

# Dogsters Spay & Neuter Program



## D-SNiP Newsletter

Summer 2007

Fixing Pet Overpopulation One *Snip* at a Time!



### Run for a Good Cause

Our summer fundraiser is upon us! D-SNiP Board members and supporters are raising money for our cause while running and hiking the Mountain Park Classic Trail Run.

The event takes place Saturday, June 30 at 8:30 a.m. in the Durango Mountain Park on the west side of town.

In the weeks prior to the race, we will be collecting pledges for the four-mile trail run/walk from individual sponsors. We'd really appreciate your support!

This event will be a great way to educate people about the work we do in the community, as well as raise funds to continue our work of spaying and neutering dogs and cats.

If you want to participate or sponsor a participant in this event, please contact Stephanie Davenport at 970-259-6825, or email her at [dogstersspayandneuter@yahoo.com](mailto:dogstersspayandneuter@yahoo.com).

### Do the Math ...

1 fertile female dog X 1 year = 2 litters  
Average litter = 6 to 10 puppies  
1 female dog + her offspring X 6 years =  
67,000 dogs

1 fertile female cat X 1 year = 3 litters  
Average litter = 4 to 6 kittens  
1 female cat + her offspring X 7 years =  
420,000 cats

The Results:

Every 8 seconds, a cat or dog is euthanized in an animal shelter in the U.S.

Source: The Humane Society of the United States

### Spay Day a Success

D-SNiP thanks the Anschutz Family Foundation for its grant to help fund our February 2007 Spay Day month. We were able to SNiP 60 dogs and cats with their assistance! Thanks again to vet Becky James and the staff at Aspintree Animal Caring Center who volunteered their time to SNiP all these critters!



### New Ways to Reach Us!

Our new Web site is up and running, thanks to the efforts of D-SNiP volunteer Laurie Robison. For the latest information on our programs, you can now go to:

[www.dsnip.org](http://www.dsnip.org)

You can also email us at:  
[dogstersspayandneuter@yahoo.com](mailto:dogstersspayandneuter@yahoo.com)

or give us a call at:  
970 385-5676

*We'd love to hear from you!*



D-SNiP Web expert Laurie Robison takes her dogs out for a spin.

## Top Ten Training Mistakes

By Julie Winkelman, Alpha Canine Academy LLC



READY, SET, LEARN!

- 1) **Not getting an early start** - Ten weeks is a common age to begin puppy class. Early obedience training helps prevent problem behaviors and set guidelines.
- 2) **Reinforcing unwanted behavior** - Every interaction is a training session. Either you're training him or he's training you. Be conscious of everything you do with your dog.
- 3) **Poor Timing** - Work out the logistics of training sessions so your timing is as precise as possible. Using a treat bag attached to your belt and filled with small treats can be very helpful.
- 4) **Constant bribery** - Begin by rewarding your dog every time he responds correctly to commands. Later, when he responds correctly, use only intermittent rewards.
- 5) **Being stingy with rewards** - Even after your dog "knows" something, continue to offer rewards for good behavior on an intermittent basis. Be generous with praise and treats.
- 6) **Giving commands you don't enforce** - Never give a command you cannot or will not enforce. It's better to not give the command at all than to allow disobedience.
- 7) **Training only at home** - Dogs may not realize that what they learn at home applies to every situation. Practice in the house at first, then progress to the back yard, and then onto walks through town, etc.
- 8) **Losing your temper** - This merely teaches your dog you are erratic and undependable. If you're having a bad day, put training aside until both of you can better enjoy it.
- 9) **Repeating commands over and over** - Give a command once and give him a few seconds to comply. If he doesn't, give the command again and enforce it. Save rewards for times that your dog responds within the first two commands.

10) **Forgetting that your dog is a dog** - Dogs are not little furry humans. Once you realize that your pet is just a dog doing normal doggie things, it is easier to have patience and work through behavior problems.

Have fun and good luck!

## Safe Sex for Cats & Dogs



### Spay/Neuter Is Good for Your Pet

- It helps dogs and cats live longer, healthier lives.
- It can eliminate or reduce the incidence of a number of health problems that can be very difficult or expensive to treat.
- Spaying eliminates the possibility of uterine or ovarian cancer and reduces the incidence of breast cancer, particularly if done early.
- Neutering eliminates testicular cancer and decreases the incidence of prostate disease in male pets.

### Spay/Neuter Is Good for You

- It makes pets more affectionate companions.
- Neutering cats makes males less likely to spray and mark territory.
- Spaying eliminates heat cycles. Females in heat can cry incessantly, show nervous behavior, and attract unwanted male animals.
- Unsterilized animals often have more behavior problems than spayed or neutered ones.
- It can make pets less likely to bite.
- Neutering makes male pets less likely to roam, run away, or get into fights.

### Spay/Neuter is Good for Your Community

- Communities spend millions of dollars to control unwanted animals.
- Irresponsible breeding contributes to dog bites and attacks.
- Animal shelters are full of surplus animals.
- Stray pets and homeless animals get into trash containers, defecate in public areas and on private lawns, and can frighten or anger people.
- Stray animals threaten/kill birds and wildlife.



