



ARC NEWS

Summer 2002

A publication of the Animal Rights Coalition to promote a compassionate world

Minnesota Spay/Neuter Launches 2002 Projects

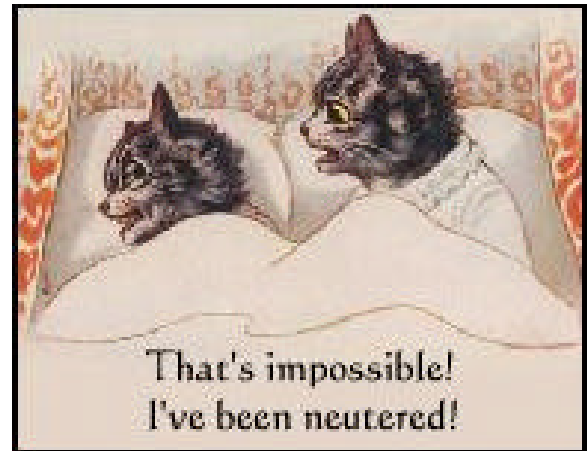
The Minnesota Spay/Neuter Project (MSNP) is conducting its second project in East St. Paul. The project, which provides surgical/veterinary services at a participating veterinary facility to qualifying low-income families, started on March 1st and is expected to last for eight weeks. Services provided for the 50 cats and dogs in the project include:

- Spay/neuter surgery including pre-surgical and intra-operative pain management, anesthesia, and fluids support
- Insertion of "Home Again" microchip identification
- Administration of rabies and distemper vaccines
- Distribution of information regarding post-operative care and pain management

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Because pet overpopulation is no joke, this issue of the ARC Newsletter focuses on local spay/neuter efforts and reveals Minnesota's Dirty Little Secret (page 4).

City Limits Spay/Neuter Initiatives Group Helps the Cause

Former ARC President Mary Britton Clouse has formed City Limits Spay/Neuter Initiatives (<http://home.mn.rr.com/citylimits/>) to help Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area shelters promote companion animal sterilization in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. Projects being explored include a registry of Minnesota animal rescue and assistance organizations, a cooperative urban feral cat program, and arts-related fundraising events for low-income spay/neuter programs.

City Limits publishes the annual *2001 Metro Area Animal Shelter Survey* and the updated *Seven-County Metro Area Holding Facilities for Lost and Found Animals* to increase awareness about the number of companion animals impounded in shelters and the location of those shelters. The current Animal Shelter Survey shows that in 2000, at least 45,836 animals were sheltered; 22,929 of them found new homes, but 16,663 animals weren't so lucky and were euthanized.

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Meetings and Events Calendar

ARC in Action (AIA) Meetings

AIA meetings are held the second Saturday of every month from 10:00 – 11:00 am. Please join us to work on current projects and campaigns. This is a great way to meet other people who care about animals. The ARC office is located at 3249 Hennepin Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The office is open every Wednesday from noon - 8:00.

May Day Festival, Powderhorn Park, Minneapolis Sun., May 5, 1 - 6

Please stop by the ARC Booth. In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre's May Day Parade and Festival is eagerly anticipated by thousands who flock to the parade route and ceremony site to join this joyous spring ritual.

ARC Garage Sale, 5042 Nicollet Ave. So. Minneapolis / Sat., June 15, 8 - 3

Please call Sandra at 612-827-4321 for information on where/when to drop off donations. This is ARC's biggest fundraiser of the year, so please consider cleaning out that closet/garage/storage shed and donating quality items to ARC. If donating clothes, baby and kid's clothing only (no adult clothing). Volunteers are needed to help at the sale and also for sorting and pricing from 5 to 8 on Friday evening, June 14. Call 612-822-6161 to volunteer.

GLBT Pride, Loring Park, Minneapolis Sat., June 29, 10 - 8 & Sun., June 30, noon - 6

Please stop by the ARC Booth. We'll be featuring displays and literature about companion animal overpopulation, pet stores, puppy mills, and becoming a vegetarian. If you're interested in helping staff the booth, call 612-822-6161 to volunteer.

