



*W*e asked you to “Do It For Love,” and you did! From the far northwest corner of Washington state, to the southern-most tip of Florida; from frigid Alaska to tropical Guam; people who care about animals—veterinary and humane society professionals, business representatives, students, lay volunteers, animal guardians, feral cat colony caretakers, the entire staff of an optometry clinic, a well-known actress, and even a movie director and screenwriter—joined forces for the Doris Day Animal Foundation’s 12th annual Spay Day USA, spaying or

neutering tens of thousands of animals, broadcasting the life-saving message of spay/neuter across the nation, and raising thousands of dollars to subsidize the cost of spay/neuter surgeries for animals most in need!

## SPAY/NEUTER EVENTS

Eighty-two percent of the more than four hundred registered Spay Day

USA events entailed the spaying or neutering of animals. Many of these spay/neuter events focused on animals most frequently euthanized in shelters—cats and pit bull dogs. Houston's Spay-Neuter Assistance Program, for example, neutered 224 male cats in one day, for just a nickel each. During a two-day period, the Foundation for Animals In Risk in Tucson, AZ, spayed or neutered 57 cats and pit bull dogs for a mere \$5 co-pay. Showing that Spay Day USA is not just for cats and

dogs, the Humane Society of Kodiak, Alaska, spayed or neutered, at a 50% discount, 6 rabbits in addition to 9 cats and 45 dogs.

Thanks to the generous estate of

Jeannette Rohe, DDAF was able to award matching grants to 14 organizations, enabling each to double the number of animals spayed or neutered during their Spay Day USA events. Awardees of this grant included the Animal Rescue League of Western Pennsylvania in Pittsburgh (please see We Get Letters on page 6), which altered 28 cats and dogs; the Humane Society of Decatur and Macon County in Decatur, IL, which altered 123 cats and dogs; the Society for the Improvement of the Condition of Stray Animals in Kettering, Ohio which altered 134 cats; the Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Project in Seattle, WA, which altered 181 feral (untamed) cats, and the Pet Over-Population Prevention Advocates in Beaverton, OR, which altered over 1,100 cats!

California's Sacramento Area Animal Coalition, under the leadership of Jennifer Fearing, once again organized the biggest single-day Spay Day USA spay/neuter event, altering more than 650 animals in 16 locations on the Sunday before Spay Day USA. DDAF director of programs Vicki Stevens visited five of the locations, including the veterinary school of the University of California at Davis, where nearly 300 faculty and students volunteered.

Nearly all the veterinary clinics in Bellingham, WA, participated in Spay Day USA once again, thanks to veterinarian Karen Mueller, organizer extraordinaire! A banner, stretched across Main Street, proudly proclaiming February 28 "Spay Day USA," as 179 cats and dogs were spayed or neutered at 11 locations throughout the city. Vicki Stevens, as well as DDAL staffers Julia Janak and Richard De Angelis,

visited and actively participated at the Cat Clinic, where Dr. Mueller, along with clinic owner Dr. Cay Gilbertson and staff, altered 40 cats on Spay Day USA.

Actress Jenna Fischer, star of NBC's hit television show "The Office," and her husband, writer/director James Gunn ("Slither," "Dawn of the Dead," "Scooby Doo"), visited the Shenandoah Animal Clinic in Los Angeles,



Photo credit: Michael Burke



CA, on Spay Day USA. Veterinarian Lilli Forbrich performed spay/neuter surgeries the entire day, altering a total of 10 cats and dogs. Dr. Lisa Harris altered an additional cat, making their Spay Day USA grand total 11 animals!

*"It is amazing how many folks say that this \$20 discount makes the difference between having the surgery done and not having it done, so we know our event does make a difference."*

*—Kathy Wiggins of the Barry County Humane Society in Hastings, MI.*

**Photos this page, top: DDAF's Vicki Stevens with Dr. Thomas Kendall, former veterinary advisor on the "Doris Day's Best Friends" show, and currently of the Arden Animal Hospital in Sacramento, CA; center: Jenna Fischer and James Gunn with Dr. Lilli Forbrich of the Shendandoah Animal Clinic in Los Angeles, and basset hound Sam; bottom: Volunteers Karin Mueller (left) and her daughter, Ashley (right), with DDAF's Vicki Stevens (center) at the Cat Clinic in Bellingham, WA**



dog kennel next to a major highway on a cold February day. The event generated positive media coverage of the benefits of spay/neuter and raised \$1,700.

- Dr. Dale Edelson displayed Spay Day USA materials during the month of February at

his optometry offices in Rancho Cucamonga and Chino, CA. Staff sold OptiPets eye glass holders, donating \$2,400 in proceeds to DDAF for Spay Day USA.

- Carol Lillis of the Eileen Hawthorne Foundation in Fort Bragg, CA, and Lisa Baker of the Garrett County Humane Society in Swanton, MD, installed spay/neuter billboards along busy highways in their respective cities.

- Student group Speak Out for Species held a screening of the film, "Best Friends Forgotten" at the University of Georgia in Athens.

- The Humane Animal Treatment Society of Mount Pleasant, MI, held a nonfiction essay contest for students at Central Michigan University. First place winner Jennifer Chisnell explained, "I wanted to reach out to fellow students...[who] sometimes get pets and then abandon them when they move. This is outright animal abuse."

## IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED

The states of California, Connecticut, Kentucky, and Texas, in addition to numerous counties and cities, issued resolutions formally recognizing Tuesday, February 28, 2006 as "Spay Day USA."

## VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION ENDORSEMENTS

The Kentucky and Vermont Veterinary Medical Associations signed statements officially endorsing Spay Day USA "as a means of encouraging the general public to spay or neuter their pets in order to improve pet health and behavior, and to reduce the number of animals relinquished to, and euthanized in, shelters each year."

## PETS 911

For the sixth year in a row, PETS 911 generously donated the Spay Day USA online registering and reporting system, which permits animal guardians to quickly and easily find the Spay Day USA event nearest them simply by punching in their zip code online ([www.PETS911.com](http://www.PETS911.com)) or over the phone (1-888-PETS-911). PETS 911 also provided personalized, celebrity Spay Day USA TV and radio

PSAs to event organizers. Kate Donlon, President of PETS 911, said, "PETS911 is once again honored to support Spay Day USA in ways which contribute to our shared vision of

ending the euthanasia of healthy, adoptable pets."

Visit [www.SpayDayUSA.org](http://www.SpayDayUSA.org) to read more about Spay Day USA 2006, and to get started on Spay Day USA 2007! 



## FUNDRAISING AND EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

While spay/neuter clinics are by far the most popular way to participate in Spay Day USA, 18% of all registered events focused on crucial fundraising and educational activities.

- The Peninsula Spay/Neuter Project in Burley, WA, raised an outstanding \$11,000 during its "Whiskers Wine & Dine" vegetarian "spaghetti" dinner, wine tasting, and silent auction event.
- The Happy Hills Animal Foundation in Staley, NC, reports that during its "Caged for Critters" event, Cheryl Routh and office manager Linda Ledbetter locked themselves inside a

Photos this page, top: Spay Day USA underway at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine in Sacramento, CA.; center left: James Gunn and Jenna Fischer with Beethoven; center right: DDAL's Julia Janak fills syringes at the Cat Clinic in Bellingham, WA.; bottom: Kathy Halloran's "Do It For Love" window display in Chico, CA.; far right: The dedicated staff of 911, Jo Ann Bunn, K. Dotson and Kate Donlon, who have generously donated on online event registration and reporting systems for the past 6 years.