

Spay-Neuter Services of Indiana, Inc.

Reference Guide

HELPING HOOSIERS
Get Them Fixed



www.GetThemFixed.org

History and Mission

Spay-Neuter Services of Indiana (SNSI) is a statewide financial assistance organization whose mission is to eliminate the euthanasia of healthy and treatable cats and dogs. SNSI provides financial assistance to limited-income individuals, and free surgery certificates to 501(c) (3) non-profit animal welfare organizations and municipal shelters. Veterinarians in our program conduct the surgeries, with SNSI reimbursing them at our contractual rate. Since our inception in 1977, we have facilitated more than 100,000 surgeries.

SNSI is financially supported by generous donations, annual fundraisers, community support and proceeds from the Pet Friendly license plate.



Programs

SNSI sponsors several free and low-cost spay/neuter programs. Participating vets can determine which program(s) they wish to participate in, and can also determine the number of surgeries they wish to perform. There is no commitment regarding the minimum or maximum number of surgeries.

1. Spay-Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP)

SNAP serves pet owners who receive one of nine types of public assistance and/or who live at or below 200% of the federal poverty line. The pet owner pays up to \$20 per surgery.

Qualifying Programs

- Energy Assistance Program
- Food Stamps
- Major VA Disability
- Medicaid (not Medicare)
- Public School Free Lunch Program
- Section 8 Housing
- Social Security Disability (SSD) - (not SS Retirement Income)
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Qualifying Household Income

Household Size	Gross Annual Income	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$23,760	\$1,980	\$457
2	\$32,040	\$2,670	\$616
3	\$40,320	\$3,360	\$775
4	\$48,600	\$4,050	\$1,869
For each additional person	add \$8,320	\$693	\$160

SNSI focuses on limited-income pet owners because income is the strongest single predictor of whether pets are spayed/neutered. A *Journal of American Veterinary Medicine Association* study found that only 51% of cats living in low-income households were altered compared to 90% of cats in middle-income households. The result of having unaltered cats has a big impact on shelter intake numbers. New Hampshire reported that almost half of the kittens surrendered to the shelter came from low-income households, even though only 12% of families lived at this income level.

Studies confirm that dogs living in low-income households are less likely to be sterilized than their middle-income counterparts. For example, a 2008 survey conducted by the American Pet Products Association found that pet owners with annual incomes less than \$12,500 per year had sterilized only 54% of their dogs.

Whether cat or dog, unaltered pets are more likely to be relinquished at shelters than their spayed/neutered counterparts. Unaltered cats are more likely to migrate into feral colonies and increase their numbers.

The SNAP Process



Client prints an application from our website or calls SNSI's voice mail to request an application.



Client mails completed application to SNSI along with Proof of Participation/Income Qualification and Money Order*. Note that SNSI does not accept checks from clients.



Within 2-3 weeks, client receives an SNSI Goldenrod surgery certificate and a list of participating vets. They can then call the vet of their choice and schedule an appointment.



After surgery is completed, vet sends certificates to SNSI. Reimbursement is Net 30.

*Applications that are received without qualifying paper work and/or money are returned to the client, and the process takes an additional 2-3 weeks.

2. Pet Friendly Group Grant (PFGG)

This program provides free spay/neuter surgery certificates to 501(c)(3) non-profit animal welfare organizations and municipal shelters for the animals in their care. The "grant application" is a simple two-page application. Incoming applications are reviewed monthly, and applicants notified of surgery certificate awards within two months of submission.

Once a grant is awarded, the organization may reapply one calendar year from the date certificates are issued. Certificates are awarded as long as funds are available. Currently, groups may receive up to 10 certificates, depending on available SNSI funds and their capacity to assist animals.

Participation in the PFGG program is not required in order to participate in the SNAP program. The PFGG program provides a way to assist groups who wish to help animals. These surgery certificates are for shelter/unowned animals. In some instances, the adopting "parents" may be asked to coordinate the surgery if the shelter is under-staffed.



