



Fund Spay/Neuter Services Help Indiana Save Lives and Money

Preliminary data, with 40 of Indiana's 92 counties reporting, show the cost of shelter overpopulation at \$16.2 million. Had all counties reported, the cost could be as much as \$37 million. This money is spent annually to shelter and destroy thousands of unwanted animals.

The problem is compounded when adoptive families do not spay/neuter their pets. To address this, the Indiana state legislature unanimously passed House Enrolled Act 1201 in 2016. The new law, IC 15-20-4, requires that rescue groups and shelters spay/neuter before adoption, effective July 1, 2021. Spay/neuter before adoption is considered "best practice", with Indiana joining 33 other states with such laws.



In Indiana and across the nation, the majority of municipal shelters are underfunded, as are non-profit rescue groups. Many operate on shoestring budgets and are either all-volunteer organizations or rely heavily on volunteers to serve animals in need. While they can afford to provide shelter, food, and minor medical treatment, they generally lack funding for spay/neuter procedures.

Spay/neuter programs are incredibly cost-effective when compared to sheltering animals. A national survey found that shelters spend an average of \$176 to \$450 to for each impounded animal. Compare this to financial assistance programs like Spay-Neuter Services of Indiana (SNSI), that cost \$50-\$60 per animal, and which have been shown to reduce both shelter intake and euthanasia rates.

Providing supplemental funding is critical to providing shelters and rescue groups with the resources they need to spay/neuter before adoption, saving both lives and money.

Please support funding for spay/neuter services