



# D-SNiP Newsletter

## Winter/Spring 2008

Fixing Pet Overpopulation One *Snip* at a Time!



Photo by Tom Cheatham

Aspentree Animal Caring Center makes it possible for D-SNiP to offer low-cost spay/neuter surgeries. We want to thank (top from left) Robin Stabler and Dr. Kirsten Fulton; (middle from left) Margo Lafferty, Aimee Hennman with White Kitty, Amy Brown; and (below) Dr. Becky James. Not pictured: Taura Hatcher. We couldn't do it without them!

### Accomplishments 2007

2007 Spay Month

Cat Spay/Neuters = 35

Dog Spay/Neuters = 17

2007 Feral Cat Spay/Neuters = 86

Other 2007 Spay/Neuters

Cat Spay/Neuters = 66

Dog Spay/Neuters = 29

Grand Total 2007 = 233 cats & dogs!

## Making a Difference



Last year, donations and grants to D-SNiP helped us spay and neuter 233 cats and dogs in La Plata County. Pet birth control is responsible, humane, and the right thing to do. Reducing the pet population to sustainable levels will result in not only less pain and suffering for animals, but fewer tax dollars spent on sheltering and euthanizing these innocent creatures. It will also ease all of our minds and hearts.

Please encourage anyone you know who feels they can't afford the cost of spay/neuter surgery to contact D-SNiP for information on our subsidy program.

As part of our annual observance of Spay Month, D-SNiP is again promoting low-cost spay and neuter surgeries for the full month of February, 2008. Last February, D-SNiP helped subsidize spay/neuter surgeries for 17 dogs and 35 cats in that one month alone! This year, we hope to do even more, thanks to special funding received from the Animal Assistance Foundation.

We do this in honor of Spay Day USA, a national campaign of the Doris Day Animal Foundation, whose goal is to save the lives of homeless animals through spaying and neutering. Please watch for our local advertisements for more information ... and help spread the word!



## Show That You Care

Our pets are our close companions, best friends and family members, but thousands of homeless pets in our community need our love, too. The first step in helping them is to spay or neuter our own pets.



## Saying Good bye to Very Special Family Members



El Rancho del Perro Feo will not be the same without its namesake, Emma.

All of us at D-SNIPI feel the loss of these two special creatures, and are reminded by their passing to enjoy the time we are able to share with our own pets.

Condolences to the Bruces and Zempels, and to all those families who have lost their beloved pets.

... And very loving farewells to Emma and Munchie.

Two of our D-SNIPI board members lost very special friends and family members this fall.

Sandy and Mike Bruce said good bye to their very unique girl, Emma, and Karen and Mark Zempel lost their little Munchie.

All of us who are animal lovers have been there before. Our pets are family, and their deaths leave huge holes in our lives. We are lucky if we can be there for them to the end, caring for and comforting them.



Little Munchie was best friend to our namesake, Dogster.

### In Memorial

**If you have lost a special critter, we can help memorialize the love you and your pet shared. Become a sponsor on our Pet Memorial Page. Call Karen Zempel at 970 385-5676 to learn how your donation can be personalized in honor of your departed pet ... and help other pets through our spay/neuter programs and emergency care.**



## Where To Bury a Dog

There are various places where a dog may be buried. Beneath a fruit tree or flowering shrub in the garden is an excellent place - where he may have slept in the drowsy summer, gnawed a bone, or lifted head to challenge an intruder. These are good places, in life, or in death.

However, if the dog is well remembered - if sometimes he leaps through your dreams as in life, eyes kindling, asking, laughing, begging - it matters not where that dog sleeps.

On a hill where the wind blows through the trees, beside a stream he knew in puppyhood, or in a meadow. It is all one to the dog, and all one to you, and nothing is gained, and nothing lost — if memory lives.

However, there is one place to bury a dog that is best of all. If you bury him in this spot, he will come to you when you call — come to you over the grim, dim frontiers of death, and down the well remembered path, and to your side again.

And though you call a dozen living dogs to heel, they should not growl at him, nor resent his coming, for he is yours and he belongs there.

People may scoff at you - people who may never have had a dog. They may not see a lightest blade of grass bent by his footfall, or hear his whimper.

Smile at them, for you shall know something that is hidden from them, and which is well worth knowing: The one best place to bury a dog is in the heart of his master.

*- Ben Hur Lampman,  
Author*

# Thank You to Our Donors for 2007



Everything we do is made possible by everything you do for us!

Below is a list of the very generous people who made it possible for D-SNiP to help the dogs and cats of La Plata County by controlling pet overpopulation in 2007. We believe there is no more generous gift than the gift of pet birth control, because it helps ensure that there are enough loving homes available for all dogs and cats.

