing all of the necessary medical supplies. SAAC is working with veterinarians, suppliers and distributors to acquire all the necessary supplies for all the surgeries. Each veterinarian will be able to use the supplies he/she always uses and there will be no out-of-pocket cost to the clinic. In addition, SAAC is securing donated "value added" supplies for the Spay Day clients - for example, IDEXX Labs is providing 1,000 free heartworm SNAP tests. Animals testing positive will not be altered and clients will be educated on what's needed next. Animals testing negative will be given a donated one-month heartworm preventive.



November 13, 2003
Page Two of Two

On Spay Day, you will provide your time, talents and facilities. The rest is someone else's job! All participants will also receive breakfast and lunch (delivered to your clinic), t-shirts and other donated goodies.

MYTH 3: I don't have a big enough clinic or enough staff.

More than 450 people volunteered for Spay Day in 2003, when 650 animals were spayed or neutered. Of those 450, nearly 100 were technicians, veterinarians or veterinary clinic staff. Many of these volunteers are willing to help in any location where their services are needed. When you make a commitment to Spay Day 2004, you can ask for additional veterinary, technician or lay assistance, and we will get you the help you need to do the surgeries you commit to performing.

MYTH 4: What I can do won't make that much of a difference.

A story from 2003... Jon Wolffson, DVM of the Veterinary Practice Limited to Cats, responded to our request for additional locations by offering to bring in his staff that Sunday to do six cats. Each of the other participating locations was doing 50 or more surgeries. But did Dr. Wolffson and his staff make a difference? Absolutely. We were able to schedule a family from Placerville that had six cats - males and females - in their home. That family was able to make the drive because Dr. Wolffson agreed to a late morning appointment. The family brought coffee and cake to say thank you and were very grateful. We don't need to tell you how many litters of kittens that ONE family could have produced... but suffice to say, the efforts of the staff at that clinic made a difference - for those cats, that family, the shelters and our community.

Of course there are abundant testimonials and many clinics make these kinds of efforts all the time. But Spay Day is a unique opportunity to be a part of a large, coordinated effort that can make a massive dent in our unwanted animal population.

We promise you a great experience this February and a lasting positive memory for you and your staffs.

Please contact us (email addresses below) with any questions or for further information. We are happy to send you a commitment form that describes the expectations of you and of others helping with this project.

Sincerely,

Paulette Razy-Faulkner, DVM, Spay Day USA 2004 Veterinary Coordinator (prfdvm@surewest.net)
Jennifer Fearing, SAAC President, Spay Day USA 2004 Coordinator (jennifer@sacanimal.org)
Dean Henricks, DVM, SVVMA President
Peter Weinstein, DVM, CVMA President