Twin Cities No-Kill Animal Walk and Vigil Sat., August 3

On the evening of August 3rd, after the No-Kill Animal Walk, there will be a candlelight vigil at the Animal Ark shelter in recognition of animals killed in area shelters and pounds. In addition to candles, the shelter plans a display of Christmas lights – one light for each animal killed at a shelter or pound in the Metro area. To achieve this goal, they need donations of 20,000 lights. For more info, go to page 5 or www.animalarkshelter.org

Education Minnesota Professional Conference RiverCentre, St. Paul, Thurs., October 17

ARC volunteers will be showing computer-aided alternatives to dissection and passing out literature.

CDC Issues New Warnings About Bacteria at Animal Exhibits

Reprinted from the Star Tribune, Fri., April 20, 2001

ATLANTA — Thousands of children are being exposed to dangerous E coli bacteria at petting zoos and county fairs, the government said Thursday in releasing new warnings about farm animal exhibits. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) cited E coli outbreaks last year that sickened 56 people, including dozens of children, at a dairy farm in Pennsylvania and a petting zoo in Washington State.

The children touched goats, cows, chickens, and other farm animals, then put their hands to their mouths – either by eating and drinking near the animals or by chewing their fingernails or sucking on pacifiers.

The CDC issued new guidelines for open animal exhibits, stressing that organizers should provide more adequate hand washing facilities and ban hand-to-mouth contact close to the animals.

Inadequate Hygiene Available

In Pennsylvania, 51 people, mostly children, became sick from E. coli last fall after visiting a dairy farm where the public can touch the animals. The CDC said sinks for washing were out of children's reach.

Last spring, four people became sick at the Washington zoo. A fifth was sickened after a sibling visited the zoo. Nineteen of the 56 people were hospitalized. Symptoms of E. coli infection include fever, vomiting, and severe diarrhea.

Merrymeade Farm of Lansdale, Pennsylvania owners are installing double fencing around animals and adding washing stations, spokesman Steve Quigley said. ✨

We always knew animal exhibits and petting zoos were bad for the animals. Apparently, they are none too healthy for humans either.

City Limits continued from page 1

Not all facilities responded

The largest single source of animal intake in the metro area, the ANIMAL HUMANE SOCIETY (AHS) in Golden Valley, did not respond. Estimates for the number of animals euthanized at their facility were based on their 1998 and 2000 IRS Form 990s, which reported the number of animals received and placed.

Some facilities starting new programs

In their responses to the 2001 survey, several facilities mentioned encouraging new programs to promote spay/neuter:

- THE HUMANE SOCIETY FOR COMPANION ANIMALS (in St. Paul): HSCA has four limited sterilization initiatives, three of which are partnerships with other organizations. HSCA has a program with the U of M Veterinary College in which senior vet students spay/neuter HSCA animals prior to adoption. Approximately 750 animals per year are sterilized through this program. HSCA also has similar programs that are smaller and about 100 animals are sterilized annually. Additionally, HSCA has a designated Animal Care Fund that provides resources for spay/neuter and other health care needs of animals in its care.
- ST. PAUL ANIMAL CONTROL: With the encouragement of Mayor Kelly, SPAC is drafting two proposals for spay/neuter-related ordinances:
 - Establish a license cost differential between neutered and un-neutered dogs as an incentive.
 - Guardians reclaiming a dog or cat pay a deposit to be reimbursed upon presenting a receipt from a veterinarian documenting that the animal has been sterilized.

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It's kitten season. Please don't litter.