Your donations to D-SNiP are tax deductible. See the back of this newsletter for more information on our organization. Your continued generosity will help us to expand our programs and develop new methods of helping our local communities control pet overpopulation.

*Thank you.*

Aitken, Sandy  
Albert, Kathy  
Alpha Canine Academy  
Animal Assistance Foundation  
Arny, Trish Ireland  
Aspentree Animal Caring Center  
Barlow, Danah  
Bayfield Animal Hospital  
Beard, Dana  
Behner, Clark  
Betley, Mark & Carlene  
Bilgrav, Zane & Mary  
Bond, Ann  
Boos, Steven  
Borg, Ingrid  
Bruce, Michael and Sandy  
Bryant, Lori M.  
Carmack, Gina  
Caskey, Melissa  
Cheatham, Tom  
Chilson, Gary & Debbie  
City Market Cares  
Collette, Victoria  
Connell, Harold & Shannon  
Davenport, Michael & Stephanie  
David, Jeanne  
Davidson, Mike & Marie  
Davis, Ian & Shawna  
Deller, Jodie  
Dominican Sisters  
DuChateau, George & Melanie  
Dunaway, Mike & Linda  
Durango Kennel Club  
Dutton, Barb & Richard  
Eggett, Edith  
Eisner, Kim  
Ey, Patricia O'Kane  
Fogleman, Gen. Ron & Miss Jane  
Formby, Stan & Gail  
Foster-Mitchell, Sandra  
Foundation For Protection of Animals  
Garcia, Debra & Cristobal  
Garner, Russell & Tracey  
Gaskell, Catherine

Gerodetti, Mary  
Goldman, Jan A.  
Goodman, Annabelle  
Graybeal, Andrew & Tracy  
Hamby, Shane  
Hamlen, Marian  
Healthy Hounds & Fat Cats  
Heavenrich, John  
Heikens, K. L.  
High Mountain Personal Training LLC  
Hobbs, Ronald  
Hoover, John & Lou Etta  
Hornbaker, Charlene  
Householder, Michelle  
Huggins, Samantha  
Irish, Jim & Bridget  
Kimmick, Bob & Padgie  
Kirol, Michael & Jean  
Klingener, Elyse  
Koch, Bill & Jan  
La Plata Electric Association  
Laughlin, John & Lisa  
Lawrence, Beverly  
Legrand, Mara  
Lingenfelder, Terry & Dale  
Lovelace, Britt & Betsy  
Mailroom & Copy Center  
Mansfield, Becky L.  
Martin, Elaine  
Masor, Marc & Sher  
Masterson, Kurt & Jade  
May, Bill & Linda  
McCarl, Thomas & Kim  
McCoy, Joanne  
McKinney, Warren & Susan  
Mountain Mobile Animal Hospital  
Musick, Deborah  
North Central Trust  
Obrecht Foundation  
Officer, Nancy  
Ogier, John & Kathryn  
Oliveira, Michelle M.  
Orsini, Tom & Mary  
Pahlmeyer, Perry

Parker, Lisa  
Peterson, Stephen & Ruth  
Pettigrew, Ron & Janet  
Philanthropy Days  
Pierre, Danny  
Prose, Barb & Don, Ed  
Ragsdale, JW & Johnie  
Reagan, Randy & Laura  
Rebbin, Tom & Dianne  
Recycle 1st  
Riches, Susan  
Rickard, Laura  
Roach, Chris & Pat  
Robinson, Tom & Jan  
Salazar, Elliott & Pam  
Salkind, Elizabeth  
Satterwhite, Marguerite  
Sayre, Bill & MaryAnn  
Schaerer, Christy  
Schuh, Crystal  
Schultz, Michael & Jane  
Senteney, Charlene  
Shadell, Kathleen  
Shea, Martha  
Simonson, Doug & Ann  
Simpson, Brice & Jeannette  
Smith, Patricia  
Smith, Phillip & Helen  
Smith, Sarah  
Smith, Steve & Rebecca  
Spriggs, June  
Stengel, Cynthia  
Stephenson, John & Charlene  
Stutey, Steven  
Sundstrum, E. A. & M. K  
Temple, David & Patricia  
Thompson, Tonia  
Tilburt-Black, Diana  
Tile Art  
Wieser, Molly  
Wotkyns, James  
Wright, Lois  
Zempel, Mark & Karen

**Dogster's Spay and Neuter Program - We're D-SNiPi**





# Spay/Neuter Saves Lives

Dogster's Spay and Neuter Program - We're D-SNiP!

