



2015 State Leaders Retreat

Summary of Workshops

Wednesday March 25th, 2015

11:15a.m.- 12:15p.m.

“Show and Tell” Round Table Discussion: What’s working best for your State?

The 2013 State of Pet Health Report, released by Banfield Pet Hospital, found that in some states, dogs and cats live longer, healthier lives than in others. States reporting the healthiest, longest pet lives overall also showed the highest rates of spay and neuter, reported more pets living indoors and fewer regional instances of infectious disease. We thought it would be educational and enlightening to have a group discussion focused on each state (and/or region you cover) climate stands regarding companion animals and the practice of spay/neuter. To do so, we would like each of you to come prepared to share answers to the following questions. This will provide a starting point to learn more about each state and allow us to better understand our commonalities and differences.

1. First, do you run a spay/neuter clinic, shelter, or simply a referral service?
2. Does your state (counties/cities) have a mandatory spay/neuter law?
3. Does your state implement humane injections for euthanasia or still use other means? (gas chamber, etc)
4. Does your state (counties/cities) implement a law that all animals adopted by a shelter must be sterilized?
5. What is the cost of a dog license where you are primarily located? Is there a discount for sterilized animals? Do you license cats? Would this impact spay/neuter rates?
6. What is an average low/cost price, in your area, for sterilizing a dog and/or cat? Do you know of programs with a lower price for community (or feral) cats?
7. Do you sterilize other pets such as rabbits and guinea pigs?
8. What is the age you require a blood test before performing surgeries?
9. Do you require all animals to be vaccinated before performing surgeries? Do you offer low cost prices for vaccine service?
10. Does your animal control agency or government entity actually enforce animal laws?
11. Do you have any Breed Specific Legislation in your state?
12. Does your state (counties/cities) provide financial spay/neuter assistance and/or incentives?
13. Do you work closely with state, county or city animal control and/or government officials or entities?
14. Do you have any public/private programs or relationships with such officials or entities?
15. Do you have mobile spay/neuter vans?

16. What do you believe to be the main obstacles in getting people to spay/neuter their pets in your state?
17. What are the greatest lobbies or groups that work against you in your state?

2:30p.m.-3:30p.m.

Fundraising in difficult times

Have you noticed that grants are becoming more difficult to receive as foundations are changing their programs and guidelines? Are your fundraisers bringing in a substantial amount? What can we do as spay/neuter organizations to increase our effectiveness in fundraising and help to subsidize more spay/neuter? How can we target our efforts better to receive funding and donations?

Presenter: Laura Lanza

Thursday, March 26th, 2015

9:15 a.m.-10:15 a.m.

Serving Chronic Poverty – Is non-surgical an option for you?

Certain non-surgical options have been available for decades, yet very few people are aware. These are compounded drugs they typically present a gray area to many veterinarians. Unfortunately, these options have been overlooked while many places that provide high numbers of surgeries at very low-to-no cost may be able to use them to stretch budgets and save lives. While much of the focus in non-surgical work has been to replace surgeries, we view non-surgical options as a way to reach those that are not within range, for financial, social, or geographic reasons, for convenient spaying or neutering.

The use of non-surgical spay/neuter for free roaming dogs and cats is gaining more attention than ever before. Budgets for these programs are slim, although using these methods to stop litters gives animals a better life and prevents tomorrow's tragedies.

Are these options right for you?

Calcium chloride-While there is some debate in academia regarding testosterone, what is proven is that testosterone is responsible for libido in male animals. Reducing libido in male dogs is the single goal of neutering where there are free roaming dogs. Calcium chloride provides significant reduction in testosterone, to the level of a castrated dog in most cases and the cost, including sedation, rabies vaccine and deworming is generally under three dollars per dog.

Megestrol acetate- While TNR may be the gold standard for those managing feral or free roaming cats, in small towns across the US there are no low cost or convenient options. Also, many private practitioners refuse to handle ferals in their clinics. Additionally, trapping can be difficult for a lone colony caregiver. Megestrol acetate is prescribed by a veterinarian and is mixed in canned food weekly to prevent estrus in female cats, preventing litters for seven dollars per cat per year. We will talk about the benefits and how two colony caregivers established a legal VCPR with the prescribing veterinarians.

Presenter: Ruth Steinberg

12:00 p.m.-1:15 p.m.

“Social Media Marketing” How to Engage Your Audience!

Are you faithfully posting to your Facebook , twitter, Instagram, and other social media accounts and still not seeing the results you are looking for? Have you tried using paid advertising on your social media campaigns? Do you track the results? How can we use social media like the big corporate companies and get the results they do without the budget they have? This open forum platform will allow everyone to share their strategies and results. Please send some of your social media information, photos, and tweets to beslary@spayillinois.org so that they may be included in this interactive presentation.

Presenter: Brittany Eslary

3:30 p.m.-4:30p.m.

Reaching the Pit Bull Population

For years, the Pit Bull Terrier has been the breed most likely to be effected by breed specific legislation, homelessness, and ultimately euthanasia in shelters, all across the country. In order to change these realities we need to take a closer look at this population in specific, learn about the different challenges facing pit bull owners and rescues and gain tangible tools and methods to end BSL and increase spay and neuter throughout the pit bull population.