Visit ARC on the Web



***Read the latest
animal news online***

www.animalrightscoalition.com

Local Sites Worth a Look

Animal Ark (no-kill animal shelter)
<http://www.animalarkshelter.org/>

City Limits Spay/Neuter Initiatives
<http://home.mn.rr.com/citylimits/>

Earth Exchange
www.earthexchange.org

Midwest Farm Animal Rescue
<http://www.mfar.org>

Minnesota's Shame (MN Pound Seizure Law)
http://www.fpage.com/dsmith/mn_shame.htm

Minnesota Spay/Neuter Project
www.geocities.com/mnspayneuter/
(site currently under construction)

Minnesota Wildlife Haven
<http://www.mnwildlifehaven.org>
(looking for volunteers)

Online Versions of Some Favorite Magazines

Animal People
<http://www.animalpeoplenews.org/>

The Animals' Agenda
www.animalsagenda.org/

The Animals Voice
<http://www.animalsvoice.com/>

Earth Exchange

A new approach to the environment

Earth Exchange, an upscale second-hand store in Maple Grove, MN gives new meaning to “reduce, reuse, recycle.” Owner, and ARC member, Monika Hoffmann, long an advocate of environmental issues and animal rights, founded Earth Exchange as her answer to the question “How can I bring these messages to people so that they will be the most receptive?”

Her approach is ambitious: a makeover of 13,000 square feet of retail space into an environmentally friendly and educational local resource. Waves of soft color move over the walls, presenting earth-friendly messages artfully displayed and an information center offers brochures, pins, bumper stickers, and posters. The merchandise provides a browser’s paradise – aisles of affordable clothing, household items, and furniture, with new items arriving daily.

An Earth Day opening

Earth Exchange opened, appropriately enough, on Earth Day 2001. Reducing consumption through reuse is creating an impression, with many people becoming repeat customers. As her business grows, Monika hopes to find other like-minded people to open more Earth Exchange stores in the metro area and help her spread the message of sustainability.

All the details

Earth Exchange
Zachary Square Shopping Center
11425 96th Ave. N., Maple Grove, MN
763-315-0826

Hours:

Mon. through Thurs. 10 am–8 pm,

Fri. 10 am–6 pm,

Sat. 10 am–5 pm,

Sun. 11 am–4 pm

Web : www.earthexchange.org

***Bring in this article and receive 10% off
any used merchandise in the store!***

Did You Know?

ARC volunteers distributed over 100 copies of a book introducing animal rights as part of Earth Day activities at Patrick Henry High School in Minneapolis



Earth Day – Every Day

Minnesota's Dirty Little Secret

In the Twin Cities *Minnesota Nice* does not appear to extend to our companion animals, at least not from the perspective of many in our community charged with animal care. While some argue that the companion animal overpopulation problem is improving, a review of statistics dating back to the late 1970’s shows the problem is getting worse, not better.

An increasing number of needy animals

Statistics published by the Animal Humane Society (the largest shelter in our state) show a level volume of intake from 1978 to the present. During the same time period however, new shelters and rescue organization have been established in our area to handle additional animals, suggesting that the overall number of animals requiring shelter or rescue has increased.

Based on a survey conducted by City Limits Spay/Neuter Initiatives, about 50,000 animals are abandoned at shelters and pounds in the metro area annually. As many as 40% of those animals are killed every year. Each year, approximately 100 tons of dog and cat carcasses are disposed of in the Twin Cities metro area.

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Join the Twin Cities Only No-Kill Animal Walk

Animal Ark Announces 2002 Animal Walk



On Saturday, August 3rd, the Twin Cities only No-Kill Animal Walk will take place at Minnehaha Park in south Minneapolis as a benefit for the Animal Ark no-kill shelter. Check the Animal Ark web page (www.animalarkshelter.org) or call 651-438-9195 for more information.

Paper pledge forms will be available June 1st. E-pledges are being accepted now through the Animal Ark web site.

MN Spay/Neuter continued from page 1

Of the completed surgeries, 20% of the females have been pregnant. Many households being serviced have multiple animals, often consisting of both males and females, creating a high risk and incidence of reproduction. Participating animals range in age from three months to seven years and over 80% have never been seen by a veterinarian.

Fostering community involvement

MSNP has developed operational and veterinary procedures to standardize and provide high quality surgical procedures, including anesthesia and pain management, to minimize risk to the animals. These procedures were adapted from guidelines developed and used by the Spay Neuter Assistance Program, Inc. a spay/neuter clinic founded in 1990 in Houston, Texas through funding provided by The Fund for Animals.