## Need a Cheap Fix?



As you can see in the column to the right - in seven years, one female cat can produce 420,000 offspring, while one female dog can produce 67,000 puppies. Each year 8-10 million kittens and puppies are born in the United States, and only half of those animals find homes. The rest of them are euthanized in animal shelters or suffer harsh death through disease, starvation, and neglect.

There are lots of other good reasons to spay or neuter our pets, including:

- Spayed female pets will not get certain types of cancer.
- Neutered male pets have a decreased tendency to roam and show a decrease in dominance/aggressive behavior with people and other animals.
- Spayed and neutered animals are less likely to mark their territory.
- Puppies and kittens can be safely fixed as young as five weeks, assuring no early "mishaps."

For these reasons, the Fund for the Protection of Animals is proud to have been able to provide D-SNiP with a grant to help offer low-cost surgeries for families in La Plata County.

- Wendy Haugen  
Executive Director  
Fund for the Protection of Animals

**Dogster's Spay & Neuter Program  
- We're D-SNiP!**

**dogstersspayneuter@yahoo.com  
970-385-5676  
www.dsnip.org**



## Do The Math



**1 female dog = 2 litters a year  
Average litter = 6 to 10 puppies  
In 6 years, this = 67,000 dogs**

**1 female cat = 3 litters a year  
Average litter = 4 to 6 kittens  
In 7 years, this = 420,000 cats**

**Cats and dogs in shelters:  
6-8 million annually**

**Number euthanized  
each year: 3-4 million**

**Number adopted each year:  
3-4 million**

**Number of animal shelters in U.S.  
4,000 -6,000**

**Number of purebred dogs in shelters:  
25%**

## Don't Litter



**Fix Your Critter**

# Our Board Members Help Out



## Meet Our Newest Board Member

We are proud to welcome Padgie Kimmick as a member of the board of D-SNiP. Padgie has worked with us for years performing "Trap-Neuter-Return" of feral cats in La Plata County.

When a local business or homeowner calls with a feral cat problem, Padgie is there to help. Her clients are willing to take on the responsibility of putting food out for the wild cats, but don't want the populations to grow.

Padgie sets out baited humane traps in the evening and returns by dawn the next morning to collect them. She delivers the cats to local vet offices, where spay or neuter surgeries are subsidized through D-SNiP.

"We just work them in whenever she brings them in," says Margo Lafferty, a technician at Aspentree Animal Caring Center.

After convalescing, the cats are picked up by Padgie and returned back to their homes - good as new, or better - because they won't be reproducing.

Padgie's clients have included La Plata Election Association, the Animas-La Plata Project, Dancing Willow Herbs, and Steamworks in Bayfield.



Photo by Ann Bond

Padgie Kimmick with kittens she fostered and put up for adoption during the great Hurricane Katrina pet rescue.

Padgie estimates she has handled 250 cats this year, and 450 over the past four years. While most of the adult felines are returned to live as feral cats because they're too wild, many of the kittens she catches can be tamed. After surgery, they're pampered and socialized at Padgie's Cattery and offered for adoption.

Padgie's procedure is advocated by the Humane Society of the United States. As a total cat lover, she explains; "We just don't need any more kittens!"

Here's a great new way to support D-SNiP and help out your eyes at the same time. We have a complete line of unique plastic readers that come in a variety of multi-colors. (We wish we could show them to you in color - they're vibrant and make a real fashion statement!)

The readers are a quality product, available in diopters, or strengths, from 1 to 3. They have spring hinges at the temple and come with a decorated case. For \$15, you get a pair of glasses and help D-SNiP.

For more information or to place an order, call Sandy Bruce at 970 247-4345 or Michelle Householder, *A Sp-aah for Hands and Feet*, 2929 Main Ave Suite #A-3, at 970 749-7956.

## I Can See Clearly Now



Photo by Tom Cheatham

D-SNiP board member Sandy Bruce models our latest fundraising opportunity.

Dogster's Spay and Neuter Program - We're D-SNiPi





Prsrt STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
DURANGO, CO  
PERMIT NO. 12

10 Town Plaza, #115  
Durango, Colorado 81301

## You Can Help!

**D-SNiP** was founded in 1999 in memory of Dogster, the beloved pet of Karen and Mark Zempel. Through donations, we are able to offer affordable spay and neuter surgeries at AspenTree Animal Caring Center to those who cannot afford the full cost.

### 2008 Board of Directors

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

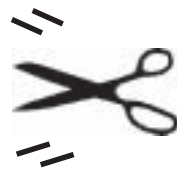
[dogstersspayneuter@yahoo.com](mailto:dogstersspayneuter@yahoo.com)

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/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 and grants to offer low-cost spay and neuter services for pets in need. Join our effort!