You can help -  
Please spay or neuter your pets!



# Helpful Hints



## Don't Cook Your Dog



It's a beautiful summer morning - you have the day off and are ready to hit the road to run errands. A stop at the library, the hardware store, a lunch date, and a stroll at the dog park for your furry friend.

Our dogs are part of our families, and we want to take them everywhere. But how many times have we intended to just run into the store and ended up in a 15-minute conversation with friends, neighbors, or the cashier? Our intentions are the best, but while we are visiting, shopping, etc., our dogs are languishing in what has become a portable greenhouse.

A Stanford University study showed that on a cloudless 72-degree day, temperatures in a car can rise to 116 degrees within an hour. It can take as little as 15 minutes for a dog's normal internal temperature to climb to levels which cause brain damage and death.

*On a cloudless 72-degree day, temperatures in a car can rise to 116 degrees within an hour.*

Dogs don't have the ability to sweat and must regulate their internal temperature through panting. As the air heats inside a car, the dog is forced to breathe in warm air and cannot cool itself. Its body temperature increases, and cells start to break down.

Initial signs of heat distress include agitation, intense and rapid panting, wide eyes, and salivation. Later stages include vomiting, staggering, lethargy, and weakness. The dog may hide under the seat of the car, as it is the lowest and coolest area of the vehicle.

As a former animal control officer, I responded many times to reports of overheated dogs in cars. Most incidents occurred at shopping centers. Windows were almost always cracked, and cars were often in the shade, but the temperature inside often exceeded 100 degrees.

If the dogs were in dire distress, I asked police to force entry into the vehicles, and I rushed the dogs to the vet. The owners were fined for animal cruelty. Two dogs I encountered perished as the result of being overheated. One had been in the car for 45 minutes while the owner "ran in for a few things" at Walmart.

In La Plata County, if an Animal Protection Officer believes a dog in a vehicle is in danger from the heat, they check the car for water, shade, cross ventilation, and measure the temperature in the car. If conditions are too hot, the dog is removed, and the owner is fined.



The best advice is to LEAVE YOUR DOG AT HOME! If you must take your dog with you, consider dropping your pet off at doggie daycare while you run errands. (You also should not leave your dog in the bed of a pickup truck, as the metal heats quickly and can burn its paws.)

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LEAVE YOUR DOG AT HOME!*

Some people leave their dogs in the car with the air conditioning running, but in some newer model cars, the air will automatically shut off if the engine gets too hot.

If your dog does become overheated, get your pet into the shade immediately, douse with cool water, and blow with a fan, if possible. Offer the dog small amounts of water. Seek vet assistance.

Finally, if you see a dog in a hot vehicle, note the make, model, color, license plate, and location of the vehicle and call the police immediately.

- Wendy Haugen  
Director, Foundation for Protection of Animals  
[www.protectionofanimals.org](http://www.protectionofanimals.org)

## Other Summer Safety Tips

- ♦ Keep plant food, fertilizer, and insecticides away from your pet - they are potentially lethal, if ingested.
- ♦ Check with your vet about heartworm medication.
- ♦ Closely supervise pets near swimming pools.
- ♦ Limit exercise to early morning or evening.
- ♦ Take extra care with older dogs, short-nosed dogs, and those with thick coats.
- ♦ Use only vet-recommended flea and tick treatments. (Some over-the-counter products are toxic.)
- ♦ Pets with light-colored noses or light-colored fur on their ears are vulnerable to sunburn and skin cancer.
- ♦ Don't take your pets to crowded summer events, such as concerts or fairs. Loud noises and crowds, combined with the heat, are stressful and dangerous.
- ♦ Closely supervise dogs who are frightened of thunder and/or fireworks.





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## You Can Help

D-SNiP was founded in 1999 in memory of Dogster, the beloved pet of Karen and Mark Zempel. We offer affordable spay and neuter surgeries through AspenTree Animal Caring Center to those who cannot afford the full cost.

### Board of Directors

Karen Zempel - President  
Sandy Bruce - Vice President  
Cynthia Stengel - Fundraising  
Stephanie Davenport - Sec./Treas.  
Ann Bond - Public Relations  
Becky James, D.V.M.

To Get Involved

or

Make a Donation,

Call us at:

970 385-5676

[www.dsnip.org](http://www.dsnip.org)

D-SNiP ...  
Solving the pet  
overpopulation problem  
one *SNiP* at a time!



### Who We Are

D-SNiP is a not-for-profit corporation (501(c)3 Tax ID#68-0587332), and all donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

### Mission Statement

D-SNiP seeks to end the tragedy of unwanted cats and dogs in our community by providing spay/neuter education and low-cost spay and neuter services to people who cannot afford them. We also provide emergency veterinary and foster care for animals in need on a case-by-case basis.

### How You Can Help

D-SNiP relies entirely on donations to offer low-cost spay and neuter services for pets in need. Join our effort!