The goal of each project is to encourage community involvement and collaboration between local animal control, animal rescue/advocacy groups, neighborhood associations, council members, and one or more local veterinary facilities within a specific area. Animal control provides information on target areas and referrals to MSNP services. Animal rescue/advocacy groups provide referral support for clients who cannot be included in the project. Veterinarian and animal health suppliers provide their services and products at a discount. Local legislators and neighborhood leaders provide promotional contacts and support through free local newspapers and neighborhood newsletters.

Benefiting animals and residents

MSNP's mission is to provide spay/neuter, basic veterinary care, and educational services for companion dogs and cats in low-income neighborhoods within the seven-county metro area. The project also encourages responsible animal care and provides information on resources regarding animal care and behavior issues. MSNP will also follow up with North Minneapolis residents who participated in the Spring 2001 pilot project to discover the current status of the animals in their care.

MSNP services greatly benefit the communities they serve. Besides the immeasurable benefit associated with the quality of life for animals and residents in these neighborhoods, there are also direct costs associated with uncontrolled animal populations. For example, each pair of non-sterilized dogs or cats can produce an average of three to four offspring per litter. In just one year of life, the 50 dogs and cats MSNP sterilizes can save the community the expense and hardship related to 200 additional animals. The costs for animal control to pick up and impound, kill, and dispose of an animal are estimated at \$100 per animal, for a net savings to taxpayers of \$20,000 for each year these animals would have reproduced. ✂



***Spay
Today***

Memorials

They do not go silently, the animals who've shared our lives. In subtle ways they let us know their spirit still survives.

Remembering precious Kasha
Loved and missed by Sandra and his
many feline housemates

Sassy, thank you for all the joy you
brought to my life – Danny

In memory of Little Rusty Dog
Much loved friend to Mary and Bert

City Limits continued from page 3

- **MINNEAPOLIS ANIMAL CONTROL:** MAC has three initiatives recently instituted or in progress to promote sterilization:
 - All adoptions require sterilization of the adopted animal within a designated time period. This is not only a condition of the adoption but also is required by city ordinance. Failure to sterilize may result in a citation and/or the seizure of the animal.
 - There is now a significant spay/neuter price differential for companion animal licenses required for cats and dogs in Minneapolis. Beginning in 2002, the companion animal license fee for an altered animal is \$15 and the fee for an intact animal is \$30.
 - An ordinance amendment is being formulated that would require guardians to pay a spay/neuter deposit when they recover intact animals over six months of age. The deposit would be reimbursed upon a guardian showing that the animal had been altered. Otherwise, the guardian would forfeit the deposit.
- **MINNESOTA VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY:** MVHS has created a Subsidized Community Spay/Neuter Program that provides a \$25 to \$50 post-surgical rebate for up to two animals for households with an annual income of less than \$26,000. ✂

Tofu Fajitas Sizzle at Bar Abilene

Need to find a place that will please vegetarians and non-vegetarians alike? If so, Bar Abilene in Uptown is worth a visit. It offers both traditional and vegetarian variations on the Tex-Mex theme. The menu offers something for everyone and a Prickly Pear Cactus Margarita might take the edge off watching your dinner companion chew on steak.

Appetizers offer a variety of vegetarian Tex-Mex fusion dishes. One of the most arresting presentations is the black bean humus with red chile oil and toasted flour tortillas topped with a crown of fried plantains. Potato-pepper jack flautas with salsa and smoked tomato aioli were a hit with everyone and won the vote for favorite appetizer. The guacamole prepared tableside with mortar and pestle may not be up to the high standards set by Gabriella's in Santa Fe, but in the land of Betty Crocker, it's a good substitute.

Varied veggie selections

Many veggie entrees: spaghetti with tomato, basil, and shaved parmesan, tofu fajitas with grilled vegetables and flour tortillas, roasted wild mushroom pizza with cheese and smoked tomato, wild mushroom quesadillas with roasted corn relish, and a southwestern vegetarian platter.

All side orders are veggie: roasted vegetables, black bean enchiladas, garlic mashed potatoes, corn or flour tortillas, french fries with smoked tomato aioli, jicama slaw, and thinly sliced batter-fried onion rings. With generous portions, a salad and a side will leave you very full with a very small bill.

