

### WHAT IS A COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT & WHY DO I NEED ONE?

The community assessment provides the structure you need to gather valuable data on the current availability & pricing of spay/neuter services in your community.

The ASPCA's Spay/Neuter Alliance requires a community assessment as part of your application to the National Spay Neuter Response Team (NSNRT). Notwithstanding this requirement, the assessment is very important for the following three reasons:

1. You gain knowledge based on facts and data (rather than opinion or theory) about the spay/neuter needs in your area;
  2. The results of your assessment provide a roadmap to the best spay/neuter program for your area. This roadmap provides the focus so you can get your program up & running—saving time, saving resources and saving lives more quickly;
  3. You develop or strengthen your relationships with other humane organizations by finding the spay/neuter program that also fits their needs.
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**A CLOSER LOOK AT THE SPAY/NEUTER ALLIANCE COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT FORM**

**ORGANIZATION INFORMATION**

- Name of Organization:
- Location:
- Name of Person Submitting:
- Phone Number:
- Email Address:

Our community assessment is an online form.  
This is the second step in the process to apply for NSNRT mentorship  
  
This is a hard copy version.

**DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

The ASPCA Spay/Neuter Alliance model is designed for clinics to be financially sustainable and high-volume. Industry standards place high-volume at 5,000 surgeries and above (5,000 surgeries per year with one vet). However, most organizations need to perform 8,400 surgeries per year (35 surgeries per day x 5 days per week x 48 weeks per year) to be sustainable and successful.

In order to accomplish the surgical goal of 8,400, you need to have a minimum human population of 250,000 within a 60-mile radius of the proposed clinic site.

- What is the population of your county?
- What is the population in a 60-mile radius around the proposed clinic site (you can find this information at [factfinder2.census.gov](http://factfinder2.census.gov))?

**PRIVATE VETERINARIAN PRICING**

- What is the average fee charged for a DOG SPAY in your area?
- What is the average fee charged for a DOG NEUTER in your area?
- What is the average fee charged for a CAT SPAY in your area?
- What is the average fee charged for a CAT NEUTER in your area?

To gather this information, call various vet offices in the area as if you were a prospective client.

Be sure to capture any other required fees, such as those for examinations or vaccines.

**EXISTING SPAY/NEUTER CAPACITY**

- What affordable spay/neuter services are currently available in the 60-mile radius of your area (e.g., stationary clinic, mobile clinic, shelter clinic, private veterinarians or voucher program)?
- Provide details on the top 5 programs below:

<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Est. Monthly Volume</b>	<b>Distance from your Proposed Location</b>	<b>Comments</b>

The analysis of current spay/neuter programs is especially important. For smaller communities, a voucher program along with a monthly free-roaming cat clinic may be enough coverage. In larger cities, the only spay/neuter clinic may be booked months ahead of time and not have room for expansion.

We are looking for a strategic analysis of what programs already exist before we accept a group into the NSNRT. To open a high quality, high-volume, stationary clinic requires tremendous resources. In some cases the community and the animals are best served NOT by another clinic but with partnerships and support of existing spay/neuter programs.

In other words, talk to the folks that run the current programs. Do they think your community needs another program? Are there ways to help them increase their surgical capacity? If another clinic is needed, what part of town makes sense? You will gather valuable insight and be on the road to a collaborative relationship.

**PARTNER ORGANIZATION INFORMATION**

In order to achieve your surgical goals and be sustainable, clinics will need to partner with other humane groups. These partners support your clinic goals by sending their adoption animals, promoting your clinic, offering vouchers or organizing a transport to the clinic.

- Do the majority of shelters, humane societies, and rescue groups have mandatory pre-adopt sterilization policies?
- Please detail potential partners:
- Type will include (open-admission shelter, limited-admission shelter, rescue group, breed rescue, foster group, other)

Name	Type	Contacted this org about bringing animals to your clinic?	Receptive?	How Many Animals Do They Anticipate Bringing Each Month?

This portion of the assessment will prompt valuable conversations with potential partners. What are they doing now for spay/neuter, at what prices and what are their future needs? If they don't have a mandatory pre-adoption sterilization policy, how can your clinic help increase adoption of altered animals?

If you are not getting a strong response from partners, your clinic would have to be sustainable with public business, therefore your population may have to be larger or you should consider a different clinic model.

We cannot stress enough the importance of developing your partnerships within the humane community. They will be the integral in the success of your clinic whether it be as transport partners, voucher partners, or by providing word-of-mouth advertising.