When possible, SNSI issues these certificates electronically. Therefore, most of these certificates will come printed on regular white paper and not gold paper. SNSI reimburses participating PFGG surgeries at the same rate as the SNAP program.

3. Community Cats (feral and free-roaming)

Through the Community Cat program, SNSI provides 30 free surgery certificates to 501(c)(3) non-profit Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) organizations, and municipal shelters with TNR programs.



By focusing on community cats, we can reduce euthanasia numbers and provide long-term solutions for feral and free-roaming outdoor cats. Keeping community cats out of shelters also results in better adoption outcomes for both adoptable cats and dogs. This is because shelters can focus their time and financial resources on adoptable animals.

SNSI's Community Cat package includes spay/neuter, a rabies vaccination, paint meds, and an ear-tip. The ear-tip is a symbol that a cat has been vetted and ready to live in a managed colony where a colony caretaker provides food and shelter.

SNSI's Reimbursement Schedule

SNSI reimburses private practice veterinarians at the following reimbursement rates. For non-profit clinics, SNSI reimburses at the clinic's posted rates, provided they do not exceed the rates listed below:

CATS		DOGS (<i>no weight limit</i>)	
Spay	\$60	Spay	\$80
Spay, pregnant or in heat	\$80	Spay, pregnant or in heat	\$100
Neuter	\$45	Neuter	\$60

COMMUNITY CATS (Includes Rabies Vaccine, Paint Meds, & Ear-Tip)	
Male/Female	\$80
Female Pregnant	\$100

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES
SNSI will reimburse at clinic's published rate: Cryptorchid, Pyometra

The surgery reimbursement schedules above includes ALL costs associated with the surgery – office call, anesthesia, pre and post care, fluids and pain medicine given at the time of surgery. *Clients are required to purchase additional take-home meds if they choose.*

SNSI recognizes that by participating in our program(s), you are making a meaningful contribution to animal welfare. Please be aware that SNAP clients are on limited-incomes and require no other services (e.g. heartworm or feline leukemia checks, kennel cough vaccinations, boarding charges, antibiotics, stool check, de-worming, pre-surgery blood work, etc.) that you may normally require of full-fee paying clients. If you offer these services, please communicate that they are optional and that the client is financially responsible for them if they want them.

Indiana State Law requires that all pets be current on their rabies vaccine. When clients schedule their appointments, please remind them that this is required and the expense is their responsibility. It is at your discretion if you require this vaccine at the time of surgery or wish to see the pet's vaccination record.

Each certificate has a unique code that corresponds to the sponsoring program: (SNS, PFGG, CC, etc.) As a participating vet, you will determine the number of surgeries your clinic will conduct. There is no minimum or maximum requirement.

The Reimbursement Process

To be reimbursed by SNSI, simply mail the fully completed SNSI certificates to us. Please be sure to keep a copy of these certificates for your records. In the event that items are lost in the mail, SNSI will need this information from your clinic. SNSI operates on Net 30 terms.

4. February and October Campaign

SNSI promotes two reduced-fee spay-neuter campaigns which are open to all Hoosiers during the months of February and October. Income qualifications do not apply, and **SNSI does NOT reimburse for these surgeries. The client pays a pre-determined, reduced fee directly to the clinic.** You may participate in February or October, both, or none at all. Participating vets determine the number of surgeries they will conduct. There is no minimum or maximum requirement.



SNSI's Feb/Oct Campaign coordinator will contact you to determine your interest in these programs each year. All vets are invited to participate.

Thank You!

We cannot thank you enough for being a part of the SNSI team! Without you, thousands of animals would remain intact only to reproduce and fill shelters. You are making a huge difference in your community, and your participation is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please call or email us. We are here to help and want to help you succeed and fix as many pets in your community as possible.

Contact Us

SNSI
1100 W. 42nd Street, Suite 205
Indianapolis, IN 46208

Direct Line: 317-762-0912
Fax: 866-771-0358

Voicemail Line (for SNAP clients, rescue groups and shelters):
317-767-7771

E-mail: info@GetThemFixed.org
Website: www.GetThemFixed.org