On each visit the wait staff was attentive and offered alternatives to what was listed on the menu. On one visit, noticing that only vegetarian food was being ordered, our waitress alerted one diner to the fact that the Portobello mushroom burger he had ordered was a hamburger with mushroom and not a true vegetarian mushroom burger.

The down side

Be prepared for pony skin upholstery on the bar stools and a very limited selection of vegan options. One last caveat is that the dining room and bar area can be quite noisy, particularly after work and on weekends when Uptown is in full swing. ✂

According to many in the animal rescue community, the problem is exacerbated because the very groups charged with solving the problem are not doing so, thereby leaving the metro area more than a decade behind more progressive cities.

Proven strategies ignored by some MN shelters

San Francisco, Seattle, New Hampshire, and many other areas of the country address animal overpopulation by dealing with the underlying cause – irresponsible breeding. This is accomplished primarily through aggressive sterilization and identification programs that keep fertile animals off the streets. Preventing irresponsible breeding is the only way to reduce unnecessary killing. In Minnesota, however, these proven strategies have either been ignored or downright resisted by the shelters most capable of implementing such programs. Some in the shelter community even work to conceal the extent of the overpopulation problem.

Scanty reporting from kill-based shelters

There is a growing trend among kill-based shelters to not report the numbers of animals killed. The combination of sanitized marketing materials and a failure to report euthanasia statistics effectively hides a growing crisis.

Some of the metro area’s largest shelters are not implementing high-volume, low-cost sterilization programs and are adopting out fertile animals. This is in stark contrast to the many small rescue groups serving the metro area, virtually all of whom spay or neuter animals prior to adoption. The Animal Humane Society in Golden Valley only recently started spaying and neutering. The Humane Society for Companion Animals and the Minnesota Valley Humane Society have limited programs in place, but both groups still adopt out fertile dogs and cats. None of these organizations provide high-volume, low-cost spay/neuter services to the community.

Lack of money is not the issue

All of these facilities have sufficient resources to sterilize the animals that come through their facilities. They also have sufficient resources to conduct large-scale spay/neuter initiatives (for example, in 2000, AHS brought in \$5.7 million in revenue while their expenses were only \$3.1 million).

It has fallen to the smaller, less well-funded organizations to solve the companion animal overpopulation problem. ARC is working closely with and supporting these organizations and has given a grant to Minnesota Spay/Neuter in support of their programs. ✨

BECOME AN ARC MEMBER

Name (please print) _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Email _____ Phone: _____

<input type="checkbox"/>	\$35	Basic Annual Membership
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50	Patron Membership
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100	Benefactor Membership
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1000	Lifetime Membership
	_____	Other Donation

Your membership dues are tax deductible and automatically entitle you to receive ARC’s newsletter. Send your check or money order payable to: Animal Rights Coalition, Inc., P.O. 8750, Minneapolis, MN 55408. Thank you!

Give an ARC membership as a gift. ARC will send a greeting card announcing your gift.

Send the card to: Name (please print) _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____

Animal Rights Coalition, Inc.
P.O. Box 8750
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Non-Profit Org. US Postage Paid Permit No. 3406
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*For over 20 years ARC has been dedicated to ending
the suffering, abuse, and exploitation of non-human animals
through education, activism, and intervention.*

ARC is now part of the new **Animal Ark Affiliate Program** that allows ARC members to purchase premium food and animal-related products, and help ARC at the same time. Purchases made from our new, online catalog benefit both ARC and Animal Ark of Hastings, Minnesota, a no-kill animal shelter. Helping out is as easy as going online to purchase your companion animal's food. Just visit the ARC web site at www.animalrightscoalition.com and click on the "Catalog" link from the home page.

There is a great selection of items so please consider doing some of your shopping here! Foods offered for sale have been reviewed by Dr. Linda Wolf, DVM, and meet strict criteria.

To learn why you should be concerned about most commercial companion animal foods, visit the Animal Ark web site at <http://www.animalarkshelter.org> and click on the "Articles" link from the home page. ✂

